



**WEST LONDON TEACHER TRAINING ALLIANCE**  
SCHOOL DIRECT TEACHER TRAINING 2025-26

*in partnership with*



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

**COURSE  
CODE  
A620**

# **SALARIED PRIMARY APPRENTICESHIP PGTA + QTS**

*with SEN school*

## **Provider 1EL**

West London Teacher Training Alliance (Primary)

*This programme is available at*

- ◆ Queensmill School, W12

## **APPLICATION LINK**

Instructions on how to apply, with a link to the application form, are included in Section 9. It is important that you read this short document thoroughly before you apply.

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# 1 About this course

## 1.1 Qualification Outcome

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This course **A620** leads to PGTA +QTS. Click [here](#) for further clarity on the significance of different teacher training qualifications.

St. Mary's University has been graded by Ofsted to be "Outstanding" for Primary and Secondary Initial Teacher Education programmes (February 2019). Our Primary programme offers excellent academic and pastoral care for trainees which is reflected in high programme completion rates and levels of student achievements. A highly successful partnership has been established between the St. Mary's University School of Education and WLTTA, to deliver a Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) Apprenticeship in the primary phase in a *Special Education Needs and Disability setting (SEND)*. The enthusiasm, expertise and professionalism of all staff in support of these outcomes, including the development of our students' capacity to reflect on and analyse their own practice, is widely recognised.

This is a nationally recognised, work-based route into teaching. It offers the postgraduate-level QTS qualification with no tuition fees and the opportunity to earn while you learn. It is aimed primarily at candidates who have a good understanding of what it means to work in a school and have built up relevant experience, perhaps as a teaching assistant or in similar role. Candidates will be working in schools already, and looking to make the next step to QTS.

### Special Features

- St. Mary's University has been graded by Ofsted "Outstanding" for Primary and Secondary Initial Teacher Education programmes (February 2019).
  - Our Primary programme offers excellent academic and pastoral care for trainees which is reflected in high programme completion rates and levels of student achievements.
  - A highly successful partnership has been established between the St. Mary's University School of Education and WLTTA, to deliver a Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) Apprenticeship in the primary phase.
  - The enthusiasm, expertise and professionalism of all staff in support of these outcomes, including the development of our students' capacity to reflect on and analyse their own practice, is widely recognised.
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## 1.2 The Training

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Through us, you would enrol at the university and would attend all the same university sessions with those who had applied through the university; have full access to university facilities and mentors; and the university still awards your PGCE. The training lasts 13 months.

WLTTA selects a contrasting school for your 'away' placement, which occurs before your (longer) time at your chosen host school.



*St Mary's University Twickenham*

As a guide: [Typical Timetable](#)

While much of your training takes place in your SEN host school, you will enrol at the university and will have access to university facilities and mentors. The course starts in September 2024 and QTS will be awarded the following June. The Apprenticeship will be completed in October 2025 when you are awarded your PGTA.

You will be located predominantly in your employing host school but in the spring term you will gain experience in a contrasting (mainstream) school (chosen by WLTTA) for approximately six weeks to add further depth to your training.

You will also undertake off-the-job training, which will occupy 20% of your teaching time; this is split between face-to-face training at the University and independent training tasks in school.

The programme structure incorporates a balance of learning experiences at University and school. You will develop discrete subject knowledge, understanding and skills across the full range of core subjects, PE, RE and computing, alongside foundation subjects. Professional Studies underpin the pedagogy and practice of being a teacher, including themes of managing behaviour for learning, SEND, lesson planning for progression and working with children in challenging circumstances.

At school, through an initial programme of observations, you will become familiar with the workings of the school and department (pupil groups, pastoral systems, staffing, curriculum, resources, facilities, methods of teaching, lesson planning, and assessment). During your time in both schools, your university tutor visits you to monitor your progress and discuss your development with you and your school mentors.

As an apprentice teacher, you will have the opportunity to teach all subjects at KS1 and KS2. You will gain experience teaching students across a range of ability groups.

## 2 How school placements work

### 2.1 Choosing your School

On this particular course we have vacancies for internal candidates within the Queensmill Trust (Queensmill School in W12 with a Primary Resource base in SW6; and Kensington Queensmill in W10).

We then later arrange your second placement at another contrasting WLTTA school to provide greater depth to your training experience. For this course, hosted by a SEN school, the second placement would be in a mainstream school *for approx. 11 weeks*.

The characters and location of our schools are varied. To help you decide, please refer to our overall [WLTTA Primary School Summary Descriptions](#) and our [Map of WLTTA Schools](#).

We then later arrange your second placement at another contrasting WLTTA school to provide greater depth to your training experience.

If you want to see when you would be at the university; when at your main host school; and when the contrasting school - see our typical timetable linked above.

You can contact us to ask how many applications (if any) are being considered by different schools when you are applying.

## 2.2 Our Detailed Website and Live Online Presentation and Q&A

We recommend that you visit our website [www.wlta.org.uk](http://www.wlta.org.uk) to see properly all our vacancies. We have many other primary teacher training courses at other schools including a few salaried places. You can download the course document for any of our courses; and see a video about us, with previous trainees being interviewed.

You can also sign up there to join our fortnightly Zoom presentation about getting into teaching and it includes an opportunity for Q&A. The presentation explains all about the different routes into teaching and their separate benefits; how the money works; tips about using the 'Find Postgraduate Teacher Training' portal; applications; offers; etc. No pressure, you don't have to attend this at all. It is just there for anyone who is trying to understand it all better. We get excellent feedback on this year after year.

# 3 Entry requirements

## 3.1 Academic Requirements

You will need a

- UK undergraduate honours degree (or equivalent) at 2:2 or above.
- GCSE Grade C/4 or the equivalent, in English Language, Mathematics and a science.
- One of the three highlighted GCSEs can be missing/pending at application but must be confirmed at the appropriate level before the course starts.
- Equivalency tests are accepted, though applicants submitting these will still be required to complete Functional Skills during the course of the programme

For both the degree and GCSEs, where appropriate, see our important guidance on [Overseas Qualifications](#) and also [GCSE Equivalency tests](#).

## 3.2 Personal Qualities

During the interview and selection process, you will take part in an interview and discussion that will allow you to evidence that you have thought carefully about your motives for becoming a teacher and can demonstrate that you have some emerging capability to reflect on what being a teacher means. If online, the interview will be recorded in line with GDPR compliance.

We seek trainees with a passion to engage and inspire students to a love of learning, who are:

- committed to championing their students;
- open to learning about children's physical/social/emotional/cognitive needs and how these can affect behaviour;
- in good health with the ability to cope with stress. Teaching is incredibly rewarding, but it also requires an element of resilience!
- professional and committed to equal opportunities;

- able to communicate well in written/spoken English, with at least basic computer skills and commitment to developing these; and with

It helps to have a sense of humour and an ability to laugh at yourself!

### 3.3 Other requirements

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Some experience of SEN children would be a significant advantage.

A realistic understanding of the role of a teacher and an awareness of some current issues facing the profession is also important. We have some advice relating to school experience on our website: [WLTTA School Experience tab](#)

It is worth being aware that salaried postgraduate apprenticeship places are highly competitive and successful applicants normally have previous experience in a school.

Offers are conditional on satisfactory outcome of a DBS check (approx. £60) and an occupational health check (approx. £20) both administered through the university after an offer is accepted.

## 4 Salary

### 4.1 Fees

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You will be employed (at least initially) as an unqualified teacher for one year by your chosen host school.

You will be paid a salary by the employing host school in line with the 'Non-Qualified Teacher Pay Range 2025-26', normally at the Point 1 level. This government pay range is expected to be published in September 2024.

As a guide, Point 1 on the Unqualified Teacher Pay Range for 2024-25 is

- £27,252 (for a school in inner London)
- £25,758 (for a school in outer London)

Trainees on salaried programmes are not eligible for bursaries or student loans but you will have no tuition fees to pay. Tuition fees are paid to the university from other sources.

If you are offered a post to remain at the school the following year, then the apprenticeship assessment meeting for the further award of Postgraduate Teacher Apprenticeship (PGTA) would take place there.

If you take up a job with another school in the second year, St Mary's will arrange for the PGTA final assessment meeting to take place in at your new school with no cost to that school or to you. In either case the PGTA award follows an assessment meeting in the autumn term after you qualify as a teacher

### 4.2 Other Financial Support

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Please also be aware that as a full time student, you would be eligible for cheaper travel in London using a student Oyster card and in many boroughs, you can get a reduction on your council tax payments.

## 5 About the training provider

### 5.1 The West London Teacher Training Alliance (WLTTA)

The West London Teacher Training Alliance represents a large group of 60+ schools (nurseries, primaries, special needs, secondaries, sixth forms; faith and non-faith, maintained schools, independent schools and free schools) – who are all seeking to mentor and build a relationship with a trainee who aspires to work in their school.

Most of our schools are in Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea, but we also have schools in Westminster, Richmond, Twickenham, Ealing, Hounslow, Hillingdon and Brent. The WLTTA office is based at Sacred Heart High School, in Hammersmith.

We have formal partnership arrangements with two universities:

- St Mary's University, Twickenham
- University of Roehampton

### 5.2 Our approach to trainee recruitment

We pride ourselves in the support that we provide potential applicants and in the speed of our shortlisting. We have a detailed website (do please look) and the WLTTA office is staffed full time with experts to talk to on the phone.

We want you to choose the schools where you aspire to work, when you apply. If you perform well at interview but fail to get a place at your preferred school, we operate an internal referral system rather than rejecting you (see the interview section below).

We place significant emphasis on getting a good fit between trainee and school because we are all keenly focussed on recruitment for qualified teachers in our alliance schools the following year.

### 5.3 The Accrediting Body

St Mary's University, Twickenham accredits this WLTTA course and in 2024 the St Mary's Institute of Education was once again rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

In The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024 the university was ranked in the Top 10 for Student Experience and in the Top 5 for Teaching Quality. The Thames-side setting of the campus is stunning and the university has a long and distinguished history combined with a very modern outlook.

With just under 4,000 students training to teach on primary and secondary courses, the university is now London's second largest teacher training course provider. Course tutors at St Mary's are all skilful teachers themselves, with many years of experience in schools and higher education. Our WLTTA schools have been working with St Mary's for many years and have established excellent relationships with the university.

Public Transport: [Finding St Mary's University](#)

We will soon celebrate 175 years in Education in south west London. St Mary's is London's second largest teacher training course provider, with a significant proportion of our 6,000 students training to teach on primary and secondary initial teacher training courses.

Key Facts:

Close partnership between the University and WLTTA

Educational theory closely related to practical reality of the classroom

Bespoke Link tutor support

## 6 Interviews

You would usually be recommended by the school you already work as a support teacher, TA or such, in this case **the Queensmill Trust**. Once we are confident you have met the course entry requirements, we carefully examine your personal statement. This is your opportunity to convince us that you have seriously thought through your journey into teaching in terms of motivation and a genuine understanding of what being a teacher really means. You will almost certainly find it helpful to refer to prior learning and classroom observation experiences and reflect on what you saw, heard or experienced. It is also your opportunity to connect your prior academic and/or work experiences to the skills and attitudes required for teaching. We want to clearly hear from you some thoughtful consideration of why you believe you will make a great teacher. Do this successfully and we will invite you for an interview. Each of our schools interview independently, with a St Mary's representative, but the process is administered centrally through WLTTA.

We look forward to meeting you and supporting you to become an Outstanding teacher.

## 7 Training with a disability

WLTTA and all our partner universities are committed to supporting students with disabilities. Please contact us as early as possible in your application process so that your needs are met and support can be arranged.

St. Mary's University has a fully supportive and well-resourced Student Wellbeing service to support trainees with disabilities and other needs.

At interview, we encourage candidates to disclose any additional needs requiring support so that early support can be in place for the course.

For further information on Disability Access: [St Mary's University Disability and Wellbeing support](#)

## 8 Contact details

The WLTTA office team administers all WLTTA teacher training recruitment and training. If you need further help, you can find all our contact details here with information about our availability during school holidays: [One-to-one advice for candidates](#)

### **West London Teacher Training Alliance**

c/o Sacred Heart High School  
212 Hammersmith Road,  
London W6 7DG

Office phone: **0208 748 7600** (Adesola Bakare x466)

Email: [abakare@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk](mailto:abakare@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk)

Our website: <https://www.wlta.org.uk/>

**St Mary's University:** <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/teacher-training/about.aspx>

St Mary's University  
Waldegrave Road  
Strawberry Hill, Twickenham  
Richmond upon Thames  
London  
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## 9 How to apply

All applications for teacher training are made through the DfE portal [Find postgraduate teacher training courses - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses)