

PGCE & Certificate in Education Post 16

At Ashton Sixth Form College

**Accredited body: The University of
Staffordshire**

**PGCE validated by The University of
Staffordshire**

Guidance and Information



Contents



This qualification is awarded by The University of Staffordshire.

Contents

When can I apply?.....	3
Who is the course for?.....	3
What will the course cover?	3 and 4
What are the entry requirements?.....	5
How is the course assessed?.....	5
How long does the course take?.....	6
How much does the course cost?	6
Where can I progress to?.....	6



When can I apply?

Applications now open for September 2026. This course is available part-time over 2 years, with a weekly college lesson on Wednesday evening 5-8pm (subject to numbers) and Tuesday morning 9am-12pm (subject to numbers) along with teaching practice. (250 placement hours - up to 150 teaching hours).

Who is the course for?

This award is aimed at those wishing to gain the skills, knowledge and qualifications to help secure a ‘full’ teaching role in the Post-Compulsory Education and Training sector, such as within:

- further education colleges
- sixth form colleges
- school sixth forms
- work-based training
- adult and community education and training.

A ‘full role’ is defined as the delivery of teaching or training that involves: the planning (e.g. schemes of work and lesson planning) and the delivery of teaching and learning activity; the assessment of learners; and related student support. The full teaching role carries the full range of teaching responsibilities, whether on full time, part time, fractional, fixed term, temporary or agency basis.

Holders of the Certificate in Education (PCET) could use the credits towards completing a BA Degree in Education.

What will the course cover?

PGCE

The course consists of one Level 4 module at 40 credits, one Level 6 module at 20 credits and two Level 7 modules, one at 20 credits and one at 40 credits. Each module is delivered using a variety of learning approaches.

Successful completion of the modules will lead to the award of a Postgraduate Certificate Education (PCET) worth 120 credits. Sixty of these credits could be used towards the full MA Education course at The University of Staffordshire.

The normal timeframe for completion will be one academic year. All modules will be assessed using The University of Staffordshire’s criteria for work undertaken at Levels 4, 6 and 7. All learning outcomes must be met.



Cert Ed

The course consists of one Level 4 module at 40 credits, three Level 5 modules: one at 40 credits and two at 20 credits. Each module is delivered using a variety of learning approaches.

Successful completion of the modules will lead to the award of a level 5 Certificate in Education (PCET) worth 120 credits. Once you have completed the Cert Ed, you can use your credits to work towards a BA (Hons) Education degree (PCET, Top Up route)

The normal timeframe for completion will be one academic year, full time or two academic years, part time. All modules will be assessed using The University of Staffordshire's criteria for work undertaken at Levels 4 and 5 and all learning outcomes must be met.

The expected teaching hours for 2026/2027 is:

- 250 hours teaching
- 150 hours of teaching related activity

This can be done over two years.

Modules:

Teaching, learning and assessment in post compulsory education and training

The purpose of this module is to help to provide you with knowledge, understanding and skills relating to teaching, learning and assessment in Post-compulsory education and training. It includes understanding the role and responsibilities of a teacher in education and training, agreeing individual learning goals and planning, delivering and assessing inclusive teaching and learning.

Curriculum design for inclusive practice

The purpose of the module is to develop your knowledge and skills to include application of theories, principles and models of learning, communication, assessment and curriculum development within your own area of specialism.

Action research into subject specialist pedagogy

The purpose of the module is to provide you with knowledge, understanding and skills relating to wider professional practice in education and training. To understand the place of evidence-based teaching and learning. It includes understanding professionalism and professional values in education and training, the policy context of education and training, the impact of being accountable to stakeholders and external bodies, and the organisational context of education and training.

Develop own professional competence and knowledge

Building on Modules 1 – 3, the purpose of the module is to develop your teaching, learning and assessment in education and training. It includes applying theories, principles and models of



learning, communication and assessment in relation to planning, delivering and assessing inclusive teaching and learning.

What are the entry requirements?

- If you are applying for the **PGCE** then you normally have a 2:1 classification degree in the specialist subject relevant to your teaching.
- If you are applying for the **Certificate in Education (Cert Ed)** then you will need a minimum of a Level 3 qualification or equivalent in the specialist subject relevant to your teaching area, e.g. GCE A Level, NVQ3, BTEC Higher, L3 Certificate in an appropriate Key Skills, HND. Equivalence will be utilised in specialisms where no Level 3 qualification exists.

The entry requirements for both the **PGCE** and **Cert Ed** are as follows:

- A minimum of GCSE in English and Maths, at Grade 4/C and above or Level 2 equivalent already held or gained as part of initial needs analysis and induction.
- If English is not your first language you will be expected to have achieved an IELTS score of 6.0 or above (with a minimum of 5.5 in each category).
250 placement hours (up to 150 teaching hours) to be secured and evidenced by employer institution prior to enrolment.
- Must be aged 19 or over.

You will be invited for interview prior to acceptance and enrolment onto the course.

Suitability for Teaching

You must satisfy the selection team that you possess the personal and intellectual qualities suitable for undertaking a professional initial teacher training award. You will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- relevant subject knowledge
- relevant experience outside formal education
- experience of, and commitment to, teaching/working with people
- communication capabilities
- capacity for critical reflection.

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed in every module for which you enrol. You may be required to undertake more than one element of assessment for a module, and will be given information on what is expected of you at the start of the module.

The assessment will be linked to the teaching and learning methods of the module and will be designed to test achievement of the module's learning outcomes.



Transferable and generic skills (including problem solving and communication) are assessed through a variety of methods, including written assignments, professional practice, discussions and consideration of case-studies.

How long does the course take?

The **part time route** will take two years to complete.

How much does the course cost?

The fees for this course are:

Part-time - £7,990

Students accepted onto this programme are generally entitled to a tuition fee loan from Student Finance England. Further information on student finance can be found in the accompanying Student

Finance Information booklet or at: www.gov.uk/studentfinance. Please note that it is your responsibility to apply for the loan.

Students might also ask their workplace for support in funding this course.

Bursary

You may be eligible for a bursary up to £31,000 for selected subjects only. Applications are first come, first served so early application is encouraged. ITE bursaries support the training of FE teachers in high priority subject areas.

Where can I progress to?

On successful completion of the Certificate in Education (PCET), you may wish to top up to a full Degree and on successful completion of the PGCE (PCET), you may like to progress to studying at Masters level.

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