SET Teacher Education Partnership | Shaw Education Trust | Sheffield Hallam University Knowledge Applied

STEP — formerly known as KNSTE

Course Brochure

2027-28 entrants

Whatever your honours degree subject, you have the potential to change a young person's life through the transformative power of education.

Apply to train to teach, taking YOUR next STEP!



Welcome

2027-28 entrants

STEP is a School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) provider who is part of the Shaw Education Trust working with a partnership of over 120 schools to offer high quality teacher education. Our SCITT partnership comprises of primary, special and middle schools and a mixture of large and small, urban and rural, faith schools, local authority and academy settings. Ours is an innovative course which is available either as a one-year full time course or two-year part time course.

In 2023, we were recognised as continuing to be an 'outstanding' provider by Ofsted. They stated that, "leaders' vision of 'reaching for excellence' is fully recognised through this high-quality initial teacher education course. The programme provides trainees with the best possible start to their professional careers". On successful completion of all of our courses you will gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). On the QTS & PGCE route you will also gain a Sheffield Hallam Postgraduate Certificate of Education.

Where are we based?

STEP is based at The Shaw Education Trust Learning Hub in Kidsgrove (ST7 4DL) on the site of Kidsgrove Secondary School. Our Learning Hub is a designated space for our trainee teachers to attend taught sessions in a classroom environment.

Our schools are predominately located in Stoke-on-Trent and across Staffordshire but we do have schools in the surrounding counties - Cheshire, Shropshire and Derbyshire.

How are we different?

- A subject/phase specialism rather than purely generalist training.
- A strong emphasis on high quality school-based input.
- A supportive, nurturing provision with each trainee assigned a General and Lead mentor.

> "I couldn't recommend the STEP course more and feel that I have been really well-prepared to become a highly reflective teacher. I have also learned how much there is to love about the profession and how I can really make difference to children's lives.
>
> **- Trainee Teacher**

More about our Initial Teacher Training and Education (ITTE) Programme

Structure of our ITTE Programme

We start our course at the end of August and spend some time introducing you to our programme so that you can benefit from being in school for the first week of the new academic year. STEP are very fortunate to have a supportive partnership of schools and during the course we hold a variety of sessions in a range of these schools which enables you to gain from the expertise of a variety of experienced teacher colleagues. Colleagues on the full-time route spend 3 days a week in school and 2 days at our Learning Hub. Towards the end of January, you complete your time in Placement 1 and return to the Learning Hub for two weeks of the programme. During this time we focus on a wider range of subjects and professional capabilities. In Placement 2, the amount of teaching time in school increases. You are supported throughout the placements by your Lead Mentor (LM) and a General Mentor (GM) from each of your placement schools which is usually the class teacher.

What qualifications will you achieve?

Upon successful completion of all of our programmes, you will gain QTS (Qualified Teacher Status). If you are on the QTS & PGCE route, you will gain QTS together with a Sheffield Hallam University PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education) award worth 60 Master's Level credits. You are assessed through written assignments, presentations and enquiry tasks.

> "I loved my specialism... I am very pleased with the progress that I feel I have made and the sheer inspiration that my specialism tutor has offered, amazing!
>
> **- Trainee Teacher**

Our Specialisms

In addition to the PGCE and QTS Awards, STEP offers recognition of your subject or phase specialisms.

These include:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Early Years
- Primary through the lens of:
  - English and Performing Arts
  - Geography and History
  - Art and Design
  - Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)
  - Physical Education (PE)
  - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Two Year Part Time Programme

STEP is proud to offer a two year part time route for all of our primary courses. It is a rigorous and demanding programme, and colleagues who benefit from this option need to be highly organised. The flexible programme offers the opportunity to combine your commitment to the programme with other aspects of your life.

How does it work?

In Year 1 you will benefit from blocks of core, professional and subject knowledge sessions and blocks of school experience. These will be on a Thursday and Friday. The proportion of time that you spend in school will increase in the Summer Term of Year 1, but will not exceed two days. The course runs from the end of August through until the end of the school year (towards the end of July) and you will be placed in one school throughout the year. During your second year you will spend three days per week with us. During the Autumn and Spring Terms, two of these will be school based (Wednesday and Thursday) and Fridays will be SCITT based. In the Summer Term of Year 2 you will then need to commit to spending up to 8 weeks full time in your second placement school. The reason for being full-time during your final term of Year 2 is so that you can assure yourself and ourselves that you can sustain the demands of full-time teaching.
This will enhance your employability as well as develop your passion for the profession. You can opt to complete your Early Career Teacher programme on a part-time basis following your successful achievement of your ITTE course.



The flexible route is great, I can fit the course around my family and other commitments. It's the only way I would have been able to undertake a PGCE.

-Trainee Teacher

The flexi course at STEP has offered me a route into teaching that would not have been possible via any other training pathway.

-Trainee Teacher

How does it work?

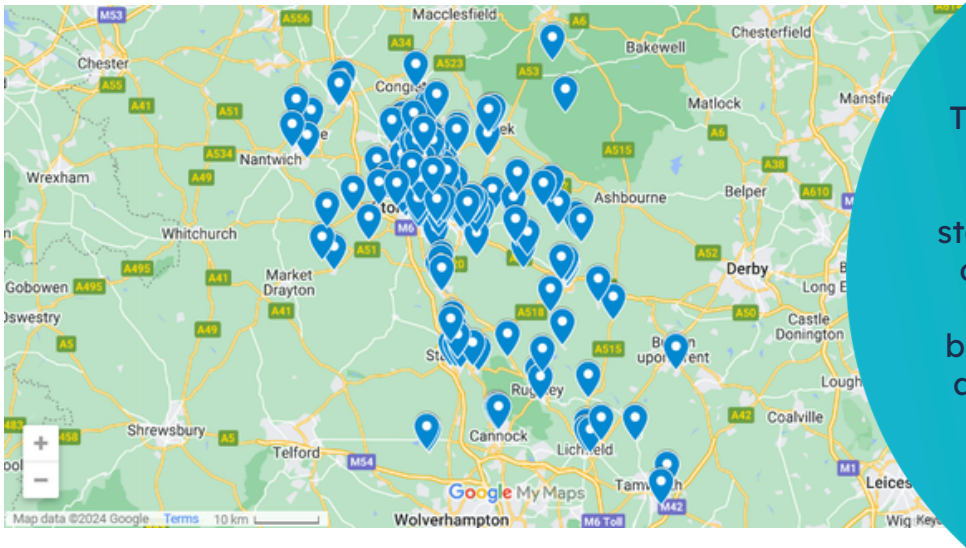
Alongside our QTS & PGCE route, we also offer a QTS only pathway to teaching. A comparison of the two options below may help you in making the decision about which route might be the best for you.

Key Differences	QTS + PCCE	QTS Only
SCITT Sessions	✓	✓
Full time of Flexible Route Option	✓	✓
Eligible for Student Finance	✓	✓
Full time Fees	£10,050	£9,050
Flexible Fees	£5,025 + £5,025	£5,025 + £4,025
Masters credits / Assignments	✓	✗
Student Status	✓	✗
Internationally recognised	✓	✗



STEP Placements

Below is an approximate map of our partnership schools and the area that we work within. Our partnership of schools are predominantly within Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire but we also provide placements in the Cheshire, Shropshire, Derbyshire and South Staffordshire areas.



> Trainees are supported by tutors and mentors who care about them. These staff go out of their way to offer trainees meaningful guidance and support, both at the training centre and whilst on placements.
>
> **- Ofsted Report, 2023**

How do we choose our placements?

We take into consideration transport, travel time, care commitments and children/family in schools to find the most suitable placement school for you.

What are the tuition fess?

If you are on a postgraduate Initial Teacher Training course which is not salaried, you will have to pay tuition fees. Tuition fees vary depending on the course and the provider.

Fees for 2027-28 for UK citizens are:

- £10,050 for the full-time PGCE programme
- £9,025 for QTS only route.
- £5,025 for each year of the flexible route PGCE programme commencing in 2027.
- £5,025 + £4,025 for the flexible QTS only route programme commencing in 2027.

For non-UK Citizens, the fee will be £15,000 for 2027-28.

You may be eligible for a tuition fee loan to cover the cost of tuition fees charged. This is available through Student Finance England or can be self financed.

Assessment Only Route (AO)

The AO route is intended for very experienced graduate teachers without QTS. Applicants will have a wealth of prior teaching experience. Many will be currently employed as unqualified teachers or Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs). This experience will include responsibility for planning, teaching and assessment of whole classes of fifteen or pupils or more during the last 2-3 years prior to the commencement of the 12 week assessment period. This experience should be gained across a minimum of two different settings. Applicants must have been responsible for teaching and planning in both schools.

How does it work?

We are pleased to offer the opportunity to be assessed in a special school, independent school or secondary school setting. We must assure ourselves that all applicants have the capacity to teach across the full ability range for the age groups for which they are to be assessed. Additionally, we will assure ourselves that applicants have the capability to teach whole classes. Often this can best be evidenced through a second school placement. We are happy to help to facilitate such placements. We welcome individual discussions so that we can enable applicants to secure appropriate pre-assessment evidence.

To apply for the AO route, please complete the expression of interest form and self assessment matrix which can be found on our website at: https://step.set.org/assessment-only-route/about-the-programme-entry-criteria



"An efficient, rigorous route to gain QTS for highly skilled and experience for practitioners who are deemed job ready"

Deputy Headteacher

What Others Say...

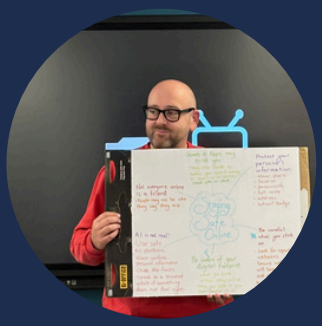
“STEP is a consistently outstanding teacher training and professional development partner for us. Their support of, and care for, every cohort of trainee teachers is second-to-none. This care goes beyond the training year through their direct support and, importantly, the good work of their network of partner schools and academies.”

“We have found that each teacher completing the innovative STEP training programme is well prepared for the demands of what is a fantastically rewarding career.”

“Such is our faith in STEP that almost every one of our new teachers has qualified through them!”

-Employing School 2025-26





I had a lot of personal support ahead of joining. Placements were fortunately tailored with my personal circumstances front and center and I will be forever grateful to the team. I couldn't have done it without that kind of planning and support.
I am so very thankful.

-Trainee Teacher 2025-26

The course goes above and beyond what we need to know - very thorough and prepares you for a job in teaching really well. I truly feel like there is no stone left unturned in our trianing!.

-Trainee Teacher 2025-26





The course has been crafted very well to support us in developing in all areas, and to bring all elements together into our overall classroom practice.
The SCITT team have been open and supportive to us, reaching out and being there if we need them.
The course has created a wonderful atmosphere where I have felt safe to be myself.

-Trainee Teacher 2025-26

Join Our Next Open Evening

Our open evenings are available online monthly.

To find out more and to book on to one of these session go to our website: www.step.set.org/events



How to Apply

We very much hope that you will be excited to apply to train to teach with us!
We recommend an early application.

All applications should be made through the DfE website:
https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training

You need the following qualifications or equivalents:

- Achievement of at least a 2:2 honours degree. In highly exceptional and very occasional circumstances, an application with a Third Class degree could be considered.
- Passes at GCSE in English Language, Science and Mathematics at grade C/4 or above

If you do not yet have a GCSE Grade C/4 or above or recognised equivalence, then please get in touch and we can discuss equivalency options with you.

For guidance and support on applying, please visit the 'PGCE Programme' tab on our website.

Please note:

STEP is the provider that acts on behalf of a large partnership of schools across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. This includes the Golden Thread Teaching School Hub (www.goldenthreadtsh.co.uk). You need only submit one application to us. For all programmes and specialisms, there is no difference between STEP and GTTSH in terms of the programme.

www.step.set.org | enquiries@step.set.org | 01782 948280

@STEP_ITTE