



Practice Tutor

Job Description

PGCE-241 : Postgraduate Certificate in Education

This document is also available in Welsh. Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg.

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About the Role

Reports to: Open University ITE Partnership – Practice Tutor

Location: Pan Wales

Remuneration: £150 per student teacher per visit paid directly to tutor on submission of final report (average payment of £1200p.a. based on 4 student teachers per year).

The OU ITE Partnership (Wales) is seeking to appoint Practice Tutors to support the online assessment of student teachers during their completion of the OU PGCE (Salaried and Part Time pathways) via distance learning. The role comprises of providing effective support and assessment of the student teacher in relation to the Welsh Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership and contributing to the effective quality assurance of assessments made by school-based mentors and school coordinators in OU Partner schools. In addition, Practice Tutors lead small but powerful networks of Mentors and provide coaching to support and develop mentoring provision within their cluster. Practice Tutors will work within regional clusters, supported by Lead Practice Tutors from Lead Partner Schools and OU academic leads.

To become a Practice Tutor, you should be an experienced, high-quality practitioner with a proven track record of effective teaching and learning within a Primary or Secondary school setting. You should have a strong understanding of how early career teachers learn and be able to demonstrate and apply specific pedagogical approaches relating to ITE to your practice. You should have demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the

principles of the reform of ITE in Wales and be ready to apply a blend of experiential learning which helps the student to link theory and practice. You should have experience of mentoring student teachers within a school setting and be able to demonstrate a capacity to engage in effective coaching of mentors.

As a Practice Tutor you will undertake four online visits to each student in your cluster across the two years of the programme. Ordinarily, Practice Tutors may be allocated between 3-5 student teachers. You will undertake assessment of students in relation to the QTS descriptors of the Welsh Professional Standards and provide coaching to Mentors within your cluster. You will also contribute to the quality assurance of students' practice learning experiences. You are a vital part of the communication chain between students, Mentors and the University based Curriculum Tutors, and as we are a distance and blended PGCE programme, you will need to be ready to engage in a range of online tools to support your work, including IRIS connect to undertake your lesson observations. You will be asked to complete and submit a report on each student after each 'visit'. Payments are made subject to the receipt of a high-quality report.

In return, you will have access to a programme of professional learning to support you to undertake your role effectively and to develop your own skills in relation to the Leadership standards of the Professional Standards of Teaching and Leadership. You will be supported by a Lead Practice Tutor and OU academic leads. You will have the opportunity to share practice with senior

colleagues across Wales and to participate in opportunities for research and scholarship within the Partnership.

Key Aims:

- To assess the student teacher in relation to the Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership, including conducting an online visit and submitting a report.
- To provide oversight of and quality assure the assessment of student teachers' practice learning experience.
- To coach Mentors across schools and provide support for the effective mentoring of student teachers.

Key Responsibilities

- Observe student teachers' practice twice in Year 1 and twice in Year 2 as part of the assessment of progress towards the Professional Standards of Teaching and Leadership and provide summative feedback on the student teacher's progress.
- To review the student teacher's Teaching Folder and practice learning evidence in relation to QTS stored within their Professional Learning Profile (PLP)
- Provide additional observation/intervention in accordance with the Student Support Framework, where required.

- Provide formative feedback to the student teacher which supports, challenges and guides the student teacher to critically reflect on their progress as a practitioner
- Produce a written assessment report on each student teacher following each 'visit'
- Meet with school Mentors to provide support and coaching for the effective mentoring of student teachers
- Support the quality assurance of the assessment of practice learning through moderating judgements across the partnership and engaging in cluster moderation activity
- Communicate effectively using online methods to establish and maintain relationships with students and Mentors within your cluster
- Make effective use of Partnership resources including the website, VLE and the discussion forums, keeping up-to-date with regular communication and information
- To have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the OU Partnership vision for student teacher learning and to be familiar with key approaches, as well as necessary processes, as outlined in the Practice Tutor Guide
- Undertake training and engage in Partnership professional learning opportunities to support you to undertake your role effectively
- Share best practice within Practice Tutor networks at a cluster level, as well as across Partner schools pan-Wales

- Work with the Partnership to identify strengths and areas for development in programme provision relating to student teacher practice and effective mentoring

Skills and Experience

Essential

- A qualified, experienced teacher in the Primary or Secondary phase who holds QTS.
- Demonstrable current or recent (3 -5 years) high-quality practitioner experience, with a secure understanding of effective pedagogy and the Welsh school context
- A post-graduate qualification (e.g. Masters) in an education focused subject or commensurate senior experience
- Knowledge and understanding of the principles of Initial Teacher Education (including the reform of ITE in Wales) and an understanding of how adults learn
- Demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the Curriculum for Wales and how to support student teachers to develop a holistic, purpose-led approach

- Knowledge and understanding of the principles of evidence-based practice and the ability to apply the integration of theory to your own practice
- Knowledge and understanding of the application of the Welsh Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership
- Experience of mentoring ITE students and a strong understanding of the principles of effective mentoring and coaching
- Good communication skills, able to listen and with an ability to provide effective feedback to colleagues at different stages of the professional learning continuum
- Ability to engage with a range of distance learning tools to effectively support and assess the student teacher and support mentors

Desirable

- The ability to communicate effectively in spoken and written forms through the medium of Welsh (**highly desirable**)
- Senior leader experience within a school setting
- The ability or the potential to engage in close-to-practice research and to support the ITE Partnership to promote and develop evidence-based approaches, and through involvement in research and scholarship activity to promote effective teaching and learning

To apply, please complete our [online application form](#) which includes a personal statement of no more than 1000 words which evidences how you meet the essential criteria in the person specification.

The Open University is an Institution that strives to create an academic climate in which diversity is embraced by maintaining and respecting the dignity, respect and civility of individuals from all backgrounds, identities, cultures and experiences. The OU PGCE programmes seek to widen participation through our social justice mission and have a key recruitment aim of diversifying the teaching profession in Wales and widening access to the teaching profession via our employment based and part time provision. We strive to recruit, retain and develop the careers of a diverse pool of students and staff, and particularly encourage applications from all underrepresented groups.

We promote diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

