

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	Professional Graduate Certificate in Education
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Education and Training Foundation Ofsted
Credit Structure ²	120 Credits Level 4: 20 Credits Level 5: 20 Credits Level 6: 80 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	Professional Graduate Certificate in Education
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	<p>To satisfy the minimum general requirements for admission, and subject to satisfactory interview, applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Possess a first degree or equivalent qualification; ● Have a good command of written and spoken English, sufficient to be able to aim to produce assignments at level 6; ● Hold a relevant qualification in English and Maths – normally at level 2 or equivalent; ● Have numeracy and IT skills that will enable the fulfilment of assessment requirements of the course; ● Academic and/or industrial and commercial experience related to chosen curriculum area; ● Be able to provide two appropriate references and a satisfactory DBS check. <p>In addition, part-time in service students must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have 150 teaching practice hours in a Full Teacher Role within the Education and Training Sector (this is normally 75 hours in year 1 and 75 hours in year 2);

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Possess at least a minimum level 3 qualification in his/her own area of specialism;● Have a workplace and/or specialist mentor identified by their organisation who is available to support them throughout the programme. <p>This course is not open to visa sponsored students (those students sponsored by the University under the student route)</p>
Delivering Institution	West Suffolk College
UCAS Code	N/A

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Professional Graduate Certificate in Education course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026-27 academic year.⁵

Course Summary

The Professional Graduate Certificate in Education is a professional qualification for people teaching in the Education and Training Sector e.g. further education colleges, sixth form colleges, adult education, community learning and a wide range of other training and educational settings. As from 01 April 2012, teachers who qualify in the Education and Training Sector and go on to achieve QTLS status are eligible to teach in the school sector.

The course is designed to develop a range of skills and knowledge required of a professional teacher in the Education and Training Sector. The programme places a significant emphasis on students developing the appropriate skills and knowledge they require to meet the needs of the learner. The fundamental principles of practice are underpinned by reference to theoretical perspectives, thus encouraging students to effectively link theory to practice. This is expected of a professional who can engage with the identification and articulation of issues associated with the teaching in the sector.

Course Aims

The programme aims to develop the following academic skills in trainees:

1. To provide trainees with a wide range of intellectual resources, theoretical perspectives and academic disciplines to deepen their understanding of education within the context of their subject specialism and beyond.
2. To provide trainees with a broad and balanced knowledge and critical understanding of the principal features of education in a wide range of contexts to prepare them for future careers in a range of potential settings.
3. To encourage trainees to explore educational processes in a wide variety of contexts.
4. To develop trainee's skills in constructing and justifying a reasoned argument about educational issues in a competent and coherent manner
5. To promote a range of qualities in trainees including autonomy, initiative, critical thinking, innovation, creativity, and engagement with research-based practice.
6. To promote the wider personal development of each trainee relevant to their teaching and professional context. This may include developing competency in maths and

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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English, instilling leadership and management skills, developing a better understanding of global and cultural issues and other features required of professional training.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the Professional Graduate Certificate in Education will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).⁶

On completion of the Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, trainees will be able to:

1. Maintain and update your knowledge of educational research to develop evidence-based practice and teaching skills.
2. Evaluate and apply theoretical understanding of effective practice in teaching, learning and assessment using a range of communication skills.
3. Be creative and innovative in selecting and adapting strategies to help learners to learn including English, maths and digital skills.
4. Plan and deliver effective learning programmes collaboratively for diverse groups or individuals in a safe and inclusive environment.
5. Manage and promote positive learner behaviour by working with other educational professionals.
6. Critically reflect on what works best in your teaching and learning to meet the diverse needs of learners.
7. Critically analyse the teaching and professional role and your responsibilities within the Further Education and Training sector.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- A guide to using the Professional Standards (2022) Society for Education and Training
- Education Studies QAA Benchmarks (2019)

Course Structure

The Professional Graduate Certificate in Education comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Introduction to Teaching	20	M
Level 5			
	Supporting Learner Progress and Behaviour	20	M
Level 6			
	Education in Context	20	M
	Evidence Informed Enquiry	20	M
	Professional Practice 1 (Part Time)	20	M
	Professional Practice 2 (Part Time)	20	M
	Professional Practice (Full Time)	40	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College. Students studying full-time on Professional Graduate Certificate in Education are likely to have approximately 48 contact hours for level 4, 88 contact hours for level 5 and 110 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, workshops, and tutorials and students will also be required to participate in 150 hours of work placement. Students on the full-time programme will be supported to find a suitable teaching placement. Students will normally be expected to undertake 15 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 75% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) and 25% practical assessments. Both elements must be passed in order to pass the course.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking Professional Graduate Certificate in Education will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£7,080 per year
Part-time UK	£1,180 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

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Students are likely to incur other costs for study materials such as books and journals and travel to and from their placement. Students will be required to pay for their DBS check and a small ID check and processing fee; additional fees may be incurred upon a student returning from a period of intercalation. The cost of DBS checks can be found on the DBS page of the [University of Suffolk website](#).

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Initial Teacher Training (Education and Training Sector) Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).