

GO BEYOND BOUNDARIES



# MA Primary Education

UNDERGRADUATE GUIDE




→ **1ST IN SCOTLAND**  
**FOR OVERALL STUDENT**  
**SATISFACTION**


National Student Survey 2023

# Welcome

The MA in Primary Education (Hons) degree at Aberdeen produces creative, confident, motivated and reflective primary teachers. You will benefit from opportunities to engage with placement learning from year one whilst on-campus learning develops your understanding of theory and research. Your academic studies will be supported by exceptional staff within the School and the wider University so that, with experience in school each year, you can become equipped to inspire and guide young minds in the 21st century.

## MA Primary Education

 **Mode of attendance**  
On campus

 **Mode of study**  
Full time

 **Start date**  
September

 **Course length**  
4 years

### Learning Methods

- Individual Projects
- Lectures
- Tutorials

### Assessment methods

Students are assessed by a combination of assessment methods including:

- Coursework such as essays, reports, group presentations and portfolios completed throughout the course.
- Practical assessments of skills, competencies and professional knowledge and understanding during placement.
- Individual presentations, poster presentations, essays and examinations at the end of a course.
- The exact mix of these methods differs between subject areas, years of study and individual courses.

### What will you study

The programme leads to a qualification to teach children in the 3–12 age range and you will gain registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS). In each of the four years, our courses combine academic study with practical application. Following graduation, you can benefit from ongoing support through opportunities to continue your academic and professional development. Our programme is subject to constant review both internally, externally and through the GTCS, the professional body that accredits all Initial Teacher Education and with whom you will register after graduation, therefore some details are subject to change.



## Year 1

### Compulsory Courses:

#### Introduction to Inclusive Teaching

This course aims to develop students' appreciation of the qualities, dispositions and skills required of an inclusive teacher as well as an understanding of the roles and responsibilities, and an awareness of the socio-cultural contexts in which they are learning and will be teaching. Students will also develop an awareness of themselves as learners and beginner teachers.

#### Global Perspectives on Education

This course will give students an opportunity to reflect on their understanding of education through an examination of the origins, purpose and nature of education, both as it currently exists in Scotland and elsewhere. This course will allow students, through the study of comparative education, to consider the historical and political context of Scottish Education and gain insight into current issues, policy drivers and practices.

#### Introduction to Inclusive Teaching 2

This course aims to develop students understanding of the role of an inclusive teacher. It will enable students to learn about children, the communities in which they live and the school and classroom as part of that community. It will provide opportunities to explore learning in a variety of spaces inside and outside the classroom setting. Students will gain experience of working with children in a 2nd level placement over 5 weeks. During this time students will have opportunities to explore teaching and learning in the core curricular areas of literacy, numeracy and HWB.

#### Understanding Early Childhood

This course aims to challenge the idea of 'normative' child development to provide students with a strong foundation from which to inform thinking in terms of inclusion of all learners and from which to build subsequent knowledge and understanding of learning and teaching. Students will explore the emotional world of the child through broad study of child development and detailed study of emotional and social development. The course will explore the students' understanding of the concept of childhood.

#### Languages, Literacy and Learning

This course aims to provide students with opportunities to explore research informed approaches to teaching and learning in and through languages. This will provide opportunities to explore mother tongue language acquisition, second language learning and bi or pluri-lingualism. The course will also explore other forms of literacy.

#### Optional Courses:

Students can select 30 further credit points from Sustained Study, Discipline Breadth or Sixth Century courses across levels 1 and 2.

## Year 2

### Compulsory Courses:

#### Understanding Literacy Development

This course aims to provide students with opportunities to consider the importance of literacy to all learning, the many barriers to literacy and the teacher's role in over-coming these as well as further developing their own literacy skills. Students will explore research informed approaches to the teaching of reading and writing and begin to consider the implications of these approaches for classroom practice. They will begin to explore pedagogical approaches to literacy teaching and learning in a 2nd level classroom.

#### Exploring Mathematical Conceptual Understanding

This course aims to provide students with opportunities to consider the importance of numeracy and mathematical conceptual understanding to lifelong learning as the rationale for numeracy and maths being a core curriculum area and the responsibility of all teachers 3 – 18. It will provide essential knowledge of cognitive development and key related theories and will explore research informed approaches to the teaching of maths, as a basis to consider the implications of these approaches for classroom practice. Students will begin to explore pedagogical approaches to maths teaching and learning in a 2nd level classroom.

#### Developing Curriculum Knowledge – HWB

This course aims to provide students with opportunities to develop a broad and integrated knowledge of the value of Health and Well-being to children's lives and learning. Students will explore a range of ways that

health and well-being can be integrated into the primary school curriculum with a specific focus on current issues for Primary teaching and learning in Scotland.

#### Belief Matters: Belief in Schools

This course offers students the chance to consider the role of belief in education. Students will study the role of mythologies (personal and societal), the impact of social change on belief and how belief manifests in the primary school curriculum. In particular students will critically consider the role, purposes, status of Religious and Moral Education (RME) in schools, and approaches to effective teaching of this area of the curriculum.

#### Into Practice – Exploring the Role of the Teacher

This course aims to provide students with practical opportunities to explore the classroom environment from a teacher's perspective and to critically reflect on this experience. Students will have the opportunity to build on experience from year one and further develop their understanding of the role of the teacher and the professional commitment necessary to be successful in their professional qualification. At the same time, students will further develop their knowledge and understanding of diversity, children and the communities in which they live. Students will have opportunities to critically engage with contemporary issues in education and to consider implications for schools. Students will develop sensitivity to diversity, ethical practices, and rights and responsibilities whilst beginning to plan and teach the core curricular areas of literacy, numeracy and HWB.

#### Optional Courses

Students can select 30 further credit points from Sustained Study, Discipline Breadth or Sixth Century courses across levels 1 and 2.

## Year 3

### Compulsory Courses:

#### Developing Professional Practice

This course aims to provide students with opportunities to explore, in practice, the theories and understanding of different approaches to learning, including the play-based approach, in Nursery and P1.

#### Understanding the Individual Needs of Children

This course aims to provide students with knowledge and understanding of the individual and additional needs of children. Students will explore factors that give rise to the many different needs of children and different approaches to meeting them in a Primary classroom.

#### Science in the Primary Classroom

This course aims to provide students with opportunities to develop a broad and integrated knowledge of Science and Technology within the Primary School curriculum.

#### Understanding Learning and teaching in the Early Years 1

This course aims to provide students with opportunities to develop a broad and integrated knowledge of a range of theories relevant to early child development and explore approaches to the education and care of young children. Students will also engage critically with factors that affect children's learning and development such as the physical environment and socio-cultural context. They will explore the importance of play in early learning.

#### Understanding Learning and teaching in the Early Years 2

This course aims to extend students' experiences and opportunities for learning in semester one with further opportunities to develop a broad and integrated knowledge of a range of theories relevant to early child development and continue to explore approaches to education and care of young children. Students will also engage critically with the many factors that affect children's learning and development looking beyond the physical environment and socio-cultural context to formal and informal services available to children and families, ASN and ACE.

#### Exploring the Expressive Arts in the Primary Curriculum

This course aims to provide students with opportunities to develop a broad and integrated knowledge of the Expressive Arts as a pathway to creative teaching across the curriculum. Students will consider the value of Expressive Arts as a medium for teaching and learning in relation to the whole curriculum including what has been called the 'hidden curriculum'.

#### Developing Curriculum Knowledge – Social Studies

This course aims to provide students with opportunities to develop a broad and integrated knowledge of Social Studies in the primary school curriculum. Students will explore research informed approaches to teaching and learning Social Studies in the primary school, and consider the implications of these approaches for classroom practice. Students will also develop a critical understanding of how the local environment and community can support children's learning.

## Year 4

### Contexts for Learning

#### Without Limits

This course aims to provide students with opportunities to develop a broad and integrated knowledge of interdisciplinary learning (IDL) within the Primary School curriculum. Students will explore research informed approaches to IDL and consider the implications of these approaches for classroom practice and addressing learner differences. Students will have opportunities to explore some ways of teaching and learning across the primary curriculum that are innovative interdisciplinary and inclusive. The focus will be on how to integrate areas to plan meaningful, real world, relevant learning experiences.

### Professional Enquiry

This course aims to provide students with an opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake a small-scale professional enquiry. Students will explore the purpose of professional enquiry in Scottish education, consider related ethical issues, and be able to design an professional enquiry of their choice.

### Developing Professional Practice

This course aims to provide students with an opportunity to further develop their knowledge, understanding and practical skills through experience of working with children in the Early/First Level of primary school.

### Professional Project

This course aims to build on the learning from ED401B and enable students to follow a personal interest in depth through professional enquiry spanning across placements in 2nd and early 1st level classrooms. Students will bring to this focused in-depth study, learning from courses across all four years.

#### Placement

Students will engage in placement from year 1 and gain an awareness of the varied nature of teaching. School experience will take place in a range of schools and childcare settings, across a range of geographical locations.

#### Year 1

5 week block placement where they will engage in observation of learning and teaching.

#### Year 2

5 week block assessed placement.

#### Year 3

4 week and 5 week block assessed placements at Early/ First Level.

#### Year 4

9 week assessed placement at Second Level and 9 week placement at Early/ First Level.



## Job prospects

After graduating from the programme, you will be eligible for a one-year induction training post\* in a primary school in Scotland. Graduates from Aberdeen are highly valued by employers in the city, throughout Scotland and across the world.

\*Please note: International Fees students, upon successful completion of the Education Programme are not entitled to an Induction Year Post and will not be permitted to join the Teacher Induction Scheme.



# 10 reasons to choose Aberdeen

- 01** 1st in Scotland for overall satisfaction by the National Student Survey 2023.
- 02** The School of Education at Aberdeen is recognised as a national and international centre of excellence for creative and innovative thinking and practice.
- 03** We warmly welcome students of all ages and circumstances.
- 04** Opportunities to add special interests which give further career options, including music.
- 05** Opportunities to get involved in the latest research on new developments and thinking in education, such as technology assisting learning, outdoor learning, and bilingual learning.
- 06** Strong links with European teacher education institutions and schools, with the opportunity to spend periods studying abroad.
- 07** Leadership in research on education and autism, including developing social skills through imitation and drama.
- 08** Programmes closely guided by national policies and priorities and leading in the pioneering use of technology in learning.
- 09** The spectacular, award-winning Sir Duncan Rice Library, state-of-the-art technology, and wonderful resources for teachers in training.
- 10** A packed campus programme of student and public events, exhibitions, education seminars, invited speakers and the annual May Festival, which welcomes world-famous authors, broadcasters, public figures and a variety of experts onto campus every spring to discuss and debate big issues in our society and world today.

**Any questions?** Phone us on 01224 272090 or email [study@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:study@abdn.ac.uk)





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