



University of Exeter PGCE Interview Days 2025-26

We are looking forward to meeting you on our interview day and this information is to give you some information about the interview process and what you will be asked to do. The tone of the interviews is friendly and informal – we are not trying to catch you out or trip you up, but we are trying to make the right choices about who has the potential to be a good teacher.

As part of the interview day, applicants will be asked to write on a given topic, do a short presentation and participate in a group discussion. The writing task and group discussion will be based on a video extract which we have provided for you in advance so that you can familiarise yourself with the video before the day. Additionally, applicants will be interviewed on an individual basis by a member of the PGCE academic team.

A local teacher may be present during parts of the day.

In the one-to-one interview (approximately 20 minutes), we will be looking to explore your reasons for wanting to teach your chosen subject/phase and the relevance of your previous experience. In your preparation for the interview, you should take careful note of the 'What are we looking for' section below.

All interviews will take place at the St Luke's Campus. For a campus map and directions on how to find the St Luke's Campus, please see [St Luke's Campus map](#).

Who we are

Below is a list of the secondary subject leaders and primary course team, some of whom you may meet on the interview day.

Ruth Newman & Sharon Morgan	Secondary English Subject Leads
Bryan Smith	Secondary History and Geography Subject Lead
Tom Ralph	Secondary Mathematics Subject Lead
Dinah Warren	Secondary Modern Foreign Languages Subject Lead
Will Katene	Secondary Physical Education Subject Lead
Luke Graham	Secondary Science Subject Lead
Ruth Flanagan, Emese Hall, Anthony Wilson, Taro Fujita, Dinah Warren, Harriet White, Anita Wood	Primary Course Team

If you have any questions relating to the interview day or need to know an approximate finish time for the day for travel purposes, please contact our PGCE Admissions team (pgce-admissions@exeter.ac.uk) in the first instance and they can put you in touch with the relevant tutor.

The interview day

Candidates invited to interview for 2025–26 primary and secondary PGCE courses will participate in a programme of activities structured as below. Please report to **Baring Court foyer** (ground floor of the Baring Court building) on the St Luke’s Campus for 9.15am.

09.15 – 09.30	Welcome and registration	Refreshments will be available
09.30 – 10.00	Written task (20 minutes)	<p>Watch a video extract of a lesson and then complete a 20-minute written task in which you will be prompted to reflect on what you have seen.</p> <p>This written task will then be given to your interviewer prior to your individual interview in the afternoon.</p> <p>Note: this task is a hand-written task. Please see the ‘Requesting adjustments’ section below if you wish to request an adjustment to support your interview.</p>
10.00 – 10.30	Introduction to the course	A brief introduction to the Exeter PGCE Programme.
<p>10.30 – 12.00</p> <p>(Candidates will be split into 3 groups and will swap activities after 30 minutes.</p> <p>Where possible, a teacher from a partner school will be present to listen to the presentation and group discussions)</p>	Group A - Discussion	Take part in a group discussion relating to the video extract of a lesson seen for the written task
	Group B – Presentations (2 minutes per candidate)	<p>Choose a teaching resource (artefact/piece of equipment/book, etc.) relating to your secondary subject/primary age group and give a short (2 minute) presentation explaining how it might be used in teaching. NB: primary applicants can choose a resource from any curriculum area.</p> <p><i>Note: you should prepare your presentation in advance and have the teaching resource with you on the day. Do not prepare power-point presentations, video clips etc.</i></p>
	Group C - Document/visual identity check	Show required documents to admissions staff <i>(Please see the interview email from the PGCE Admissions Team for details of what documents to bring with you).</i>
12.00-13.00	Lunch break	Candidates are free to explore the campus further. There are catering facilities on campus as well as a Waitrose store a short walk away.
From 13.00 onwards	Individual interview (approx. 20 minutes) with a course tutor	Meet secondary subject/primary tutor and then disperse for a course-specific one-to-one interview

Preparatory tasks

We expect all candidates to come to the interview prepared and ready to showcase why they want to train to teach and we have provided a list of what we are looking for below to help you.

[Video extract](#) – This video will be played during the morning interview session and you will be asked to complete a 20 minute written task in which you will be prompted to reflect on what you have seen. There will also be a group discussion during the morning based on this video extract.

Please feel free to familiarise yourself with the video before you attend your interview.

For the following subjects, please note some additional tasks you are required to complete or some subject-specific information that you may find useful prior to the interview:

Secondary English

Before attending your interview, please complete the **Secondary English Initial Needs Analysis** which you will find at

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/teachertraining/howtoapply/pgceinterviews/>; please try to preserve the formatting as far as possible. Please download this form and, after completing, **please email it to your interviewer on the day, when prompted.** One element of the interview is matching your academic subject knowledge with National Curriculum requirements and identifying your further training needs, and the Initial Needs Analysis is an important part of this. Do note that the grammar test is designed to find out what you need to learn, so you don't need to panic if you find it difficult! You may find that our cybergrammar website is a helpful learning tool: www.cybergrammar.co.uk

Secondary Modern Foreign Languages

You will be interviewed in both English and your native or target language. You may also be interviewed briefly in your second foreign language, if applicable.

Secondary Physical Education

Before the interview day, please download and complete the **Secondary PE Knowledge and Skills Initial Audit & Targets** document which you will find at <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/teachertraining/howtoapply/pgceinterviews/> and **email it to your interviewer on the day, when prompted. Please also email a Curriculum Vitae at the same time.**

Primary

Please read the **Primary Leadership Development Module options** document available from <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/teachertraining/howtoapply/pgceinterviews/>. This lists the various leadership development modules we expect to run in 2025-26. If you are offered a place on our 5-11 course, you will be asked to select a module from the list prior to the start of the course. So do think about which modules you would be interested in doing in case you have any questions you would like to ask on the interview day. (Note: those offered a place on our 3-7 course do not need to select choices from this list as they will take a 3-7 leadership development module which focusses on becoming an Early Years curriculum leader).

What are we looking for?

The interview programme is designed to evaluate candidates' suitability for the Exeter PGCE course. Each activity is designed to contribute evidence towards this. Teachers and pupils in our partnership schools have contributed to the activities of the day and to the questions that candidates will be asked.

We are looking specifically for candidates who can demonstrate:

- Good subject knowledge (secondary applicants);
- An understanding of the curriculum areas taught in Primary and an awareness of their strengths and areas for development in these curriculum areas (primary applicants);
- A clear articulation of why they want to teach the age range they have chosen;
- Good communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to:
 - work as a member of a team;
 - interact with others;
 - show an empathy with young people;
 - communicate clearly in speech and in writing using standard English;
- A good understanding of classroom issues/the role of the teacher in the UK context including understanding the parameters in which teachers work in English state schools, for example an understanding of typical school days and terms, class sizes and structures;
- An awareness of the English National Curriculum for the subject/phase they are wanting to teach
- An awareness of any subject/phase-specific curriculum developments relevant to the subject/phase they are wanting to teach;
- An ability to reflect on and analyse prior experiences;
- A self-awareness of the resilience they will need for teaching ;
- Adaptability, including openness to new ideas, creativity and a willingness to learn;
- Good organisation and planning skills;
- Enthusiasm and aspiration for a career in teaching;
- An understanding of the professional values required of a teacher and their role in the safeguarding of children.

Requesting adjustments

Where appropriate we will make reasonable adjustments if it helps you participate fully in the interview process. If you require an adjustment to support your interview or have had adjustments in the past (for example though a support plan such as an Individual learning Plan (ILP) or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan) please let us know by emailing our PGCE Admissions team on pgce-admissions@exeter.ac.uk in advance of the interview. We may follow up with a request for more information in order to put any adjustments in place.