



WEST LONDON TEACHER TRAINING ALLIANCE
2024-25 Cohort

in partnership with



**COURSE
CODE
W408**

UNSALARIED SOCIAL SCIENCES 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 Social Sciences course **W408** leads to PGCE (M) QTS. Click here for [further clarity on the significance of different teacher training qualifications](#).

1.2 Special Features

- West London Teacher Training Alliance (WLTTA) in partnership with University of Roehampton.
- WLTTA enables you to choose your host school, in this case a SEN 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 schools could employ you this way and we operate a pool.
- Full time staff on hand to support you, prompt shortlisting decisions.

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

While much of your training is in your host school, you will enrol at the university and will:

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

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

As a guide: [Typical Timetable](#)



University of Roehampton

The key aim of this programme is to enable you to become confident, knowledgeable and enthusiastic teachers of social sciences. The programme provides opportunities for you to explore the theory and practice of social science education through a range of lectures, workshops and tutorials, and to develop your expertise in the classroom through time in both your host (and contrasting) schools.

The course will provide you with an awareness of the theoretical foundations of the subject, of strategies for teaching and learning and of current issues surrounding social sciences education. Regular tutorials enable you to receive individual support from tutors. Our lecturers on the programme are experienced teachers of social sciences and active

researchers in the field of social science education, while visiting lecturers offer workshops in specific aspects of teaching social sciences.

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 get the opportunity to teach both KS4 and KS5.

2 How school placements work

2.1 Choosing your main host school

At application, with WLTTA, we want you to select your main host school as somewhere you aspire to work. For this course, which specifies at SEN setting, your host school would be:

- The Rise School, TW13.

You can read a description of The Rise and our other secondary schools in our [WLTTA Secondary School Summary Descriptions](#). Please also refer to our [Map of WLTTA Schools](#).

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. Please note however, that if your main host setting is The Rise SEN school, your mainstream placement will be longer - probably 10-12 weeks.

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 <https://www.wlta.org.uk/> to properly see all our vacancies, for example we also have another separate Social Sciences course with a variety of mainstream schools. You can download the course information document for any of our courses; 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; school experience 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 event year after year.

[WLTTA online Information and Q&A session](#)

3 Entry requirements

3.1 Academic Requirements

You will need a relevant honours degree at 2:2 or above. Depending on the level of direct relevance of your degree, an A-Level or BTEC in a relevant subject may strengthen your application.

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;
- passionate about their subject and about working with SEN pupils;
- 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 and a sense of humour.
- professional and committed to equal opportunities;
- able to communicate well in written/spoken English, with at least basic computer skills and a commitment to developing these.

3.3 Other requirements

Some previous experience with SEN children would be a distinct advantage, ideally in a SEN setting.

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 the University of Roehampton for 2024-25. Fees for international students will be confirmed by the university in October, but for 2023-24 the fees were £16,500.

4.2 DfE Bursaries and Student Loans

DfE bursaried subjects for 2024, together with the amounts and eligibility (and any scholarships) are expected to be published from **early Oct 2023** on the DfE's 'Get into

Teaching' website tab: [Funding & Support](#). This information will then also then be listed on the bursary tab on the secondary courses page of our WLTTA website.

You may be eligible for a student loan while you study. 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 funding link above.

4.3 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 two universities:

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

5.2 Our approach to trainee recruitment

We are one of the very few providers who want you choose the school where you train, ideally a school where you aspire to work, when you apply. 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.wlta.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 secure 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

This WLTTA course is accredited by University of Roehampton, who have been at the forefront of teacher education for over 100 years. Many members of staff are at the cutting edge of research in teacher education, which has a positive impact on the quality of our provision; tutors have extensive teaching experience in schools with many having served as consultants or as Ofsted inspectors.

The university experience is enhanced by its beautiful campus - unique in being both close to central London and set in parkland with grand, historic buildings and lakes side by side with newly built modern facilities.

6 Interviews

Our schools seek trainees who 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 School Interview

This course is currently offered at one SEN school, The Rise. Each of our schools interview independently, but the process is administered centrally through WLTTA.

When we receive your application, we send it on to the school: if they shortlist you for interview there will be only one interview, at the school, in person. A university representative may attend and you will spend some time in a classroom with the pupils.

You will be notified of all the arrangements by email in advance of the interview. This may include the completion of two short online tests in numeracy and literacy; and completion of a subject audit questionnaire. This will help us to establish the range of your subject knowledge.

You will need to email scans of your degree and Maths and English qualifications to WLTTA centrally (Pippa Currey) pcurrey@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk We can still make an offer subject to later verification of particular qualifications.

6.2 Internal Referrals

If you do not receive an offer after the school interview but have demonstrated potential, you can then choose another school and we would recommend your shortlisting. You would not need to repeat the online tests or subject audit.

We hope to fit good candidates with schools that they are happy with and where they can secure an offer. In this way we believe we are maximising the opportunity for a successful year for both trainee and school; in turn this increases the chances of the trainee's future employment within the school or the alliance.

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 the programme: University of Roehampton:

<http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/Disabilities/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](#)

Office phone: **0208 748 7600** (Pippa Currey x290)

Email: pcurrey@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk

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

9 How to apply

All applications for teacher training courses are made through the DfE portal: [Apply for teacher training](#).

The following link provides an overview of the application system but is less important for this course as there is only one SEN school offering the programme. [How to apply](#)