Your interview

What we are looking for
The most important part of preparing for your interview is to make sure that you have spent time in a school recently.

We recommend a total of **ten days** before your training begins. Take our Personal Guidance Form with you, to help make the most out of your experience.

This will enable you to demonstrate:

- What you have observed as good/poor teaching
- What challenges today’s teachers face
- What it is like to teaching the age group you are interested in
- What strengths or weaknesses you may have as a teacher
What do we look for in an interview?

- Self Organisation
- Enthusiasm for Warwick
- Emotional Resilience
- Enthusiasm for Teaching
- Commitment to Teaching
- Enthusiasm for Warwick
- Confidence
- Interpersonal Skills
- Decision Making
- Understanding the Role
- Knowledge of Subject
- Critical Thinking
- Safeguarding
- Diversity
- Knowledge of Teaching
- Classroom Management
- Valuable Experience
- Adaptability
- Commitment to Teaching
Show commitment to help us understand your passion and reasons behind wanting to teach

- Why do you want to be a teacher?
- How do you know teaching is the profession for you?
- What skills or interests could you bring to a school?
- How do you know this is the right age group for you?
- Why do you think you will be a good teacher?
Knowledge of Teaching

Show your knowledge to help us see your understanding of the wider aspects and issues of education

- What education issues have interested/concerned you in the news recently and why?
- Do you know about the National Curriculum and Teaching Standards?
- What improvements could be made to schools/the curriculum?
- What are the challenges and opportunities facing teaching?
Enthusiasm for the University of Warwick

Showing your enthusiasm towards the University (or School Direct school) helps us choose candidates that will commit to the course

- Why do you want to do your teacher training with us?
- What type of schools would you like to work in, and why?
- Do you feel you would be able to cope with the demands of a teacher training course, and why?
- Why us and not other providers/schools?
Valuable Experience

Showing your experience demonstrates your ability to learn from your experience and put your knowledge into practise

- What did you enjoy about your work experience? What did you learn from your experience?
- Can you think of a time you helped a child in the classroom? Why was it memorable?
- Did you observe any good teaching taking place? What made it effective? How could you tell it was effective?
“Attitude is everything in teaching. You need to demonstrate how you will respond to uncertainty and the challenges of 21st century schools. No one will expect you to know everything in teaching and especially at the interview. But teachers who are constructive, positive and respond well to advice will always do well!”

Des Hewitt – Head of Primary Centre for Professional Education
Demonstrate your research into the various options across teaching

- What key stage are you interested in and why?
- What qualities make a successful teacher?
- How would you help all pupils achieve their potential?
Enthusiasm demonstrates your ability to influence and inspire others

- What are you looking forward to about teaching as a profession?
- Explain why you think it is important to show enthusiasm and interest when working with young people?
- How would you like to be described by the pupils you teach?
Knowledge of your Subject

Showing you know your subject demonstrates the ability and opportunity to share this knowledge in new ways

- Which aspects of your subject are you most passionate about?
- Why did you choose your degree subject and what inspired you? How do you feel your degree is relevant to the curriculum?
- Why is subject knowledge so important when teaching pupils?
Showing this ability allows us to have confidence in placing you in the school setting

 What skills do you think you have that make you particularly good at handling people?
 How do your previous studies/experience make you suitable for this course?
 How is good classroom management achieved? How important is this aspect to effective teaching?
“My best advice would be make sure you get some school experience before your interview. If I hadn’t got that experience of talking to teachers, observing a lesson and finding out about current teaching issues, I would have struggled with the interview.”

Helen, PGCE Trainee
This demonstrates your ability think and act on the spot and modify your actions across varying situations

- How would you approach teaching a difficult concept?
- Describe a situation where you had to use your initiative.
- What would you need to provide to create a stimulating learning environment?
- From your teaching experience – what would you do differently and why?
Critical Thinking

This shows you can reflect and learn from your actions

- What skills do you need to work on to improve?
- Who was your favourite teacher and why? How do you view your own school experience?
- What are your concerns about being a teacher?
- What have you learned from observing good teaching?
- What do you think your strengths and weaknesses will be as a teacher and why?
Self-Organisation

This demonstrates the ability to handle the preparation and planning that come with teaching

- How do you approach tasks in which you have very little interest in?
- Are there particular areas of your work where you're more cautious than others?
- How do you do to organise your work and make sure you meet deadlines?
Resilience

This demonstrates an ability to cope with uncommon situations and pressure in a constructive way

- On the programme you will always be under pressure. How will you organise/cope? What experiences have you had to prepare you for this?
- When has something you have implemented not worked and how you moved forward and learned from that?
- What challenges are you likely to encounter as a teacher and how would you deal with them?
- How do you handle pressure and how will you handle times that are stressful?
“My advice would be to really show your passion and enthusiasm for your subject and to demonstrate how you want to share this in order to motivate young people to be excited about learning.”

Kate Ireland – Head of Secondary Centre for Professional Education
Confidence

This demonstrates your belief in your knowledge and ability to share it with others

- Why should we take you rather than the other candidates who have applied?
- Give an example of how you would make the subject you wish to teach interesting to pupils
- What qualities do you have that will make you a good teacher?
Interpersonal Skills

Showing your interaction with others demonstrates your ability to create suitable relationships with colleagues and students

- How do you try to put your ideas and views across in groups?
- Are you more comfortable working on projects on your own or involving other people? Can you think of an example of a time when you had to work on a project involving lots of interaction with others?
- Can you describe a good working relationship that you have developed with someone at work or during your time as a student? What made it work so well?
Decision Making

Showing your ability to make decisions demonstrates a confidence and knowledge to your teaching.

- Are you more comfortable working with guidance from others or being left to do things on your own?
- How do you manage to motivate yourself?
- Can you describe a time where you had to make a quick decision? How did it feel?
Diversity

This demonstrates cultural knowledge and consideration of others

- Schools are diverse and you will be in multicultural settings. How have you prepared to teach young people from a range of cultural and other backgrounds?
- How would you deal with discrimination issues? Give an example of when you have done this
- What is a teacher's responsibility in keeping children safe?
Safeguarding is protecting children from abuse or neglect and is an important part of a teacher’s role.

- What is a teacher's responsibility in keeping children safe?
- Do you know about safeguarding?
- Have you experienced any safeguarding in action?
Further Information

WARWICK.AC.UK/BECOME-A-TEACHER