

EP303-24 Introduction to Secondary Teaching in Biology

20/21

Department

Centre for Teacher Education

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Will Haywood

Credit value

24

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study locations

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry Primary

A Warwick Partnership School

Description

Introductory description

This module takes place in term 2 and is specially designed to give you a taste of what it is like to be a teacher. You will explore your subject from a new perspective through engaging sessions at university led by teaching fellows and visiting teachers and have opportunity to support teaching and learning in practice through a placement in a local school.

The module is hosted by the Centre for Teacher Education (currently rated 'Outstanding' by OFSTED). Anyone who completes the module is automatically eligible for an interview for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) initial teacher training course (providing all entry requirements for Initial Teacher Training are met).

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

1. To develop knowledge and understanding about the UK education system and what it is like to be a secondary biology teacher.

2. To develop knowledge and understanding about key themes in education.
3. To provide a professional experience supporting the teaching of biology.
4. To develop key transferable skills through a professional placement.
5. To develop skills in personal reflection on professional practice.
6. To relate educational theory to practice within school.
7. To raise aspirations of school students towards study in Higher Education.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

As part of the module you will complete a ten day (or equivalent) placement in a school. Whilst on placement under the guidance and supervision of an in-school mentor you will develop your understanding of the teaching of biology. This will be achieved through a range of activities that may include such as: - lesson observations, supporting lessons, 1 to 1 teacher, small group teaching, and leading part of, or even entire lessons.

To prepare for and support you for placement you will participate a series of workshops at the university. These are highly interactive, practice based sessions, delivered by visiting teachers from local secondary schools. Sessions cover topics such as behaviour management, lesson planning and questioning.

The theory which underpins the practice of teaching is explored concurrently through seminars led by CTE Teaching Fellows. The seminars begin by discussing the UK education system and national curriculum before exploring a range of key themes in education such as how students learn, how ideas develop in biology, using assessment for learning and specific aspects of pedagogy relating to the teaching of biology

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- LO1 Critically analyse and reflect on key themes in education
- LO2 Critically analyse and reflect on current issues in teaching biology
- LO3 Demonstrate engagement with supporting the teaching of biology
- LO4 Demonstrate professional behaviour and conduct
- LO5 Critically reflect on practice in teaching biology
- LO6 Demonstrate engagement with raising the aspirations of school students towards study in Higher Education
- LO7 Compare practice with educational theory

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Interdisciplinary

Through exploring the teaching and pedagogy of your subject you will consider and build connections between your subject, educational theory, the psychology of learning and cognition and also consider elements of policy, society and sociology.

Subject specific skills

You will develop skills relevant for teaching and the development of practice such as reflection. You will also develop skills relevant to the academic study of education such as analysis and critique. The module will also develop your skills in the pedagogy of your subject.

Transferable skills

Critical Thinking
Problem Solving
Active Lifelong Learning
Communication (verbal and written)
Teamwork and working effectively with others
Information literacy (research skills)
ICT Literacy
Citizenship (local and global)
Ethical Values
Inter-cultural learning and diversity awareness
Professionalism
Organisational awareness

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	7 sessions of 2 hours (6%)
Practical classes	8 sessions of 2 hours (7%)
Placement	75 hours (31%)
Assessment	135 hours (56%)
Total	240 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

Category	Description	Funded by	Cost to student
Other	In the UK, anyone working with children is required to have a Disclosure & Barring Services (DBS) check. The Centre for Teacher Education will cover the costs of this, however, you will need to provide the relevant proof of identification and address prior to the start of the module.	Department	£0.00
Field trips, placements and study abroad	You will be responsible for your travel arrangements to the placement. Placements are assigned to align with bus routes and opportunities for car share where possible. If this would be prohibitive of you taking the module then contact CTE and we can discuss options for available support.		

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Portfolio A 2,500-word portfolio of short tasks.	50%	75 hours	No
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Reflective Essay A 1,500-word reflective essay.	50%	60 hours	No
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Formative: During the course of the module students will have the opportunity to submit up to

two individual tasks towards the portfolio for formative assessment.

Summative: A written feedback sheet and in text comments will be provided on the portfolio and essay.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of ULFA-C1A6 Undergraduate Biochemistry with Industrial Placement (MBio)
- Year 4 of ULFA-C113 Undergraduate Biological Sciences (with Placement Year)
- Year 3 of ULFA-C1A5 Undergraduate Biological Sciences with Industrial Placement (MBio)
- Year 3 of ULFA-C1A7 Undergraduate Biomedical Science with Industrial Placement (MBio)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UBSA-C700 Undergraduate Biochemistry
- ULFA-C1A2 Undergraduate Biochemistry (MBio)
 - Year 3 of C1A2 Biochemistry
 - Year 3 of C700 Biochemistry
- Year 3 of UBSA-3 Undergraduate Biological Sciences
- Year 3 of ULFA-C1A1 Undergraduate Biological Sciences (MBio)
- Year 3 of UBSA-C1B9 Undergraduate Biomedical Science
- ULFA-C1A3 Undergraduate Biomedical Science (MBio)
 - Year 3 of C1A3 Biomedical Science
 - Year 3 of C1B9 Biomedical Science