

Biology Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) Course Information

What is the Biology SKE Course?

- An intensive 200 hour course designed to develop subject knowledge for secondary trainees in in Biology and the other sciences.
 - Two weeks are spent in Sheffield in a summer school (w/c 10 August and 17 August 2020) with daily sessions between 9am-5pm.
 - 150 hours are taken prior to the start of the PGCE which will include independent guided study prior to and after the summer school. The 150 hours includes the two week summer school in August.
 - A further 50 hours are spent undertaking a mix of taught sessions at Sheffield Hallam University during the PGCE as well as directed and self-directed activities.
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Will I have to pay?

No, in fact you will receive a bursary of £200 per week for the equivalent of the 6 weeks study prior to the PGCE. You can only receive one bursary at once, so you are not eligible for a SKE bursary during the PGCE.

What is the summer school?

A compulsory two-week intensive summer school with face to face subject knowledge training to enable you to teach in school. This is based in the school-style laboratories at Sheffield Hallam University and offers lots of opportunities to become familiar with and gain confidence regarding practical science taught in schools. Your fees are arranged and paid for you. The dates for the summer school are w/c 10 August and 17 August 2020.

What is the status of the course?

The course is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and aims to increase the pool of eligible trainees for Biology teacher training by enhancing their subject knowledge so that they can meet the standards for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

How can I apply?

You can apply for teacher training via UCAS in the usual way. It is helpful to indicate interest in this course in the personal statement. A SKE may be recommended as a condition for entry to the PGCE. If this is the case, your UCAS application form will be forwarded to the relevant SKE course leader.

What happens after I apply?

It will take a few working days to process your application at Sheffield Hallam University. If you are successful, confirmation and further details will be sent to you.

Who should I contact for further information?

Feel free to contact:

Suzanne Brown (Science SKE Course Leader): suzanne.brown@shu.ac.uk

Pat Moore (PGCE Sciences Course Leader): p.moore@shu.ac.uk

