WEST LONDON TEACHER TRAINING ALLIANCE
2022-23 Cohort

in partnership with

St Mary's University Twickenham London

COURSE CODE
VY4N

UNSALARIED CHEMISTRY PGCE(M)+QTS

WITH SPECIAL NEEDS HOST SCHOOL

Provider 2BV
West London Teacher Training Alliance (Secondary)

This programme is available at

- The Rise School TW13, (Ambitious about Autism)



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

This course **VY4N** leads to PGCE (M) QTS. Click here for further clarity on the significance of different teacher training qualifications.

1.2 Special Features

This course is run by the West London Teacher Training Alliance (WLTTA) in partnership with St Mary's University, Twickenham. We make prompt shortlisting decisions and will liaise with you quickly if we need additional information.

WLTTA enables you to choose your host school. Later, if there is a teaching vacancy and they want to retain you, you can be employed for the following year **without the post being advertised.** By becoming a WLTTA trainee, all our other schools could employ you this way and we operate a pool.

Our aim is to produce exceptional teachers who could remain in alliance schools to continue their careers, taking advantage of further professional development, including the accredited Early Career induction programme.

1.3 The Training

Most schools need you to be able to teach at least one of the three sciences to A-Level, and to be willing and able to teach all three Sciences at Key Stage 3 and ideally to GCSE. We can help you learn to do so.

You would enrol at the university and would:

- attend all the same university sessions with those who had applied through the university; and
- have full access to university facilities and mentors.

The university awards your PGCE. WLTTA selects a second contrasting school for your 'away' placement.



St Mary's University Twickenham

As a guide: typical timetable

Lectures would include teaching, assessing, classroom management and child protection. Your university tutor leads subject seminars.

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).

You will be treated like a member of teaching staff and with your school mentors, you will feel supported as you become ready to teach. Our mentors are excellent experienced teachers who undertake rigorous training to develop their mentoring skills.

Throughout your time in both schools, your university tutor visits you to monitor your progress and discuss your development with you and your school mentors.

You will have the opportunity to teach across KS3/KS4 and to support KS5. KS3 topics cover science more generally including elements and chemical reactions, cell biology, nutrition and digestion, atoms, energy and forces.

2 How school placements work

2.1 Choosing your school

With WLTTA you select **the main host school** at application and normally there are several to choose from but we are only running this particular course (which specifies a SEN host school) from

- The Rise School, TW13.

We then later arrange your second placement at another contrasting (mainstream) 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 read a description of The Rise and our other secondary schools in our overall WLTTA Secondary School Summary Descriptions Please also refer to our Map of WLTTA Schools

You can always contact us to ask how many applications (if any) are being considered by different schools at the point that you are about to apply.

2.2 Our Detailed Website and Live Presentation and Q&A

We recommend that you visit our website (www.wltta.org.uk) to properly see all our vacancies, for example we have two other separate Chemistry teacher training courses (one unsalaried at a variety of mainstream schools; the other salaried). You can download the course information document and see a video about us, with previous trainees being interviewed.

If you want to, you can also sign up there to join our fortnightly 'live' 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's 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 scientific honours degree (2.2 or above) in Chemistry or a closely related subject.

We may consider alternatively well-qualified mature candidates or those whose studies indicate some breadth of scientific knowledge as a basis for further study both before and during the course.

We normally also expect two Sciences at A-Level standard (or the equivalent). This can really help because at KS3, schools teach general science before children then specialise for GCSEs and A-Levels in KS4 and KS5.

You will also need GCSE Grade C/4 in English Language and Mathematics GCSE, or the equivalent.

Where appropriate, please read our important guidance on Overseas Qualifications and if necessary about GCSE Equivalency tests.

We would normally only accept a candidate with one of the two required GCSEs outstanding (not both).

3.2 Personal Qualities

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.

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

3.3 Other requirements

Some previous experience with SEN children would be a distinct 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

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 Fees & financial support

4.1 Fees

The tuition fee for this course is £9,250 payable to St Mary's University, Twickenham.

4.2 Bursaries & Scholarships

DfE bursary levels, eligibility (and scholarship details) for different subjects for the 2022-23 training year is expected to be published from **early Oct 2021** on the DfE's 'Get into Teaching' website tab: Funding Your Training.

4.3 Student loans

You may also be eligible for a student loan while you study but you'll have to apply for that. You can take out a student loan even if you already have an undergraduate loan.

Loans for tuition fees are not means tested (whereas loans for maintenance are means tested) but you should confirm all this using the same 'Funding your training' tab above.

4.4 Other financial support

While not provided directly by WLTTA, please 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 for teacher-training with four universities:

- St Mary's University, Twickenham
- University of Roehampton
- University College London (UCL)
- London Metropolitan University

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 (https://www.wltta.org.uk/) and the WLTTA office is staffed full time with teacher-training recruitment experts to talk to on the phone.

With us, you choose the schools 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. With just under 4,000 students training to teach on primary and secondary, they are now London's second largest teacher training course provider and in 2019 the St Mary's Institute of Education was once again rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

Course tutors at St Mary's are all skilful teachers themselves, with many years of experience in schools and higher education. Schools in the Alliance have excellent relationships with the university.

6 Interviews

Our schools seek trainees that aspire to work for them. We enable you to select your preferred host school(s) at application and later through a referral process. We provide information about the schools to help you choose.

6.1 Stage 1: University Interview

Once shortlisted, we arrange for you to be invited to an online university interview. You will be asked to upload ID documents and relevant certificates/transcripts if available. We can still make an offer subject to later verification of qualifications.

The university may ask you to prepare a brief presentation on a particular topic and a subject audit questionnaire. This will help them to establish the breadth of your subject knowledge, which they will discuss with you. 'Subject Knowledge Enhancement' courses are sometimes included as an offer condition.

6.2 Stage 2: School Interview

The school interview follows 3-4 days later and could lead to an offer.

6.3 Internal Referrals

If you do not get an offer from Stage 2 but have demonstrated potential, you can then choose another school, perhaps on our mainstream Chemistry course, and we would recommend your shortlisting without the need for you to reapply. The university interview would not be repeated.

We hope to fit good candidates with schools that they are happy with and where they can secure an offer. There remains an advantage initially in applying for a place at more than one school, because such applications would be considered in parallel rather than sequentially. If you have a clear first choice, email us and we can try to ensure a sensible order for the interviews.

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.

You can also find support and information from the university accrediting this course. St Mary's University offer advice and support to their students who have requirements as a result of a disability, specific learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia), medical condition or temporary disability, such as injury. St Mary's Dyslexia and Disability Co-ordinator (DDC) works closely with the other members of the Student Services team, supporting students in their time at university assisting them to be proactive in their studies as an independent learner. http://www.smuc.ac.uk/student-support/dyslexia-and-disability/

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

Office phone: **0208 748 7600** (Alex Dijkhuis x290 or Pippa Currey x466)

Email: adijkhuis@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk Our website: https://www.wltta.org.uk/

9 How to apply

The way to apply for postgraduate teacher training in England has changed. You can now use **Apply for teacher training**, a new GOV.UK service. The process should be intuitive but we have made a guide to the information you will need and how it works: How application system works.