WEST LONDON TEACHER TRAINING ALLIANCE
2023-24 Cohort

in partnership with

St Mary's University Twickenham London

COURSE CODE
2XVC

UNSALARIED BIOLOGY PGCE(M)+QTS

Provider 2BV
West London Teacher Training Alliance (Secondary)

This programme is available at

- Drayton Manor High School, W7
- Fulham Cross Academy, SW6
- Gumley House School TW7
- Hammersmith Academy, W6
- St Benedict's Catholic School, W5
- St Mark's Catholic School, TW3
- St Richard Reynolds Catholic College, TW1

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 **2XVC** 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 where you aspire to work as your main 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 include elements and chemical reactions, cell biology, nutrition and digestion, atoms, energy and forces. Year 7 -10 teaching will include aspects of nutrition and digestion, atoms, elements and chemical reactions, energy and forces.

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.

The schools seeking trainees on this particular course are listed below.

- Drayton Manor High School, W7
- Fulham Cross Academy, SW6
- Gumley House School TW7
- Hammersmith Academy, W6
- St Benedict's Catholic School, W5
- St Mark's Catholic School, TW3
- St Richard Reynolds Catholic College, TW1

The characters and location of our schools are varied. To help you decide, please refer to our overall WLTTA Secondary 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 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. You can select up to three different schools (they interview independently) - see instructions on how to do this in section 9.

2.2 Our Detailed Website and Live Presentation and Q&A

We recommend that you visit our website https://www.wltta.org.uk/ to properly see all our vacancies, for example we have another separate Biology unsalaried course at a SEN school. 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; 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 Biology 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.

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

We are looking for energetic and committed applicants with excellent subject knowledge in science.

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

DfE bursaried subjects for 2023, together with the amounts and eligibility, is expected to be published from **early Oct 2022** on the DfE's 'Get into Teaching' website tab: Funding &

Support. These DfE Bursaries for 2023-4 will also then be listed on the bursary tab on the secondary courses page of our WLTTA website.

4.3 Student loans

You may also be eligible for a student loan while you study but you will 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 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 a university interview. These will mostly be online but if you particularly wish to visit the university, do mention this to them when they contact you about the 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 and we would recommend your shortlisting. 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 to the course 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** (Pippa Currey x290)

Email: pcurrey@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk

Our website: https://www.wltta.org.uk/

9 How to apply and how to choose more than one school on a course

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 importantly it also shows you how to choose more than one school on a course. This won't be evident within the application portal itself.

How to apply and how to choose more than one school on the same course