

## **What are the benefits of PGCE M level to students?**

One of the main benefits of PGCE at M level is the opportunity it offers to support the development of high quality practitioners and educate critically reflective teachers who are able to evaluate best approaches to primary pedagogy underpinned by a broad and comprehensive understanding of theory and research in this area. Depending on how the programme is organised, opportunities can be made available for trainees to explore elements of provision in detail or to focus on specific subject areas in preparation for curriculum or strategic leadership roles. This flexibility enables students to take ownership for their own professional development and prepares them for further study and/or professional development.

### **Teaching**

- Study at Masters level requires a level of critical reflection which is not always achievable by the already packed programmes of most PGCEs. Considering how to achieve independence in student learning is a key facet to effective M level PGCEs and non-contact time is a critical element in this.
- For many students, this will be the first time they have been required to think in the highly personal, reflective manner needed for becoming a reflective practitioner and the study skills required for this may be very different to those used in their first degree.

“Such courses may form a progression route within a framework which ultimately leads to a Masters degree.” My own correspondence with UCET, TDA, QAA and HEFCE has only resulted in guidance that 60 credit points at M level would seem an appropriate credit rating.

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