

What are subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) courses?

SKE courses are designed for ITT candidates to gain the depth of knowledge needed to train to teach their chosen subject. These courses mean that applicants who show great potential, but don't have sufficient subject knowledge can take time to build on this prior to starting their School Direct PGCE.

Will I need to do a SKE course?

We will liaise with our university partner, Sheffield Hallam University, to work out any subject knowledge needs you have and we will discuss this with you at interview.

What are the benefits of doing an SKE course?

The way in which these courses are delivered ensures that participants not only develop their subject knowledge but also learn how to teach the content covered. The combination of these two aspects means that SKE courses also give participants a big confidence boost prior to starting their training. These courses can hugely increase the employability of trainees when they complete the course. The

Which subjects are SKE courses available for?

For 2017-2018, SKE courses are only available in the following subjects:

- **Biology**
- **Geography**
- **Maths**
- **Physics**
- **Chemistry**
- **Computing**
- **Design and Technology**
- **Languages**

How long will SKE courses last for?

Training courses last between 8 and 24 weeks. When deciding on the right course duration for you we will take into consideration your current level of subject knowledge.

Where are SKE courses held?

We are able to offer courses from a range of SKE providers and we always work with applicants and our university partner to identify the most appropriate courses. Course providers offer courses which are face to face, solely online or a combination of the two.

What funding is available for SKE courses?

Training bursaries are available for all SKE courses. The bursary is the equivalent of £115 per week for the duration of the courses running from 8-24 weeks.

Band	Programme duration and the hours of study	Training bursary funding**
Short	8 weeks (200 hrs)	£920
	12 weeks (300 hrs)	£1,380
Medium	16 weeks (400 hrs)	£1,840
	20 weeks (500 hrs)	£2,300
Long	24 weeks (600 hrs)	£2,760
	28 weeks (700 hrs)	£3,220

*Claim should be made only for programmes that are 8, 12, 16, 20, 24 or 28 weeks long.

****A limited number of trainees may be eligible for a bursary uplift to a maximum of £200 per week to enable them to complete an SKE programme.**

How much work is involved in SKE courses?

An SKE is the equivalent of 25 hours work per week prior to the start of the course. We also regularly place our trainees on a 12 week Maths SKE course offered by Sheffield Hallam University, which runs one evening per week in parallel to the School Direct PGCE course. Bursaries are not available for this parallel course.

General information

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/subject-knowledge-enhancement-ske-courses>

The teacher training provider(s) you apply to may ask you to take an SKE course if they feel you have the right qualities to become a teacher, but need to complete additional subject training first. If that's the case, they'll offer you a conditional place upon doing an SKE course.

This could be for several reasons, including:

- your degree wasn't in your chosen subject, but is closely related
- you studied the subject at A level, but not at university
- you have relevant professional experience, and an SKE course would show you how to apply that to the curriculum and your teaching

SKE courses are fully funded, so you won't have to pay any tuition fees. You may also be eligible for a SKE training bursary to support you throughout the course. SKE bursaries are awarded by your training provider – so it's a good idea to contact them if you're unsure about the financial support you'll receive during your SKE course.