



THE UNIVERSITY OF
BUCKINGHAM



Frequently Asked Questions

BA (Hons) in Primary Education

For teaching assistants in schools

FAQs



Admissions

How can I apply?

Applications are made online at:

www.buckingham.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/ba-hons-primary-education/

Just hit the **Apply now** button and complete the application form.

What are the entry requirements for the course?

- 1 You must be in employment in a school and your school will need to write a letter supporting your application.
- 2 You cannot have a university degree already.
- 3 You should have passed two A-levels or equivalents.
- 5 You must pass an interview.
- 6 You must be determined and organised.

To teach in a primary school you need to have passed GCSE English, Maths and Science. So, at some point before the Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) course you need to have done that.

To check whether your Level 3 qualifications are valid you can use the UCAS tariff checker website: www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator.

To check whether your Level 4 qualifications are valid please contact BAPRIM-EDU@buckingham.ac.uk.

Overseas qualifications

Overseas qualifications must be checked through UK ENIC to show they are the same standard as British A-levels or equivalents. Details are available here: www.enic.org.uk/.

Can I defer my offer?

You will have to contact the **Admissions Officer** for your subject to discuss your situation. You will find their contact details at the bottom of your offer letter.

Do you accept transfer students?

Unfortunately, we do not accept transfers for this course at this stage. However, if you have any questions on your situation, please contact **Admissions**.



Fees and finance

How are payments made to the University of Buckingham?

The initial £300 registration fee is paid to the University upon application, you will be sent a link and payment details via your welcome email. This needs to be paid before your interview. If you are having difficulties with making a payment, please contact **BAPRIM-EDU@buckingham.ac.uk**. The course fee can be paid either annually or termly.

When do I have to pay my tuition fees?

Your tuition, or course fee, is due either annually - before the start of your academic year, or termly - before the start of each term.

You will have to list this information, along with who is funding the course (self/school/third party) and the frequency of payment (termly/annually) in your **Acceptance Statement**. You will be charged based on the details you provide.

Can I apply to Student Finance?

Yes! The course is eligible for support from Student Finance. To find out more about how to apply for a student loan, please visit www.gov.uk/student-finance.



Course delivery

How is the course delivered?

The course content is delivered through our partner Anspear's learning platform. Approximately every six weeks, you will get access to a new unit of the course on the learning platform. For each unit you will have material to read, videos to watch and questions to answer.

How much work will the course require per week?

Although it will vary from student to student, we estimate that the course will require approximately 8 hours of work per week.

Who will be my tutor?

Tutor allocation happens in June. It is planned that you will meet your tutor at the online induction session.

How often will I meet with my tutor?

Your tutor will lead a group discussion twice a term, each lasting 1-2 hours. This will be held during non-school hours, for example, after 3.30pm. They will also be available to you on a 1:1 basis for consultation and guidance, via email or video call.

How is the academic year structured?

The course will be run on a four-term year:

Term 1 | July to September

Term 2 | September to December

Term 3 | December to March

Term 4 | April to June

There will be breaks in the course at Christmas and Easter.

Will I get a chance to meet other students on the course?

The course is fully online but you can discuss the course with others in your tutor group meetings. Alternatively, there may be other students on the course from your school or multi-academy trust who you can discuss the course with.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed via computer-marked tests, reflective pieces written during the term and an end of module assignment of 3000 words. These will be based on your study and in-school observations and experiences

The final **Enquiry module** is taken in **Year 3**. It is assessed in part via computer-marked tests throughout the module as well as reflective writing and a larger piece of research based on an area of your choice from the programme. This will involve a literature review of 2000 words and a research project of 6000 words, written over two terms.

What does the 'Introduction to Study' course include?

The **Introduction to Study** course will introduce you to the learning platform and cover topics like setting study goals, how to approach distance learning, time management, research skills, extended writing skills, referencing and workplace skills. It is designed to help get you up to speed before the course begins.

What is the 'personal device' provided for the course and can I use my own device?

Our partners Anspear will provide a *Chromebook* for the duration of the course. You will be asked whether you would like a *Chromebook* at your interview. If you choose to have one, it will be sent to your school in time for the **Introduction to Study** course.

Is there a minimum number of hours that you need to be employed to apply for the course?

Yes. We ask that students work for at least two days a week in their school. This is to ensure that you have enough time in school to reflect on your experiences and ensure that you have the chance to liaise with other colleagues and observe good practice.

Is the course classroom-based or self-guided?

The course is self-guided. The course content is delivered through our partner Anspear's learning platform. This gives you the opportunity to study anywhere and at your own pace.

Are there opportunities to repeat MCQ tests and assignments if the threshold scores are not achieved on the first attempt?

You are not allowed to repeat the MCQ test. These tests are an important part of the course and are designed to help you reflect on and learn the course content. There are other quizzes integrated throughout each unit. Your answers to these quizzes are not recorded and are designed to help you prepare for the end of unit tests.

Written assignments that do not reach the pass mark can be resubmitted once.



Technology and the learning platform

What do I need to access the course?

You will get access to an email account, our online university library and learning platform via your university login details. These will be sent to you prior to course commencement, in early July.

Can I learn on a phone or tablet?

Yes!

Our partner Anspear's learning platform offers a great experience on both smartphones and tablets. Download the app and log in with the same details.

Can I learn offline?

Yes!

Log in to the app on a phone or tablet to do this. In the mobile app you can download all your modules and units and study them offline, anytime, anywhere.

Remember to connect to the internet when you can. This will synchronise your learning activity with your online account so you can carry on from where you left off.

What happens if I forget my login details?

No problem.

Follow the prompts on *Microsoft 365* or contact the University IT department at helpdesk@buckingham.ac.uk.

Is there support available from Anspear for any learning platform issues?

Yes.

Please consult the help page in the app or contact uob@anspear.com.

