

UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

INTERVIEWS FOR ENTRY TO THE PRIMARY PROGRAMME INFORMATION TO Primary BEd and PGCE APPLICANTS

Dear Applicant,

Set out below are the key points concerning your interview for entry to the Primary Teacher Training Programme.

The interview process lasts approximately four and a half hours and includes:

- Registration, welcome and information about the course
- A tour of facilities at the Francis Close Campus accompanied by current students
- Tests of basic skills (equivalent to Key Stage 3) in English and Mathematics
- A group interview during which you are asked to give a five-minute presentation to a small group of other candidates and two University tutors or teachers
- Group discussion
- An individual interview lasting 5-10 minutes

NB: YOU WILL NEED TO BRING RESOURCES FOR YOUR PRESENTATION (SEE BELOW)

We hope that you will enjoy your day with us. Through the interview process we will be assessing:

- your communication skills
- your competence in written English and mathematics
- your understanding of general educational issues
- your ability to reflect on the relationship between teaching and learning,
- your ability to prepare and deliver a presentation
- your willingness to reflect on your experiences and relate this to your development as a teacher
- your potential to achieve the standards for Qualified Teacher Status

Although this sounds intensive, we aim for the day to be as relaxed as possible.

Your presentation

You are asked to give a five-minute presentation to a small group of other interviewees [no more than 5 applicants] and one or two university tutors or teachers. For your presentation, bring an item that you might use with a group of children to encourage them to learn. During your presentation, you should explain why you have chosen your item, what age children you would use it with and how you would use it to help children to learn something. Be prepared to discuss the relationship between teaching and learning. No equipment will be provided by the University for your presentation, so you must bring everything that you need. Notes may be used if required but reading from prepared text is not advised. Your five-minute presentation will be followed by questions from the group.

The group discussion

During group discussion we will be assessing your communication skills, your understanding of topical issues, your ability to contribute positively to a group discussion and your ability to provide a rationale for the opinions you express.

The individual interview

During the individual interview we will be assessing your communication skills, your understanding of the work of a teacher and your ability to realistically assess your potential.

The English test

The time allowed is 30 minutes and the test comprises the following:

- Spelling of twelve common words (Key Stage 3 level)

- Three writing activities to assess general skills such as punctuation, grammar, sentence structure and comprehension.

The mathematics test

The time allowed is 25 minutes and comprises the following sections with examples indicative of the level. Candidates are not permitted to use calculators during the test.

Section 1: Basic Arithmetic: calculations/number operations/place value

$14 \times 7 + 8 \times 11 =$ $(3^2 + 4^2)^2 =$ $6300 \div 30 =$ *HCF for 64 and 20*

Section 2: Fractions/decimals/percentages

Eleven eighteenths add seven twenty fourths

30% of £60 is £ 18 (True or False)?

If an increase of 15% in the cost of an item gives a new price of £13.80 what was the original price?

Section 3: Basic algebra

If $x=3, y=4$ and $z=5$, how much is $(x+3y+2z)$ divided by z ?

Solve the equation $6m+11=25-m$

Section 4: Problem solving

A pound is five elevenths of a kilogram. If Mr Green sells apples at 40p per kilogram and Mrs White sells apples at 24 p per pound. Who sells the cheaper apples?

Special requirements

- If you have any special requirements then please inform us prior to the interview and we will make every effort to assist you.
- Candidates who have been assessed as dyslexic are entitled to extra time to take the skills tests. Candidates with dyslexia must provide evidence of their assessment. Please advise us beforehand that extra time will be required and bring evidence of your dyslexia assessment to interview. Examples of appropriate evidence might be a copy of your dyslexia assessment report or a letter from your most recent educational establishment confirming your assessment. Such evidence must be on headed paper and signed by a person of authority.

Parking

There is limited parking available at the Francis Close Hall campus with further parking available at the Hardwick campus, which is a five minute stroll from Francis Close Hall. Limited parking is also possible in some of the residential side streets adjacent to St Paul's Road. For full directions to the University, please consult www.glos.ac.uk/directions. Be aware that your main destination is the Francis Close Hall Campus. The campus is less than ten minutes drive from the centre of Cheltenham. There are also pay and display car parks in Swindon Road, about 5 minutes walk from the Campus (next to Matalan and Holiday Inn Express).

Refreshments

Each candidate will be provided with a £1.20 voucher to spend in the refectory, where light snacks will be available for most of the day. Candidates are advised to bring bottled water to sip during the tests together with any other refreshment that they may need to sustain them through the day.

We look forward to meeting you on the interview day. If you have any queries about the interview procedures please contact Priscilla Liau at the Student Recruitment Office on 01242 543347 or email to: pliau@glos.ac.uk

Best regards

Shirley Cobbold

Dr Shirley Cobbold
BEd and PGCE (Primary) Admissions Tutor