

## **Distance Learning Initial Teacher Education (DLITE) Secondary Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)**

### **Introduction**

The School of Education was established in December 2001 following the merger of the University of Aberdeen and Northern College. For over 130 years, it has educated and professionally supported students and teachers throughout Scotland, the rest of the UK, Europe, and world-wide.

At the University of Aberdeen, students benefit from:

- **An attractive programme**
- **Good career prospects**
- **Excellent study support services**
- **High quality teaching**
- **Strongly committed academic staff**
- **A caring community**

### **Target Group**

The University of Aberdeen has a proven ability in developing innovative approaches to Initial Teacher Education. Working practices across sectors are moving in the direction of greater collaboration, and the School of Education at Aberdeen has taken the lead by developing a Professional Graduate Diploma in Education programme with two exit qualifications: Primary or Secondary. Recent innovation has seen PGDE students taught alongside MA (Honours) in Education students, in order to further enrich the learning experience of all.

The DLITE programme is aimed at graduates with relevant subject content in their academic study, who have demonstrated an interest in teaching children through a range of experiences in both formal and informal settings. Accredited by the General Teaching Council for Scotland, this programme provides an opportunity to mirror the profession whereby we bring the parties together to provide a coherent overview of the secondary experience.

Students completing the DLITE Secondary PGDE programme will be awarded the Diploma in Secondary Education.

Students enter the programme with a wide range of background experiences: some are recent graduates and have chosen teaching as their initial career; others are mature students who have decided to pursue a career change at a later stage.

The table below indicates the subjects currently available on the DLITE Secondary programme. The programme is part time, distance learning delivered over a 2 year period commencing August 2017 and completing June 2019.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Part-time (2 years)</b>
Business Education	✓
Computing	✓
Home Economics	✓
Mathematics	✓
Physics with Science	✓
Technological Education (also known as Craft, Design and Technology)	✓

### **Structure of the DLITE Secondary PGDE in Education**

The DLITE 2-year PGDE programme is in the course of being finalised and over the two year period will consist of compulsory courses of study: academic courses and school experience (practicum) courses. There will be a total of 18 weeks of school experience – 9 weeks each academic year. The first school experience is expected to be a week long and is expected to occur before the October school holidays. It is anticipated that there will be a block of school experience in November and a further block in May.

The programme commences on Saturday 19 August 2017 and attendance in Aberdeen on this day is compulsory. During the academic year 2017/2018, there will be 4 network days (including the induction day), all on a Saturday,

in Aberdeen and compulsory. Academic year 2018/ 2019 will mirror 2017/2018, dates have yet to be established, but it is expected the year will commence on Saturday 18 August 2018.

In addition to the school experience and the network days detailed above students will engage via online learning. This is a compulsory element. There will also be opportunities for live online collaborative learning.

Applicants can only apply where a partnership agreement exists between the Local Authority and the University. Before any offer of admissions is issued, applicants will need to demonstrate they are being supported by their Local Authority, that the Local Authority is providing a mentor to support them, that the Local Authority will provide the necessary placements for the school experience sessions and finally that upon successful completion, the Local Authority will guarantee an Induction Year post under the Teacher Induction Scheme.

**The DLITE Secondary PGDE programme is only open to those classified as Home Fees (Scottish/EU).**

## Components of the Learning and Teaching in Schools Courses

Learning and Teaching in Schools provides opportunities for student teachers to engage with generic issues relating to professional development, learning and teaching, and social justice—and to its placing in context within different curriculum areas.

This course is split equally into two components: Developing Professional Practice: Beginning to Teach and the Developing Professional Practice: the developing practitioner. Through these components, opportunities are provided to focus on learning and learners and for students to gain a wider and deeper knowledge and understanding of professional issues and developments relevant to the teaching profession. This supports students in the achievement of all aspects of the *Standard for Provisional Registration (SPR)*, as required before entry to the teaching profession as Induction Year Teachers.

## Assessment

There are four word assignments (equivalent to 3000 words) within this programme which focus on learning and becoming an inclusive practitioner. Observational assessment of professional practice during School Experience will also be carried out throughout placements.

## School Experience

The School Experience courses are designed to extend professional learning and development through classroom experience, in order to achieve the Standard for Provisional Registration. School Experience placements are arranged in close partnership with Local Authorities and will normally take place in two different schools.

Please note that whilst on placement, students will be expected to participate in the life of the school and it might not be possible (or desirable) for students to leave immediately at the end of the day.

Students should ensure that they plan ahead to cope with the possibility that they may have a longer commute to (and from) a placement school. Students are responsible for making arrangements for individual circumstances to ensure that they are able to travel to the placement school.

The School Experience placements give students the opportunity to contextualise and make links between the academic course inputs and their developing practice. The placement dates are fixed each year, and each block must be undertaken on a full-time basis.

## Entry Requirements

Successful applicants must, as a minimum, meet the requirements as set by the *Memorandum on Entry Requirements to Courses of Initial Teacher Education in Scotland* produced by the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS), which specifies general entrance requirements for all applicants and subject specific requirements for Secondary applicants. The current version of the Memorandum is dated June 2013, with a revision in September 2015 relating to Religious Education and a revision in June 2016 relating to GCSE English and Maths grading.

Applicants to the DLITE PGDE should be familiar with using information and communications technology (ICT) in order to realise how it can be used for learning and teaching.

Top-up courses are allowed, however graduates will only be allowed a **maximum of 30 credits** and they must be obtained **before** entering the PGDE.

For entry to the University of Aberdeen, **all applicants** must have by the date term commences, the qualifications as detailed below.

### **Degree**

A degree validated by a Higher Education Institution in the United Kingdom or a degree of an equivalent standard from outside the United Kingdom. In addition, for Secondary applicants, the degree should minimally contain 80 SCQF credit points relevant to the teaching qualification or qualifications being studied; more information is below. 40 of the credit points must have been studied at SCQF level 8 or above. Credit from a Masters degree may be considered, but applicants will need to demonstrate that the qualification held has a direct relevance in terms of credit, to the teaching of the subject for which application is being made.

Some credit points are acceptable for entry to more than one teaching subject. If a student wants a teaching qualification in more than one subject, appropriate credit points can be counted for entry to all subjects. Detailed information on Education in Scotland can be found at [www.gtcs.org.uk/education-in-scotland/education-in-scotland.aspx](http://www.gtcs.org.uk/education-in-scotland/education-in-scotland.aspx)

### **English**

- SCE Higher grade award in English at Grade C or above; or
- SCE Higher ESOL\* at Grade C or above; or
- A Level English, Grade D or above; or
- GCSE English Language **and** English Literature, at Level 4 (previously Grade C) or above IN BOTH; or
- O Level English Language AND English Literature, Grade C or above or pass IN BOTH; or
- Irish Leaving Certificate English at Higher Grade 4 or above or Higher Grade C2 or above; or
- National Course award (Higher Still) in English and Communication at Grade C or above; or
- National Units – Communication (NC) at Higher level and Literature 1 at Higher level \*\*; or
- English of an equivalent academic standard from **outside** the UK.

\*Higher ESOL acceptable for entry to PGDE Secondary only, NOT PGDE Primary or undergraduate Primary.

\*\* Previously known as National Certificate Modules Communication 4 & Literature 1

### **Mathematics**

- National 5 Mathematics at Grade C or above; or
- National 5 Lifeskills Maths at Grade C or above; or
- Core Maths 4 Pass; or
- GCSE Mathematics at Level 6 (previously Grade B) or above or Pass; or
- O Level Mathematics at Grade C or above or Pass; or
- Irish Leaving Certificate Mathematics at Ordinary Grade 3 or above or Ordinary Grade B or above; or
- National Course Award Intermediate Level 2 Mathematics at Grade C or above; or
- SCE Standard grade (credit level) award in Mathematics at Grade 2 or above; or
- SCE Ordinary grade award in Mathematics at Grade C or above or Pass; or
- Open University Course – MU123 Discovering Mathematics#, Pass; or
- Mathematics of an equivalent academic standard from **outside** the UK.

# Please note that with regard to OU MU123 – the course generally starts in January each year with exam results issued in the December of the same year.

The following are **not accepted** as a Mathematics qualification at the University of Aberdeen: Standard Grade 3 or below, GCSE Grade C or below, CSE Grade 1, O Level Grade 3.

The University will consult UK NARIC (The National Academic Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom), to determine whether or not qualifications achieved outside the UK meet the entry requirements detailed above.

### **Previous Initial Teacher Education Study**

The University of Aberdeen requires that applicants who have failed the PGDE Programme, or any programme of Initial Teacher Education at the University of Aberdeen, or elsewhere, or who have withdrawn from a programme whilst making unsatisfactory progress, must wait 3 years before applying for PGDE study at Aberdeen. If reapplying, candidates must provide evidence prior to interview that they have taken action to address previously unsatisfactory performance.

## **Secondary applicants**

The content of your degree must contain specific subject studies which are relevant to the intended teaching qualification. It must also be of appropriate breadth and depth for teaching the subject in Scottish secondary

schools. **The information given below is correct as at time of printing; however, please check the GTCS website for details on the minimum entry requirements for specific subjects.**

For all subjects, a minimum of 80 SCQF credit points must be relevant to the teaching subjects or subjects you wish to teach, and at least 60 of the credits must be as part of a degree. The 80 credits should normally be part of an undergraduate degree, but exceptions may apply. 40 of the credit points must have been studied at SCQF Level 8 or above. The degree content should **reflect** the curricular subject requirements.

Top-up courses required to meet specific subject requirements will be accepted up to a maximum of 30 credits and they must be obtained before entering a PGDE course. A full-time academic year in Scotland normally allows you to take 120 credit points.

The following secondary subjects have specific requirements in addition to those stated above: Business Education; Computing; Home Economics and Physics.

### **Business Education**

You must have a degree with at least 80 SCQF credit points coming from subjects in the following:

- (1) Accounting;
- (2) Economics;
- (3) Information Technology and Business Management

### **Computing**

You must have a degree with 80 SCQF credit points which has 40 SCQF credit points at SCQF Level 8 (or above) from at least two of: computer systems, software development, databases or information systems.

The other 40 credits are required in any computing area relevant to the computing curriculum in Scottish schools.

### **Home Economics**

You must have a degree with at least 80 SCQF credit points, including 40 SCQF credit points at SCQF Level 8 (or above) from at least two of:

Consumer studies; food studies; food or textile technology; nutrition.

A further 40 credits are needed in any Home Economics area relevant to the Home Economics curriculum in Scottish schools.

The following provides guidance for applicants on areas other than those listed above, relevant to Home Economics.

- Family Studies - Parenting; Childhood Studies; Family Lifestyles Socio-Economic Influences; Environmental Issues.
- Food Sciences - Food Chemistry; Composition of Foods; Functions of Food; Processing and Manufacture of Foodstuffs; Functional Properties of Foods; Biotechnology; Microbiology
- Health - Health Promotion; Health Education; Determinants of Health; Lifestyles and Health; Environmental Issues; Health and Food Policies.
- Hospitality - Practical Food Preparation Skills; Food Presentation Techniques; Food and Beverage Management.
- Textile Studies – Textile Construction; Properties; Finishes; Contemporary Developments; Production Systems; Textile Futures; Design Technologies.

### **Physics**

In addition to having a degree with at least 80 SCQF credits relevant to the curricular subject requirements, you must have covered aspects of kinematics, electricity, or electronics and radiation within your degree.

### **Technological Education**

You must have a degree with at least 80 SCQF credit points. A minimum of 20 credits should come from list A and a minimum of 40 credits should come from list B.

List A technological subjects such as mechanical, electrical or electronic engineering/sciences, mechatronics, architecture, construction technology, building services.

List B design and graphics related subjects such as computer aided design, graphic design, computer aided design manufacture, industrial design, product design.

You will have to prove to the University that you can build up practical skills.

## Career Prospects

Students who successfully complete the DLITE Secondary PGDE Programme and choose to opt into the GTCS Induction Scheme which provides a guaranteed one-year training place to every eligible \*\* student. Students graduating with a Teaching Qualification from a Scottish Higher Education Institution are placed in a school by the General Teaching Council for Scotland in association with Local Authorities, on a full time basis for one year. During this time, beginner teachers are required to meet the General Teaching Council for Scotland 'Standard for Full Registration'. Having attained the status of Full Registration, individuals are then eligible to apply for a permanent teaching post. Further information can be obtained from [www.gtcs.org.uk](http://www.gtcs.org.uk)

Information on eligibility criteria and details about the Induction Scheme may be obtained from the Scottish Executive web site or their information leaflet Teacher Induction Scheme, details of both on the last page.

\*\* Eligibility will normally be restricted to those students graduating from a Scottish Higher Education Institution with a Teaching Qualification whose training has been publicly funded. With regard to the DLITE PGDE Secondary Programme, only those classified as Home Fees (Scottish/EU) will be eligible. **Please refer to the information detailed on pages 1 and 2 – Structure of the DLITE Secondary PGDE in Education.**

## How to Apply to the DLITE Secondary PGDE Programme

For entry in August 2017 applications must be made directly to the University. To obtain the application materials please contact the PGDE Admissions Assistant, Cathy Reid ([c.a.reid@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.reid@abdn.ac.uk)).

**The closing date for receipt of completed applications, including references, is Monday 24 April 2017.**

## Selection Procedures

### Qualifications, Personal Statement, Reference

Applicants for the DLITE Secondary PGDE programme must first demonstrate that they will be able to meet the minimum entry requirements (as previously outlined). The University of Aberdeen expects to see in the Personal Statement reference to mainstream Secondary classroom experience and that applicants reflect upon this as appropriate when they are applying for the DLITE Secondary programme. Consideration is then given to the content of the application and the skills and experience relevant to teaching. References for applications to the DLITE Secondary PGDE should be Academic or Professional in nature (for example a University Tutor or Employer). Where applicants have gained recent experience in a mainstream school setting, it is recommended that a reference is given from School Staff. The referee should have had contact with the applicant within the past 5 years. References will not be accepted from family friends or acquaintances.

Selected applicants are invited to attend an interview to gauge suitability for entry to initial teacher education.

### Interviews

Not all who apply will be invited for interview. As detailed above, selected applicants are invited to attend an interview to gauge suitability for entry to initial teacher education.

Interviews, face to face, take place in Aberdeen - the normal location is within the School of Education, based in the MacRobert building. Interviews by Skype will be arranged in exceptional cases and only for those who are overseas or who are living outside the EU. All other applicants invited for interview will be expected to travel to Aberdeen.

Following the interviews decisions are made. When an offer is made it will either be unconditional or conditional. All entrants to the DLITE Secondary PGDE programme must hold the relevant entry requirements prior to commencement of studies.

Before any offer of admissions is issued, applicants will need to demonstrate they are being supported by their Local Authority, that the Local Authority is providing a mentor to support them, that the Local Authority will provide the necessary placements for the school experience sessions and finally that upon successful completion, the Local Authority will guarantee an Induction Year post under the Teacher Induction Scheme.

The DLITE Secondary PGDE programme is only open to those classified as Home Fees (Scottish/EU).

### PVG Check

A Protection of Vulnerable Group (PVG) check through Disclosure Scotland will be conducted by the University prior to final acceptance. This is required of all applicants who accept an offer of admission, even those who have been checked previously. For non UK applicants, or UK applicants who have lived outside the UK for any period of time, in accepting an offer of admission, an Enhanced criminal record check through Disclosure Scotland will be

conducted and in addition, it will be necessary for the applicant to obtain a criminal record check from the country they are from/lived in.

### Tuition Fees

Information relating to Tuition Fees will be finalised in the Spring of each year and provided at: [www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/finance/fee-rates.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/finance/fee-rates.php) The current full time fee for Home Fees is £1,820. If this fee is confirmed in the Spring of 2017, applicants can expect to pay £910 for 2017/28 and £910 for 2018/2019, however this is subject to confirmation.

## **Funding for Distance Learners, where appropriate**

Distance Learning students should apply for the Part Time Fee Grant (replaces ILA500), through SAAS. The Part Time Fee Grant is for people who have an income of approximately £25,000 a year or less and meet SAAS residence conditions. Please visit [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) for more information.

## **Teaching outwith Scotland**

Should you wish to teach outwith Scotland with a teaching qualification gained in Scotland you need to check its acceptability with the Education Authority of the country you wish to teach in; this includes England, Wales, Northern Ireland and European Union countries. The DLITE Secondary PGDE degree programme at Aberdeen is worth 120 credit points which is equivalent to 60 ECTS.

## **For More Information**

If you require further information relating to your qualification for the English or Maths requirement, or if your qualification is equivalent to degree level, the PGDE Admissions Assistant, Cathy Reid ([c.a.reid@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.reid@abdn.ac.uk)), can provide guidance.

If you wish to find out whether or not your degree contains the necessary credits in order to teach a particular subject, please email [pgde@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:pgde@abdn.ac.uk) or telephone 01224 274637 and your enquiry will be sent to the most appropriate subject specialist.

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**Email: [ugadmissions@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:ugadmissions@abdn.ac.uk)**

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[www.abdn.ac.uk/education](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/education)

[www.gtcs.org.uk](http://www.gtcs.org.uk)

[www.disclosurescotland.co.uk](http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk)

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