



# YOUR INTERVIEW DAY

Dear applicant

I am very pleased to invite you for an online interview with Leeds Beckett University, depending on your application choice, for a place on either:

- **BA (Hons) Primary Education (5-11) with recommendation for QTS (UCAS course code X320), or**
- **BA (Hons) Primary Education (3-7) with recommendation for QTS (UCAS course code X321)**

**Date:** **Date will be confirmed via UCAS Track**

**Time:** **13:00**

Please ensure that you have viewed the Course Presentation, **BEFORE** your interview: [UCAS Interviews Course Presentation](#) Jot down any questions you may have for your interviewers.

**Venue:** **Online, via Microsoft TEAMS**

You will receive a TEAMS invitation via email, from an academic member of the Primary Education 3-11 team, within 24 hours prior to your interview. (\*\*If you think you haven't received it during those 24 hours, please check your junk/spam folders\*\*) You do not need the MS Teams App to connect at the appointed time, you simply click the link that comes with the message and choose 'join on the web', either MS Edge or Google Chrome. (We strongly recommend that you engage with us using a laptop/PC, not your phone.)

**Phone Number:** Please check that the phone number you entered on your UCAS application form is up to date; if not, please contact [ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) with your updated details.

**To be fully prepared, please read this booklet carefully.**

**CHECKLIST: What to prepare in advance**

- Item / artefact to illustrate your response to our first question: "Tell us why you want to become a primary school teacher in the 3-7 or 5-11 age range."
- Short notes detailing school-based work experiences and/or experience of working with children in settings other than school; **or**, research notes. **See page 6 for full details.**

**What to do now:**

Due to the number of applications we typically receive, it is now very important that you accept or decline our invitation to interview via your UCAS Track account. You will not receive a copy of this letter through the post. Failure to respond will result in your UCAS application to this course being withdrawn.

Please email us at [ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) as soon as possible **if you have any special needs or requirements.**

If you have any queries about any of the information contained in this letter, please contact us at [ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) or on 0113 8126127. We look forward to meeting you and presenting the opportunities we have to offer.

Yours sincerely

Head of Admissions



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY  
CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

# YOUR INTERVIEW DAY

## From your Course Director Primary Education 3-11

### Dear Applicant

We are very pleased to invite you for an interview for one of our BA (Hons) Primary Education programmes with Qualified Teacher Status.

**Please read the information in this document carefully.** The information will provide you with further details about studying initial teacher training at Leeds Beckett University. This will also assist you in preparing for your interview and give you an idea of what to expect.

You have been selected for an interview on the strength of your application. We feel you demonstrate a range of attributes and qualities that indicate you have the potential to succeed as a student and as a beginning teacher. The process requires you to attend a formal interview so that we have a chance to make a decision as to your suitability for an Initial Teacher Training (ITT) course. You too must make a decision, based on your findings at interview, as to which university and course you think would best meet your needs as a learner. It is our aim to ensure you leave us with sufficient knowledge to make your decision wisely.

We hope that you will enjoy your time at Leeds Beckett University. Do remember that an interview is a two-way process and that you should treat the interview as an opportunity to ask the tutors questions. Your QTS award will be intensive, demanding and challenging, but ultimately enjoyable and rewarding.

### **Sarah Hindmarsh**

Course Director (Primary Education 3 – 11)



# YOUR INTERVIEW DAY

## Message from the Course Leader (Primary Education 5-11)

The Primary Education (5-11) Course aims to develop highly employable teachers who make an impact on children's learning by being enthusiastic, confident and passionate. Placing the child at the centre of learning and teaching is the hallmark of Leeds Beckett teachers. In order to develop the understanding and skills necessary to engage young children in active learning, our course is itself highly practical. You will explore the use of storytelling, drama, practical science, investigative maths, practical history, and much more, both at your own level and in ways which you can directly implement with children.

We are currently teaching online, making excellent use of the virtual learning environment to teach through interactive seminars which allow us all to learn safely during the pandemic. We hope to return to teaching on our stunning campus when safe to do so and we may use a blend of on campus and online teaching to provide you with the best educational experience in the future. We are fortunate to have open grassy spaces, internationally renowned sports facilities, woodland and even a secret garden in our lovely campus and we make good use of these spaces for learning and teaching outdoors.



Our course reflects the needs of children growing up in an ever-changing, diverse society and is inclusive of all needs, interests and backgrounds. Our trainees grow to become enterprising and creative professionals, able to be critically reflective on their own approaches to teaching. As a trainee teacher you will gain expertise in all core and foundation areas of the National Curriculum as well as taking one subject as a Specialist area which, in turn, develops leadership roles for your future career.



### **Alex Gaites**

Course Leader

Primary Education (5-11) with QTS





# YOUR INTERVIEW DAY

## **Message from the Course Leader (Primary Education 3-7)**

The Primary Education (3-7) Early Years Course will provide you with a range of opportunities to explore playful and creative approaches to teaching and learning. For example, you will take part in workshops that enable you to think in imaginative ways about learning environments, materials and resources to inspire young learners. Our beautiful campus offers grassy spaces, woodland and even a secret garden where you can gain experience of outdoor learning: you will make dens, create artwork using natural materials, and explore wildlife habitats. These experiences will offer you insights into play and learning from a child's perspective. Meanwhile, your tutors will support you in developing the skills and knowledge to apply these playful and creative approaches to your classroom practice in ways which make a positive impact upon young children's learning and development.

We are currently teaching online, making excellent use of the virtual learning environment to teach through interactive seminars which allow us all to learn safely during the pandemic. We hope to return to teaching on our stunning campus when safe to do so and we may use a blend of on campus and online teaching to provide you with the best educational experience in the future. We are fortunate to have open grassy spaces, internationally renowned sports facilities, woodland and even a secret garden in our lovely campus and we make good use of these spaces for learning and teaching outdoors.

### **Mandy Pierlejewski**

Senior Lecturer, Primary Education, (3-7) Early Years Course  
Leader





# YOUR INTERVIEW DAY

## **What will the Awards leading to Qualified Teacher Status involve?**

Awards leading to Qualified Teacher Status are intensive. They involve both university and school/setting based training. In addition to developing your own understanding of children and the curriculum, you will also work to develop your ability to teach effectively and thus enable pupils to learn. Students on QTS awards are expected to behave in a professional manner at all times. This involves:

- Full attendance
- Excellent punctuality
- High standards of behaviour and professionalism in both school and in university
- Completion of work to set deadlines
- A commitment to the achievement of high standards of performance, both in school/setting and university-based work

All awards leading to Qualified Teacher Status must address the Teachers' Standards, (DfE 2012). The Standards are achieved through university academic modules and through engagement with three phases of placement in one of our partner schools/settings. University modules help you to think critically about different aspects of your emerging practice. This includes a focus on learning theory; planning and assessment; inclusion and differentiation and behaviour management.

## **What are we looking for?**

We expect that applicants come dressed appropriately for an interview on a professional course (this includes being interviewed online). Successful candidates must show that they are able to:

- Demonstrate that they have the intellectual, personal and presentational qualities to become an effective teacher
- Communicate clearly and concisely in spoken and written Standard English
- Display a commitment to the welfare of all children
- Display a commitment to developing their curriculum knowledge and understanding in order to teach effectively
- Display a commitment to developing their knowledge of general educational issues and debates



# YOUR INTERVIEW DAY

## What to prepare and think about in advance

The interview is online, via MS TEAMS. We strongly suggest you **use a laptop/PC to connect**, rather than your phone; check that your camera and microphone are in working order. Dress as smartly as you would for a campus-based interview day. Find a comfortable space where you are unlikely to be disturbed and be mindful of what will be in the background when your camera is on; (if you download the MS TEAMS App, you can add a digital backdrop of your choice).

### **Please have with you:**

- Item/artefact to illustrate your answer to *“Tell us why you wish to be a teacher in the primary 3-7 or 5-11 age phase.”*
- Short notes, detailing any school-based work experiences and/or experience of working with children in settings other than school. We understand that practical experience may not have been open to you due to Covid19 restrictions. If this is the case for you:
  - Select two or three schools from your local area and visit their websites. Have with you some reflective notes about:
    - How the school communicates with parents; how they involve parents
    - How reading is taught
    - How the school/class-teachers, have stimulated children’s writing
    - How mathematics is taught
    - What kinds of activity days / trips / visitors to school have the children been involved in; what were the benefits?
    - If there are areas which sound ‘new’ to you, (e.g. systematic synthetic phonics in the teaching of early reading or ‘Mastery’ maths), start to research these, adding to your reflective notes.

**Exam Certificates:** Please be aware that ultimately you will need to show your original exam certificates at enrolment. If you do not have these, please order them as soon as possible from your awarding body since this process can take some time. Please also check that you have certificates for the exact qualifications that you have listed on your application form since a decision will have been made specifically upon these. For example, we cannot accept all equivalencies for our QTS courses. If you are unsure about the qualifications you have, please e-mail our UCAS Admissions team and they will be able to advise you further:

[UCASAdmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:UCASAdmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

### **Campus and Accommodation Tour:**

Please look around our campuses and all our halls of residence with our [Virtual Open Day](#) or on our [Virtual 360°](https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/undergraduate/virtual-open-day-and-events/): <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/undergraduate/virtual-open-day-and-events/>



# YOUR INTERVIEW DAY

## The Interview

Your interview and tasks have two main purposes:

1. To establish whether you have the attributes that will enable you to cope with both the professional demands of the award and the related academic work
2. To give you the opportunity to explain what attracts you to teaching as a career and why you think you are a suitable candidate

The interview will be conducted by an academic member of the Primary Education 3-11 team, supported by other colleagues in our partnership with schools. The first section will be conducted in a small group with other applicants; the second section will be a short individual interview, the timing of which will be arranged by the interviewers at the end of the group section.

You should therefore plan to be available for both sections of your interview between **13:00 and 16:00**

## The interview will include:

1. **Introductions**. *Please have with you an item / artefact to illustrate your response to our first question: "Tell us why you would like to become a primary school teacher in the 3-7 or 5-11 age range." (You will have up to two minutes for your response.)*
2. **Small Group Task** *The Task will be introduced in the session so preparation is not required. It will involve following a link displayed in the meeting 'chat'; a laptop/PC is therefore recommended to take part in the interview session.*
3. **Short individual interviews**. *This is essentially a conversation about your aspirations as set out in your Personal Statement. We will ask you to share school-based work experiences; **or**, experience of working with children in settings other than school; **or**, share reflective notes from your research of schools in your local area. **Also**, current issues in primary education.*
  - *Teaching is a profession which requires resilience in terms of thoughtful planning and preparation; effective delivery and sensitive pupil interaction; collaboration and cooperation with others; marking and assessing. No day is ever the same and, in all age-phases, it is challenging! In order to demonstrate that you are proactive and have the positivity and resilience to be an effective teacher, **we will also ask you to share an example of when you have had to be resourceful / resilient in overcoming a problem or issue.***

## FINAL CHECKLIST: What to prepare in advance

- Item / artefact to illustrate your response to our first question: "Tell us why you want to become a primary school teacher in the 3-7 or 5-11 age range."
- Short notes detailing school-based work experiences and/or experience of working with children in settings other than school; **or**, research notes. **See page 6 for full details.**



# YOUR INTERVIEW DAY

## **What happens next?**

### **Outcome following the interview:**

If you are successful following your online interview, we will process an offer of a place on the course via your UCAS Track account. If you are unsuccessful, we will also notify you via your UCAS Track account. If you would like feedback following an unsuccessful decision, you should contact us at [ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) to request this.

If you 'Confirm' your place with us, you will later receive a '**Welcome to your Initial Teacher Training course**' document. This document will support the transition into your first Semester/Phase 1 placement, beginning the journey of achieving Qualified Teacher Status. It will address the essential competencies in fundamental English and mathematics agenda.

### **Accommodation Office:**

You can apply to live in University accommodation from February 2021, as long as you have selected Leeds Beckett University as your firm choice. Further details about the accommodation the University has to offer and how to apply can be found on our website:

[accommodation@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

### **Disclosure and Barring Service/Health checks:**

Please note that in line with requirements set out by the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), all successful applicants for Initial Teacher Training courses must undertake a number of safeguarding checks (including an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check and prohibition and disqualification checks to ensure applicants are not prohibited from working with children), as well as a successful medical fitness check, before commencing the course. If you select Leeds Beckett University as your firm choice we will send you further details in the summer about completing a DBS (formerly Criminal Record Bureau) enhanced check and the occupational health screening questionnaire. Please ensure you keep your contact details up to date with us. Please notify Student Admissions of any changes by emailing

[ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

### **Your Results:**

Depending upon the conditions of your offer and the type of qualifications you are studying, your results may be sent directly to us between June and August. Alternatively, we may contact you directly to ask you to send us your results once you have received them. Once the results of your DBS check, Health check and academic results have been received we will be able to consider making you an unconditional offer.

### **Course start:**

Please note this is a full-time course, inclusive of assessed school-based placements. Linked to the Teachers' Standards Part 2, Personal and Professional Conduct, full attendance is required. The course starts **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021**.

Induction information will be available from late summer via our online welcome website. Further details will be sent nearer the time.



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY  
CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

# YOUR INTERVIEW DAY

## Useful Contact Details

### **Admissions:**

The Admissions Team is based in Bronte Hall, Headingley Campus. If you have any questions prior to or following your interview, please contact: 0113 812 3113

[ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

**Accommodation Advice:** refer to website [accommodation@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

**Funding/student Loans:** refer to website <http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/full-time-funding/>

**Disability Support:** refer to website <http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/disability-advice/>

### **General information:**

Student Administration for Primary Education (5-11) and Primary Education (3-7):

Email: [teachertraining@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:teachertraining@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) Phone: 0113 81 23167

Pastoral team for Carnegie School of Education: [Educationpastoral@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Educationpastoral@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

Pastoral team Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1518013785000585/>

### **Course specific information:**

**Primary Education (5-11) Course Leader:** Alex Gaites.

Email: [A.Gaites@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:A.Gaites@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) Phone: 0113 81 27205

**Primary Education (3-7) Course Leader:** Mandy Pierlejewski.

Email: [M.J.Pierlejewski@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:M.J.Pierlejewski@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) Phone: 0113 812 2060

**Ruth Sutcliffe (Academic Admissions Tutor All Routes)**

[r.e.sutcliffe@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:r.e.sutcliffe@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

0113 812 6295