



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
BUCKINGHAM



# BA (Hons) in Primary Education

For teaching assistants in schools

In partnership with



# We want to help you meet the significant recruitment problems many schools face

- ① Is teacher recruitment an increasing challenge for your primary schools?
- ① Is this search costing a concerning amount of money, senior leader time and professional risk across your schools?
- ① Do you want to help your schools appoint trusted individuals without a lengthy, expensive and risky recruitment process?
- ① Do your schools have any TAs who are held back from becoming teachers by not having a degree?
- ① Do these TAs have the drive and ambition to complete a degree and subsequent teacher training?
- ① Would you like to help both your schools and the individual TAs meet shared aims?

If your answers are yes, then explore our exciting new degree in primary education, specifically designed for TAs across your schools.

Continue reading to find out more or register your interest by visiting:  
[www.buckingham.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/ba-hons-primary-education](http://www.buckingham.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/ba-hons-primary-education)

Find out more >



## Key features

- Three-year part-time BA (Hons) degree course, plus a short induction course
- Designed for full- or part-time teaching assistants who do not have a first degree and work in primary schools
- Delivered online, so students can study alongside working in a paid TA job
- Focuses on primary education, policy and practice, giving students a strong foundation for a teaching career

**Start date** | July 2023 *(the compulsory induction day is in July 2023, online)*

**Graduation date** | June 2026 *(October 2027 for those adding the teacher apprenticeship QTS course)*

## Entry requirements

- Candidates must be in employment as a TA in school
- Candidates cannot have a university degree already
- Candidates will need to ensure that they have a GCSE grade 4 or better in maths, English and science by the end of the course. *(If required, students will be given support to achieve this.)*
- Ideally candidates should have passed two A-levels or equivalents.
- Candidates must apply by **31 May 2023**
- Candidates must pass an interview
- Candidates must be determined and organised
- Candidates must have both a positive reference and a letter from their school supporting their application



## Course delivery

- › The main mode of study is online, giving students the flexibility to study anywhere and at their own pace. There are also opportunities for students to meet fellow students at the University of Buckingham.
- › The course is delivered with our partner, Anspear, which has extensive experience of delivering training and development for staff in schools and provides its technology platform to other organisations, allowing them to deliver distance learning degrees, vocational training and more.
- › The course materials are designed for optimal use on Anspear's mobile learning platform. This enables students to learn online or offline on mobile phones and tablets, as well as online on laptops. Each student will be provided with a suitable personal device to facilitate learning.
- › All materials are written by academics and leading primary school headteachers in England.
- › The course is excellent value. Students will need to find out whether their employer is happy to fund their studies, or whether they will take a student loan.
- › Students will have their own University of Buckingham personal tutor who will support them throughout the course.
- › The degree course makes full use of students' school experience and reflections by integrating degree learning and assessment with their everyday practice.
- › Students can continue onto the 12-month course leading to *Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)* at the University of Buckingham. This is followed by up to 3 months for the End Point Assessment (EPA). The course is **free of charge** (at the time of writing) because it is paid, through their employer, by the apprenticeship levy. QTS is needed to teach most schools in England.
- › A typical teacher training course is only 10 months long, so adding a three-year degree to that will ensure students have a much higher level of knowledge.

To embark on this course, candidates should be highly motivated and have the ability to spend a good amount of time each week to do the necessary reading and writing. Part-time teaching assistants are welcome.

## Fees

The course is £4000 per year for three years. The employer may be willing to provide extra help to their student(s) by offering financial support, or the student can apply for a loan. Bursaries and scholarships are available on application.

For information on fees, please contact:  [schoolofeducation@buckingham.ac.uk](mailto:schoolofeducation@buckingham.ac.uk).

# Course structure

Before the course begins, there is a 25-hour online introduction to University study to complete. The *BA (Hons) in Primary Education* course consists of 10 modules of 30 credits each, plus a 60 credit Enquiry module.

Students will be assessed in different ways including computer-based assessments, completing written assignments and reflecting on experiences in school. Some elements of study take place during part of the school holidays.

## Induction course

The 25-hour induction course is an important precursor to the degree course. It will help prepare candidates for the higher level of study and build confidence.

The induction will introduce learners to the learning platform and cover research skills, forms of writing and presenting Information. It will include video and audio material, and provide additional support for English and maths for undergraduate study.

Although there will be no formal assessment, there will be written and computer marked activities based around use of the system and a set text on teaching and learning in primary education. Writing frames and model answers will be included as will tutor feedback on the longer pieces.

### Year 1

- › Child development and the purpose of education
- › School organisation and regulation and successful primary schools
- › The science of learning and successful primary learners
- › The role of play and creativity in primary education

### Year 2

- › Child development 2: barriers to learning, classroom culture and managing behaviour
- › Early years learning and an introduction to oracy and phonics
- › Literacy and numeracy

### Year 3

- › Foundation subjects and statutory RE
- › Teaching primary science and assessment in primary schools
- › Literacy and numeracy throughout the curriculum
- › Enquiry module (a small-scale research project of your choice)



If you have any TAs who would be interested in this degree course, email: [education@buckingham.ac.uk](mailto:education@buckingham.ac.uk)