



# THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## Information sheet PGDE Secondary (Maths) UCAS Code G1X1

### 1. What are the minimum entry requirements?

- A degree from a UK Higher Education Institution or degree of an equivalent standard from an institution outside of the UK. Please note this is the **minimum** with which an applicant will be considered.
- The degree should be in a discipline relevant to the secondary school subject to be taught and contain at least two graduating courses (80 credits at SCQF level 9 or above).
- SQA Higher English at grade C or above (or equivalent qualification).
- SQA National 5 Mathematics/Lifeskills Maths/Applications of Maths at grade B or above (or equivalent qualification).

Applicants should have a degree in the subject to be taught, however those with a minimum of 80 credits in the relevant subject contained within their degree may also be considered.

Prospective applicants with a degree unrelated to the PGDE Secondary subject that they wish to study should not apply, as they will not be considered under any circumstances.

Postgraduate qualifications in the relevant subject are only considered where there is a shortfall of credits. A **maximum** of 30 credits from a source other than the undergraduate degree will be considered to 'top up' an existing undergraduate degree.

Applicants to this subject are eligible to apply for a scholarship. Please see the funding section below.

### **Specific requirements for PGDE Maths**

To be qualified for PGDE Mathematics, candidates must have a degree which contains at least 80 SCQF credits in Mathematics courses. The contributing courses within the degree must be **recognised Mathematics courses that are explicitly titled as such** rather than anything embedded within other disciplines, however numerate or mathematical those may appear to be.

As a guide, the 80 SCQF credits are equivalent to 2 full courses of study where three subjects are studied in any one academic year (working on the basis of 120 Credits in one year). This is usually demonstrated through two 40-credit mathematics courses across years 1 and 2 of a degree programme, with at least 40 of those credits studied at SCQF level 8.

Course content should be related and relevant to parts of the secondary school curriculum, including the study of statistics where possible given that branch of Mathematics is now very firmly located within national qualifications.

The following degrees are usually **NOT** suitable if Mathematics is not explicitly studied as a distinct course within the degree programme:

- Accountancy and/or Finance
- Economics

**Engineering degrees** are considered on an individual basis – applicants should include a full transcript of degree courses to demonstrate depth and breadth of Mathematics studied within the programme and send to the Admissions Office at [CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk](mailto:CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk) to be assessed.

**Dual qualifying** – we welcome applications from those who wish to study an additional subject e.g. Maths with Physics, Biology or Chemistry. To be considered for dual qualification, you must provide documentary evidence of this additional credit in the second subject before your interview (e.g. your degree transcript). Please send this to the Admissions Office to the following email address: [CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk](mailto:CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk) with your UCAS ID number

Applicants should demonstrate the following in their application:

- Sustained experience of meaningful interactions with adolescents e.g. youth work, sports coaching, volunteering, employment training, etc.
- Engagement with contemporary schools and teachers, e.g. through voluntary or paid activity in school, learning and teaching observation, discussion with serving practitioners, etc.
- An informed interest in current educational issues & development.
- Excellent oral, written, interpersonal skills and visual communication skills.

To be successful, applicants will be expected to have subject expertise and enthusiasm, and also be able to provide evidence of wanting to work with young people, and of having given due consideration to a career in secondary education.

### **English requirements and equivalent qualifications**

All applicants are required to have SQA Higher English at grade C or above, or other qualifications that are considered by the University of Edinburgh to be equivalent.

For **English** these options are:

- National Units – Passes in both Communication NC (formerly Communication 4) **and** Literature 1 (Higher Level). These units are available at many further education colleges throughout Scotland
- GCSE English Language **and** GCSE English Literature - both passed at grade C or above (new grading from 2017 – both at grade 4 or above)

- Irish Leaving Certificate Higher English at grade C2/H4 or above
- Higher in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at grade C or above (not suitable for PGDE Primary)
- Pass in SCQF 6 English Access Course at The University of Aberdeen

### **Information for applicants with English qualifications taken outside the UK or not listed above**

Certain English high school grades contained within EU or international qualifications (such as International Baccalaureate, US High School Diploma, German Abitur etc.) can also meet the English entry requirements. These will be assessed on an individual basis and acceptance will be dependent on the level of study, content of the qualification and the grades achieved. Applicants should email [CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk](mailto:CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk) with details of their qualification in order for us to assess suitability. Please note that all documents (transcripts and certificates) must be translated into English by a professional translator.

Please note that English requirements for our PGDE Primary and MSc Transformative Learning and Teaching programmes may not be the same and you should check with the relevant Admissions staff for details.

The minimum entry requirements for English are set by the Scottish Government and are mandatory.

Applicants can apply without meeting the requirements and may be made an offer. This would be conditional on them gaining the required qualification(s) **prior** to the PGDE Secondary course commencement date.

Applicants who wish to apply late in the admissions cycle who do not already meet the English entry requirements are likely to find it difficult to find a suitable course which will finish before the PGDE course begins.

## **2. How do I apply to the University?**

Applications to the PGDE Programmes (Primary and Secondary) should be made online via UCAS [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) (undergraduate section, not UCAS Teacher Training). We do not accept applications made directly to the University.

## **3. When should I apply?**

Applicants can apply for PGDE Secondary courses from the beginning of the UCAS admissions cycle (normally mid-September) until the individual courses are closed by selectors. The UCAS equal consideration deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January and we would strongly advise applicants to apply by this date to ensure that the application is given full consideration. Applications received after this date will only be considered if there are still spaces available on the specific PGDE programme. This will depend on the competition level of the subject. Each PGDE Secondary subject is given a target number by the Scottish Government and, after 15<sup>th</sup> January, if the individual target for the subject has been reached, we will close to new applicants.

#### **4. When does the Programme commence?**

The PGDE Secondary Programme runs from late August each year until mid-June (36 weeks); half of which is spent on placement in schools.

#### **5. Personal statement – what do you look for?**

We consider all information contained within UCAS applications when making admissions decisions. This includes academic grades (predicted and achieved), personal statement and academic reference. We look for evidence in personal statements that applicants demonstrate the required commitment, motivation and suitability to undertake the PGDE and enter the teaching profession. It is important for applicants to include details of any relevant experience. For example, providing details of relevant work experience; knowledge of the Curriculum for Excellence and understanding of the role of a teacher. Applicants can also include reference to other relevant transferrable skills gained through work/life/study and also through sport, hobbies, voluntary activities etc.

#### **6. Do I need a reference?**

Applicants must provide a reference with their application. If applicants are currently at University, then this should either be from their degree study (such as a personal tutor) or from school classroom volunteering (such as the teacher they volunteered with). Employer references can be accepted where the referee has directly worked with the applicant and can attest to their ability to work with others, particularly in a training or mentoring capacity. In cases where it is some years since the applicant has left university and a tutor reference would be difficult to obtain or less relevant, applicants can provide a reference from school classroom volunteering, an employer reference or a reference from volunteering in an educational capacity such as Scouts/Guides or similar.

#### **7. Will I be interviewed?**

Following careful consideration of applications, suitable applicants will be invited for interview. This is an important part of the selection process. Please note that not all applicants will be invited for interview.

#### **8. What kind of work experience do I need?**

Selectors look for applicants who have relevant experience of working in formal or informal settings with children and young people. The following are considered good examples of relevant experience:

- Work experience or observation in a secondary school
- Work experience with youth groups and after school clubs
- Work experience which has involved training or coaching young people

Successful applicants will be able to speak about these experiences at interview to demonstrate their insights into the nature of teaching, learners and learning in whatever context they have worked.

## **9. Will I receive feedback on my application?**

We are happy to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants. As we deal with a very large volume of feedback requests, applicants should contact us primarily by email at: [CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk](mailto:CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk) and we will respond within 20 working days as per our Admissions Feedback, Appeals and Complaints policy. Please note that data protection legislation means that we cannot provide feedback to a third party unless the applicant provides written consent.

## **10. Is funding available?**

Applicants should apply to the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) after receiving an offer. Depending on circumstances, applicants may be able to apply for additional funds to help with study costs. English, Welsh and Northern Irish students can apply to Student Finance England, Wales or Northern Ireland as appropriate for fee, grant and loan support. Further information on funding can be found at [www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/fees-finance](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/fees-finance)

The Tom and Maureen Fairlie Scholarship is a scholarship that is awarded to a postgraduate student within the Moray House School of Education. Applicants can find further information about this scholarship here: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate/uk-eu/humanities/education/fairlie](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate/uk-eu/humanities/education/fairlie)

The Scottish Government offers a STEM Teacher Education Bursary, further details can be found here: [www.stembursaryscotland.co.uk](http://www.stembursaryscotland.co.uk)

## **11. Can I teach elsewhere if I gain my teaching qualification in Scotland?**

With a teaching qualification awarded in Scotland, graduates will be eligible to teach in Scotland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland and The Republic of Ireland. The General Teaching Council or Education and Local Library Board looks after teacher registration. If applicants wish to teach outside of the UK and Ireland they should contact the Education authorities of the relevant country to confirm that the PGDE qualification is accepted.

## **12. Do I need to complete a Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) application?**

Yes, if applicants are accepted to a teaching degree they must complete a PVG application (a criminal conviction check) prior to enrolment. An application will be sent from the University once an offer is accepted. The fee to join the scheme is £59, or for updating an existing PVG the fee is £18. For more information on the PVG scheme, please see their website at: [www.mygov.scot/pvg-scheme](http://www.mygov.scot/pvg-scheme)

**If you have any further queries concerning the PGDE Education Programmes, please contact:**

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences  
Undergraduate Admissions Office  
The University of Edinburgh  
57 George Square  
Edinburgh  
EH8 9JU

Telephone: 0131 650 3565 (reception)  
Email: [CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk](mailto:CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk)

Further PGDE Secondary information, including course content and layout, can be found at our webpage: [www.ed.ac.uk/education/undergraduate/pgde/secondary](http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/undergraduate/pgde/secondary)

Useful websites: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)  
[www.teachinScotland.scot](http://www.teachinScotland.scot)  
[www.gtcs.org.uk](http://www.gtcs.org.uk)  
[www.tes.co.uk](http://www.tes.co.uk)