



Placement

Statement of Entitlement

Introduction

The PGCE programme is structured around two extended school-based placement blocks in the post-primary sector and a two-week alternative placement, resulting in students completing a total of 24 weeks on placement. The course aims and the professional accreditation from the GTCNI centre heavily on the practice of teaching and achieving the competency statements outlined in the course documentation.

An entitlement is a statement of what every student can expect during their PGCE year in relation to placement. This document sets out the provision made to ensure that all students can achieve the course learning outcomes and the GTCNI competency statements.

Student Expectations

Students can expect to be:

- Asked to state their preferred postcodes for the school-based aspects of the course including location, travel options and choice of schools.
- informed about their placement school at least 7 days before the placement begins
- allocated a placement by the placement team at QUB. Students can expect a placement which is:
 - Within 30 miles radius of their address
 - No more than two buses away from their address
 - Teaching an appropriate curriculum
- supported from a variety of sources, including those within the host school (teacher tutor, head of department), within the course (subject coordinator, placement supervisor) and within the university (Student Guidance Centre). Students should avail of all these supports when necessary.

While every effort will be made to take account of students' preferences, it is important to note that they cannot be guaranteed. In addition, it is important to note that students must inform the PGCE team of any change to the preferences stated on the consultation document. This should be **no less than 4 weeks** before the beginning of placement- especially in relation to an address change or change in transport options (e.g. no longer having access to a car). As part of the consultation, students are also asked to state if they have close relatives in any Post-Primary schools (close relatives are those in your immediate family who attend the school or those in your family who work in a school).

Please note that due to the large volume of students in the Belfast/ Greater Belfast area it is often difficult to secure placements within the city. If you live outside Belfast it may be worth considering completing your placements at your home address. The placement list is final, and changes can only be made in extreme circumstances

Placement costs

Students have two mandatory eleven-week placements and are responsible for funding any travel, accommodation and subsistence. These costs vary depending on the location of the placement provider. Students will be expected to dress professionally and may incur additional costs for clothing. Additional costs will be incurred for the creation of teaching materials whilst on placement, which may be partly absorbed by the placement school.