

**MSc in Education with QTS
Year 1: PGCE Science Course**

Pre-Interview Guidance for Candidates

Congratulations on gaining an interview for the PGCE Science course at Loughborough University. As you will be aware, there are many applicants for a limited number of places, and it is important that our interview procedures ensure that we select the best candidates in terms of their suitability to embark upon a successful career in teaching.

This guidance informs you of the purpose and format of the interview, and should help you to prepare for the interview.

Interview Purpose and Format

The purpose of the interview is to determine your suitability to teaching by focussing on your:

- specific qualifications;
- subject knowledge skills and abilities;
- experiences and personal qualities;
- commitment to teaching;
- sense of responsibility;
- ability to relate well to young people;
- ability to reflect on your own knowledge and experience.

The interview should also demonstrate that you are open-minded and possess a balanced and positive outlook. In particular, the interview procedures are designed to determine whether you meet the entry requirements (essential and desirable) for candidates, which may be found on page 4-5.

Interview Process

You will be involved in an individual interview conducted by two members of the partnership who alternate between 'questioner' and 'recorder'. Following the interview, the two interviewers will compare notes, review the written task and determine your suitability for teacher training at Loughborough.

As requested in the letter inviting you to attend for interview, please remember to bring with you your:

- Birth Certificate (or Marriage Certificate, if applicable)
- Passport
- Driving Licence (if applicable)

- GCSE (or equivalent) English Language and Mathematics Certificates
- Completed Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) Enhanced Disclosure Application form and fee
- Notes for the chosen topic for the short presentation.

The Presentation

During the interview, you will be required to make a **five minute** presentation, outlining the **big** ideas, on how you would introduce **one** topic of your choice from the following list to a mixed ability Year 9 class outlining any particular problems you feel the class may face and how you might address them:

- Cells and cell function
- Green plants as organisms
- Respiration
- Elements, compounds and mixtures
- Acids and bases
- Geological changes
- Force and pressure
- Circuits
- The behaviour of light

These topics have been taken from the National Curriculum for Science at Key Stage 3 (available at <http://curriculum.qcda.gov.uk>). Please note that you will **not be expected to teach the topic content to the interviewers**. However, your own subject knowledge of the topic may be explored. You will have access to a whiteboard and pens but no other media. Reference notes may be used.

The Written Task

The written task requires you to demonstrate your ability to communicate in written Standard English ideas surrounding a topical issue in science. You will be assessed in this task according to your ability to:

- use correct spelling, grammar and punctuation;
- express yourself clearly and fluently, using appropriate vocabulary;
- produce an organised, logical and coherent piece of work;
- present your written work neatly and legibly;
- provide a relevant response to the task.

This task requires a written response of no more than one side of A4. You will be offered a relatively 'quiet' location in which to undertake the task. There is no specific time limit for the task but it must be completed and submitted at some point before the interview session ends.

Please note that the PGCE Science interview does not require you to be involved in any practical work. **It is therefore not necessary for you to bring or wear any protective clothing or footwear on the day.**

School Placements

Whilst the overwhelming majority of our partnership schools are within 35 miles (one way) of Loughborough, due to pressure for Science placements within the East Midlands, it may, on occasions, be necessary to place a trainee further afield. For example, we currently use a cluster of schools in the Peterborough region. In such cases, key personal commitments can be taken into consideration (but must be made known to staff at the outset of the course) and it is customary for bed and breakfast accommodation to be arranged for the trainee(s), at the University's expense.

Preparing for Your Interview

Prior to your interview, it is recommended that you:

- familiarise yourself with the structure of the PGCE course at Loughborough (please read carefully the literature that you are sent and look at the TEU website: www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/teu);
- familiarise yourself with the Key Stage 3 and 4 aspects of the National Curriculum for Science (available at <http://curriculum.qcda.gov.uk>);
- are reasonably well informed about current educational topics/issues;
- visit a state secondary school and discuss with teachers their roles and responsibilities, expectations and concerns.

Finally, on your interview day, it is suggested that, if you are not familiar with the Loughborough University campus, you allow yourself time to look around the Science facilities - this can be done independently before or after your interview. PGCE Science staff wish you well in both your preparation for the interview and in the interview itself.

John Twidle
PGCE Science Subject Leader

Loughborough University PGCE Science Entry Requirements

	Essential	Desirable	Evidence Source(s)	Your Notes
Qualifications	<p>On entry, a relevant degree, i.e., one in which at least 50% is recognisable as Biology, Chemistry or Physics.</p> <p>On entry, two 'science based' A-levels or equivalent, or evidence of equivalent study in the degree profile.</p> <p>On entry, GSCE dual award science or at least two separate science GCSEs.</p> <p>On entry, a Grade C or above in GCSE (or equivalent) English language and mathematics.</p>	<p>The attainment or prediction of a minimum of a 2.1 degree classification.</p> <p>A-level grades of C or better.</p> <p>GCSE grade B or better.</p> <p>GCSE grade B or better.</p>	<p>GTTR application form.</p> <p>GTTR application form.</p> <p>GTTR application form.</p> <p>GTTR application form.</p>	
Skills and Abilities	<p>Adequate knowledge and awareness of educational issues and the National Curriculum for Science.</p> <p>Adequate level of competency in numeracy, literacy and ICT.</p> <p>Effective communication skills, i.e., the ability to express oneself fluently in spoken and written standard English.</p> <p>Ability to reflect on own knowledge and experience.</p> <p>Ability to relate well to young people.</p>	<p>Evidence of 'education' modules in the degree profile.</p> <p>Additional qualifications, e.g., CLAIT.</p> <p>Evidence of presentations in degree profile or elsewhere.</p> <p>Evidence of work with young people.</p>	<p>GTTR application form.</p> <p>GTTR application form; written task at interview (literacy).</p> <p>GTTR application form (personal statement); interview; written task at interview.</p> <p>Interview.</p> <p>GTTR application form and interview.</p>	

	Essential	Desirable	Evidence Source(s)	Your Notes
Experience	Relevant experience of working with young people, e.g., youth work or time spent in school.	Recent experience of science in a state secondary school.	GTTR application form; interview; reference.	
Other	<p>Medical fitness (i.e in sound physical and mental health, in accordance with Fitness to Teach, DCSF, 2007).</p> <p>No criminal convictions that would prevent the individual working with young people.</p> <p>Strong commitment to teaching.</p> <p>The following personal qualities: sensitivity to others; a sense of responsibility; a balanced and positive outlook; open minded; enthusiastic; hard working; well organised; self disciplined.</p> <p>Supportive reference.</p>	<p>Good attendance record in previous course or employment.</p> <p>Accepts and learns quickly from constructive criticism.</p>	<p>GTTR application form; on being offered a place, completion of 'Fitness to Teach' questionnaire (which is screened by the Occupational Health Department).</p> <p>Enhanced CRB check (carried out prior to start of course).</p> <p>GTTR application form (including the reference) and interview.</p> <p>GTTR application form (reference).</p>	