



Conditions of Registration 2021/22

Supplementary Agreement for PGCE Students
Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Wales)

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The Open University is incorporated by Royal Charter (RC 000391), an exempt charity in England & Wales and a charity registered in Scotland (SC 038302). The Open University is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority in relation to its secondary activity of credit broking.

Scope

What this document covers

This Supplementary Agreement applies to Students who have been accepted on to The Open University's Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) (Wales) programme. This Supplementary Agreement sets out the additional terms relating to study of a PGCE (Wales) qualification under both of the routes available in this programme: the salaried route and the part-time route.

Students studying the PGCE (Wales) as salaried Students are paid members of staff in a school, with costs of study fully funded by the Welsh Government via a 'training grant' and a non-qualified teacher salary paid by their employing organisation.

Salaried Students on the PGCE will be both Students of The Open University and employees of their Employer school. They will need to register with the Regulatory Body (the Education Workforce Council, EWC) as a School Support worker before they commence their PGCE and will need to comply with the [EWC Code of Professional Conduct and Practice](#).

Salaried Students undertake practice learning periods in school concurrently with academic study and with employment. Practice learning is assessed by mentors, school coordinators and practice tutors: more information on these roles is given in the Glossary.

Students studying through the part-time route will be self-funded, undertaking practice learning periods dependent upon their circumstances and in agreement with partner schools. Similarly to salaried Students, practice learning will be assessed by mentors, school coordinators and practice tutors.

On successful award of the PGCE (Wales) qualification, The Open University will notify the EWC of recommendation for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

This document may be updated throughout the year to correct errors, improve clarity or accessibility, or to reflect changes in legal or regulatory requirements. If these amendments occur after you have registered, you will be notified by email of any significant changes to this document.

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What this document does not cover

This Supplementary Agreement does **not** apply to:

- Students who have not yet been accepted on to The Open University's PGCE (Wales) programme.
- Students who are studying modules that could contribute to a qualification outside the PGCE (Wales) programme.
- Students who are studying other work-based learning qualifications or programmes, such as social work and nursing.
- Students studying standard Open University modules or qualifications, who should refer to the current [Conditions of Registration](#).
- Students on Apprenticeship programmes, who should refer to the [Conditions of Registration \(Apprentices\)](#).
- Students studying Microcredentials who should refer to the [Terms and Conditions \(Microcredentials\)](#).
- Students studying a Vocational Qualification. Please refer to the [Conditions of Registration \(Vocational Qualifications\)](#).

Supplementary Agreements superseded by this document

This document replaces the previous version of Conditions of Registration Supplementary Agreement (PGCE) 2020/21. This document is a Supplementary Agreement to the main [Conditions of Registration](#). The terms and conditions in this Supplementary Agreement take precedence over the Conditions of Registration where these differ.

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Summary of significant changes since last version

There are a number of significant changes from the previous version of this policy. These are:

- a) Additional paragraph added to the Scope section to note that the Conditions document may be updated throughout the year to correct errors, improve clarity or accessibility, or to reflect changes in legal or regulatory requirements.
- b) Vocational learners added to the out of scope section.
- c) Amendment to The Open University Student Charter section to reference the Student Charter Values which were launched in 2020.
- d) Table 1 title added to the introduction, along with minor changes to wording, using 'replaced' as opposed to 'superseded'. Change of reference from SRSCs to SRS.
- e) Addition of paragraph 3.5 to advise that neither an offer of a place nor completion of the qualification guarantees entry onto the professional register.
- f) Addition of paragraph 4.1e) and paragraph 6.2 to ensure that you and your school comply with the requirements and terms of the programme, in terms of salary, subject focus of your practice learning (for secondary), or other issues with your timetable.
- g) Clarification to paragraph 4.1f) to state "This may include reasonable levels of travel".
- h) Addition of paragraph 4.1g) to ensure that you attend practice learning and online-seminar sessions in all bar exceptional circumstances.
- i) Clarification added to paragraph 4.2a) around observations and supervised practice.
- j) Addition of the word 'other' into Section 7.4.
- k) Clarification to paragraph 7.6 and 8.7 that registration is onto the PGCE programme.
- l) Clarification to paragraph 8.8 that modules are part of the qualification (not PGCE programme), and rewording for clarity.
- m) Rearranging of sentences within paragraph 9.1 for clarity.

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- n) Rearranging of sentences within paragraph 9.4 for clarity and additional information added around the definition of a study break.
- o) Addition of Section 10 regarding “Information sharing and Data Protection” and referencing [The Open University’s PGCE Privacy Notice](#).
- p) Additional clarification added to the Glossary entry for ‘taking a study break’.
- q) Additional Glossary entry added for ‘Student Recruitment and Support (SRS)’.
- r) Additional wording added to the Further Clarification section to state that the most up-to-date response times for receiving and sending postal correspondence are available on the Open University offices webpage.
- s) Table 2 “Circumstances under which Students may be considered for a deferral or study break to complete their PGCE qualification” (previously un-numbered), Appendix A amended as follows:
 - a. Supporting evidence clarified to be examples.
 - b. Criterion 1 altered to past tense.
 - c. Criterion 3 amended to reference the Equality Act (2010), and to account for other statutory duties and obligations.
 - d. Criterion 4 amended to include surrogacy, and evidence from a health professional.
 - e. New Criterion 5 inserted to cover “An unforeseen prolonged incapacity of yourself due to adoption” and related conditions and examples.
 - f. Criterion 9 (was Criterion 8) amended to include evidence from household insurance documentation.
 - g. Criterion 10 (was Criterion 9) clarified to specify ‘an unforeseen change’ in caring responsibilities.

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Related Documentation

Refer to the following documentation in conjunction with this document:

Documents that govern your study:

- [Conditions of Registration](#)
 - [Qualification-specific regulations for the PGCE](#)
-

Information and guidance:

- [Fitness to Practise Procedure \(FtP\)](#)
 - [Fitness to Study](#)
-

Information sharing and Data Protection:

- [Student Privacy Notice](#)
 - [PGCE Privacy Notice](#)
-

The Open University Student Charter Values

This document aligns specifically with the following [Open University Student Charter](#) Values:

4. We communicate with each other in ways which are clear, relevant, accurate and timely.
7. We act ethically and transparently, providing and making use of fair and open means to deal with our concerns and grievances, learning from them.
9. As Students, we share the responsibility for learning and make a commitment to study and research using the resources and support services available, upholding the highest standards of academic integrity.
11. We work to maintain and enhance the standards and reputation of our University recognising the contributions that all members make to its success.

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Introduction

This document sets out the additional terms agreed with The Open University relating to your study towards the PGCE (Wales). It should be read together with the [Conditions of Registration](#) document and the rules, regulations and policies referred to therein and in this agreement.

By registering for the PGCE (Wales) you are agreeing to the terms specified in the [Conditions of Registration](#) (except on the instances listed in Table 1 below) along with those additionally listed within this document.

Table 1: Exceptions to the Conditions of Registration for PGCE Routes

Section of Conditions of Registration 2021/22	Exceptions for PGCE Salaried Route	Exceptions for PGCE Part-Time Route
Exceptions for PGCE Part-Time Route	Points 9 and 11 do not apply	Point 11 does not apply
Summary of the main terms of the contract between us	A1.d) the “Admission of Applicants under the Age of 18” policy does not apply as the programme will not admit anyone under 18. A2 Additional condition for disclosure of legal restrictions and conditions is replaced by Section 2.1 in this PGCE Supplementary Agreement	A1.d) the “Admission of Applicants under the Age of 18” policy does not apply as the programme will not admit anyone under 18. A2 Additional condition for disclosure of legal restrictions and conditions is replaced by Section 2.1 in this PGCE Supplementary Agreement
B Your fees	Section B Your Fees is replaced by Section 5 in this PGCE Supplementary Agreement	Section B Your Fees is replaced by Section 5 in this PGCE Supplementary Agreement
E Ending your registration	E1 Cancelling your registration is replaced by Section 7 in this PGCE Supplementary Agreement	E1 Cancelling your registration is replaced by Section 7 in this PGCE Supplementary Agreement

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This Agreement is effective from the date you registered for your PGCE and will continue to apply until you have either completed your qualification or your registration has lapsed or been cancelled, whichever occurs first.

Students can only register through Student Recruitment and Support (SRS) in The Open University in Wales.

For specific guidance on how this agreement may relate to your personal circumstances, please contact the PGCE team on 029 2047 1170 or email Wales-PGCE@open.ac.uk who are specially trained to advise on the implementation of this agreement.

Main terms of the Supplementary Agreement

1 Summary of the main terms of the Supplementary Agreement

1.1 This section sets out a brief summary of the supplementary terms of your agreement to study a PGCE (Wales) qualification with The Open University. You are agreeing to:

- a) Comply with and abide by the [Code of Conduct and Practice](#) set by the Regulatory Authority, the Education Workforce Council (EWC).
- b) (For salaried Students) be accepted onto the PGCE salaried route. Without signing this agreement you will not be permitted to participate in the study or practice learning periods of the PGCE (Wales) qualification and have your costs of study paid for by the Welsh Government.
- c) (For part-time Students) be accepted onto the PGCE part-time route. Without signing this agreement you will not be permitted to participate in the study or practice learning periods of the PGCE (Wales) qualification and/or be eligible for the range of funding (e.g. incentive grants) offered by Welsh Government for teacher training Students.
- d) Comply with the legal and policy requirements of The Open University, Regional Consortia, or any partner schools as set out in their respective policies, procedures and terms of employment (for salaried Students).
- e) Meet the academic standards and practice-based requirements that are identified within Open University study and via the

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[Wales Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership](#). You must do this in order to be awarded your PGCE.

- f) Notify The Open University and your placement school, as soon as possible, of any concerns you have of not meeting such requirements.
- g) Understand that The Open University may suspend or terminate your registration or deny the award of the PGCE (Wales) if the terms set out in this agreement are not met.
- h) Understand that The Open University, the Regional Consortia and partner schools may share necessary information about your health, disability, academic performance, conduct, fitness to practise and professional standards.
Such information will be kept secure and will only be processed in accordance with [The Open University's PGCE Privacy Notice](#), and is limited to these organisations.
- i) (As a salaried Student), be resident in either Wales or England and be able to travel to your Employer School in Wales on a daily basis.
- j) (As a part-time Student), be resident in Wales and be able to travel to your Associate School in Wales on a daily basis.

2 Additional conditions for disclosure of legal restrictions and conditions

- 2.1 You must disclose any criminal conviction prior to registration or at any point that you become subject to a criminal conviction during the course of your studies. It is highly likely that any criminal conviction will preclude you from studying the PGCE (Wales) at The Open University but each case will be considered individually.
- 2.2 All Students must hold a Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS) certificate before they are allowed into a school for teaching experience. Students who are currently, or become, subject to an order, restriction or arrangement imposed by a court or by an authorised body must make the Director of PGCE Programme in Wales or their delegate aware immediately of any conditions which may prevent them from fully engaging with their course and the wider University community. In such

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circumstances, you may be obliged to stop studying the PGCE (Wales) qualification because you will be in contravention of the Code of Conduct and Practice (see 3 below). This disclosure helps us support Students in complying with any conditions while studying with The Open University and fulfils our safeguarding obligation and includes those subject to Sex Offender Registration and Sexual Harm Prevention Orders.

3 Code of Conduct and Fitness to Practise (FtP) Procedures

3.1 By entering into this Supplementary Agreement you explicitly acknowledge that you understand and agree to be bound by the revised Code of Conduct and Practice (effective from 1 September 2019) set by the Regulatory Authority, the Education Workforce Council (EWC): [EWC Code of Professional Conduct and Practice](#).

Salaried Students will also need to formally register with EWC as a Learning Support member of staff.

This means that:

- a) If a concern is raised that you are not achieving or maintaining the expectations of the Code at a level appropriate to the stage of your studies for the PGCE (Wales) qualification and other means of support have not proved sufficient, you may be referred under The Open University's [Fitness to Practise \(FtP\) Procedure](#).

This may result in:

- conditions being applied for you to continue to study for a PGCE;
 - suspension from study for a PGCE;
 - termination of registration for a PGCE;
 - the withholding of the award of a PGCE.
- b) You agree to notify the Director of PGCE Programme in Wales or their delegate (Wales-PGCE@open.ac.uk) as soon as practicable of any matter which may give rise to any concern about your ability to meet the Code of Conduct and Practice of the Regulatory Authority.

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- 3.2 Although you may have been awarded module credit that satisfies the academic and practice learning requirements of the PGCE (Wales), that qualification may be withheld by The Open University on the recommendation of a Fitness to Practice (FtP) Panel if they determine you have failed to meet the standards required in the EWC Code of Conduct and Practice, due to matters that occurred prior to the conferment of the qualification.
- 3.3 If a PGCE has been conferred and any matters occurring before the conferment of the qualification subsequently come to light that, in the opinion of an FtP panel, ought to have been declared and would have resulted in the withholding of the PGCE (Wales) qualification, the matter shall be referred to the University's Central Disciplinary Committee who have the power to withdraw the PGCE (Wales) qualification.
- 3.4 If the PGCE (Wales) qualification is not awarded, you will not be eligible to register to practise as a teacher. If you have successfully passed a module(s), you may be able to count the credit towards other Open University qualifications that you register for outside of the PGCE Programme.
- 3.5 Please be aware that neither the offer of a place onto the qualification by The Open University nor successful completion of the qualification guarantees your entry onto the Register of Education Practitioners in Wales. Education Workforce Council (EWC) retains the right to determine your entry to the professional register at the point of registration. Please refer to the [EWC guidance](#) for the most up to date information regarding current requirements for the Register of Education Practitioners in Wales.

4 Teaching Commitment

- 4.1 When you register for the PGCE (Wales) qualification with The Open University, you agree to:
- a) Co-operate with any Lead, Employer or Associate School in which you are undertaking practice learning, who will provide sufficient and appropriate practice learning periods to enable you to meet the learning outcomes of the PGCE (Wales) qualification and the requirements of the EWC, which include 120 days of teaching practice.

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- b) Co-operate with any Lead, Employer or Associate School in which you are undertaking practice learning to meet any reasonable requirements to maintain the reputation of the schools, the Welsh Government, and The Open University and comply with their legal and financial obligations and service standards in connection with your participation in the practice learning opportunities provided.
- c) Comply with the correct programme structure appropriate to the route that you are enrolling on; Students enrolled on the part-time programme cannot use the structure of the salaried route to undertake the programme.
- d) For salaried Students, comply with the employment policies and practices of the Employer School and second school.
- e) For salaried Students, in accordance with [Section 6.2](#), ensure that you and your school comply with the requirements of the programme.
- f) Take all reasonable steps to undertake any practice learning opportunities required in order to complete the PGCE (Wales) qualification. This may include reasonable levels of travel.
- g) Ensure that you attend all practice learning and online-seminar sessions unless there are exceptional circumstances. For salaried students you should also ensure that any allocated study is used for its intended purpose.

4.2 Partner schools will require you to co-operate with your practice tutor, school coordinator and mentor. Your practice tutor, school coordinator and mentor will:

- a) carry out observations and supervise practice, offering regular feedback to you throughout the practice learning periods. These observations may include virtual approaches, including the use of recording software. Ordinarily, all students will be required to make use of such approaches, however in the event of extenuating circumstances, you have the right to opt out from the use of this software. The Open University will treat this request on a case-by-case basis;
- b) carry out any assessment responsibilities required of them by the PGCE (Wales) qualification; and
- c) participate in planning, monitoring and review meetings with you and each other as required.

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- 4.3 If you are in breach of the clauses outlined in Paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2, and it is the opinion of your mentor and the Director of PGCE Programme in Wales or their delegate, that it is not reasonably practicable for you to complete a teaching commitment, then your Employer or Associate School and The Open University are not obligated to provide a further opportunity for you to meet the practice learning requirements for that module. If you are not meeting the [Wales Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership](#) and fail your teaching experience (and the resit opportunities), your studies may be suspended in accordance with the [Conditions of Registration](#) (Section E2 “The Open University’s right to cancel your registration or enrolment”).
- 4.4 If difficulties arise outside your control in the course of a practice learning experience that cause your learning to be disrupted, this will be managed by The Open University and the Regional Consortia in partnership with your placement school. This may include offering you an alternative placement.
- 4.5 If the placement school does not allow you sufficient time to complete the required practice learning experiences, The Open University and Regional Consortia will address this with the school and if required, endeavour to extend your study period to allow the placement school to provide sufficient practice learning opportunities.

5 Fees or Costs of Study

- 5.1 Salaried Students will not be expected to make a direct contribution towards the costs of their study and will be paid by the employer school as a non-qualified teacher, on a minimum of point 1 of the non-qualified teacher pay scale, on a full-time basis.
- 5.2 Under the Salaried Route, Students are paid (employed) by a state-funded school in Wales to work as a non-qualified teacher while they study for their PGCE. Student fees on this route will be funded by a training grant from the Welsh Government and these will be paid directly to The Open University for the duration of the qualification.
- 5.3 Under the Part-time Route, Students will be self-funded. They will be liable for their own fees as set out on the [PGCE in Wales Fees and Funding](#) webpage.
- 5.4 If salaried Students are in breach of the terms of this Supplementary Agreement or fail to adhere to the main [Conditions of Registration](#), or cancel/terminate their

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studies, the costs of their study will immediately cease to be paid by the Welsh Government.

- 5.5 If part-time Students are in breach of the terms of this Supplementary Agreement, or fail to adhere to the main [Conditions of Registration](#), any fees paid to The Open University will not be refunded and Fee Credits or Waivers may be withheld.
- 5.6 If part-time Students cancel or terminate their studies, any refunds will be made in accordance with the [Fee Rules \(Undergraduate\)](#) (Section H: “Levels of Fee Liability, Fee Refund and/or Fee Credit”).
- 5.7 For salaried Students, if you have deliberately given misleading, incorrect or fraudulent information about your circumstances, you may become personally liable for some or all of your costs of study.
- 5.8 If, after discussion with The Open University and your Employer School and second school, you decide to withdraw from the salaried route, you may be eligible to apply to study The Open University PGCE qualification through the part-time route. For more information, contact the PGCE team on 029 2047 1170 or email Wales-PGCE@open.ac.uk.

6 Termination of Agreement with Partner School by The Open University

- 6.1 In the event that The Open University’s collaboration agreement with your Employer or Associate School is terminated, The Open University and Regional Consortia will take reasonable steps to enable you to finish the programme including completing all necessary modules and carrying out all necessary practice learning experience.
- 6.2 For salaried Students, if your Employer School is found to be in breach of the terms of the programme, either in terms of the salary you are paid, the subject (for secondary schools) which is the focus of your practice learning, or other issues with your timetable, then The Open University reserve the right to terminate that agreement and withdraw you from the programme.

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7 Statutory Right to Cancellation of Registration and Termination of Registration/withdrawal

- 7.1 As a Student, you are able to exercise your right under the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations (2013) to cancel your registration without penalty up to 14 days after the date of your confirmation of registration, regardless of how your fees are paid.
- 7.2 The Open University can cancel your registration for the PGCE (Wales) qualification in the circumstances set out in the [Conditions of Registration](#) (Section E: “Ending your registration”). In addition, The Open University may cancel your registration if you do not:
- a) Undertake practice learning periods with an agreed school.
 - b) Maintain the conditions of the programme, such as employment by an Employer School or failure to maintain the professional standards expected of any partner School.
 - c) Maintain the standards of the Regulatory Authority with respect to your health, competence and standards of behaviour.
- 7.3 For salaried Students, if your employment is terminated by your Employer School because you are in breach of the terms of your employment contract with them, you will not be able to continue on the salaried route of this qualification. You may be able to apply to move to the part-time route, depending on your circumstances. To discuss your options, please contact the PGCE team on 029 2047 1170 or email Wales-PGCE@open.ac.uk.
- 7.4 For part-time Students, if your Associate School no longer wishes to continue your placement, or if any other issues arise, The Open University will work with the school under our Issues Resolution Framework. In the event that issues cannot be resolved, you may be offered alternative placements, depending upon the circumstances.
- 7.5 If you decide to cancel your registration on your PGCE qualification before starting study, you must discuss this first with The Open University to agree implications. In the case of salaried Students, this may affect your Terms of Employment with your

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Employer School (which may include losing your employment). This decision will be made by your Employer School.

- 7.6 If you wish to cancel your registration on your PGCE programme after you begin studying, you must discuss this first with The Open University and your Associate or Employer School. Once you confirm your decision you must make a clear statement by letter or email, to the Director of PGCE Programme in Wales or their delegate via Wales-PGCE@open.ac.uk, setting out your decision in writing. If you cancel your registration, you will not be able to recommence your studies and will no longer be a Student of The Open University. The fee liability rules applicable will be determined by the route of the PGCE that you are following: Students on the part-time route will be subject to the standard University fee rules ([Fee Rules \(Undergraduate\)](#)); Students on the salaried route will not be eligible for any Fee Refunds or Fee Credits for fees paid to that point of the programme. For salaried Students, this may affect your Terms of Employment with your Employer School, which may include losing your employment. This decision will be made by your Employer School.
- 7.7 If you have successfully passed any module(s) at the point of cancelling your studies, you may - subject to the [Academic Regulations \(Taught Courses\)](#) - be able to count this towards another qualification that you register for outside of the PGCE Programme.

8 Your Studies

- 8.1 You cannot delay your studies part-way through unless there are exceptional circumstances, which would be determined at the discretion of the Director of PGCE Programme in Wales or their delegate and (for salaried Students) the Headteacher of the Employer School (see [Section 9](#)). If you have prolonged or repeated absences from any part of the PGCE qualification, this may result in a cause for concern and/or the triggering of the Student Support Framework (See Glossary).
- 8.2 You should normally complete your PGCE within 24 months from the start date of your first module. See [Section 9](#) if you think this will not be possible.
- 8.3 In order to be eligible for the award of PGCE (Wales) you must, for each module completed, satisfactorily meet both the academic requirements of The Open

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University and the requirements of the [Wales Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership](#).

- 8.4 You must successfully complete all appropriate requirements and modules as outlined in the Qualification Regulations specific to the PGCE (Wales) qualification in order to receive the award.
- 8.5 If you fail a module (including the failure of any resit or resubmission), you will need to leave the PGCE qualification. If you have begun studying the next module whilst you awaited results, you will not be able to complete that module. Your module fee will be refunded.
- 8.6 If you leave or are no longer eligible for the Salaried Route PGCE qualification, this may affect your Terms of Employment with your Employer School which may include losing your employment. This decision will be made by your Employer School.
- 8.7 You must pass all modules to be awarded the PGCE qualification. If you do not pass the first End of Module Assessment (EMA) submission attempt (comprising academic assessment and practice learning evaluation), you **may** be invited to resubmit, depending on your results. If you are not offered a resubmission, or if you do not pass the module following the resubmission attempt, The Open University will deregister you from the programme.
- 8.8 Resubmission is only permitted on PGCE1 and PGCE3 (the first and final modules of the qualification). For PGCE2 (the module required for progression to year 2 of the qualification) Students may, in certain circumstances be offered a viva voce in place of a written academic assessment (see [Appendix A](#): circumstances under which Students may be considered for a deferral or study break to complete the PGCE programme and achieve the qualification).

9 Changing Your Study (Deferring your studies or Taking a Study Break)

- 9.1 In certain circumstances, you may decide you need to stop studying before you submit the End of Module Assessment (EMA) for a module (see [Appendix A](#): circumstances under which Students may be considered for a deferral or study break to complete the PGCE programme and achieve the qualification). This is

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called **deferral** and means you would stop studying the module you are currently registered upon before submitting and passing your assessment for that module; The Open University would re-register you to begin that module at its next start date. You must discuss your options with the Director of PGCE Programme in Wales or their delegate (Wales-PGCE@open.ac.uk). There is no guarantee that you will be allowed to defer from the PGCE. Salaried Students, may however be able to transfer to the part-time route. Any employment implications for salaried Students should be discussed with your Employer School.

9.2 If you are permitted to defer, you will re-join that same module at the next start date. You will be permitted to carry over evidence previously collected in your e-portfolio and continue to contribute to this. You will pick up study from the beginning of the module. It cannot be guaranteed that the evidence required for assessment at the time you restart the module will be identical to that required in the earlier module from which you deferred. Deferring study may have implications for your employment.

9.3 Applications for a deferral may be considered where you have been unable to study due to reasons beyond your control (see Appendix A: circumstances under which Students may be considered for a deferral or study break to complete the PGCE programme and achieve the qualification). Other circumstances where a deferral may be granted are:

- i) if you have been suspended under [Fitness to Practise \(FtP\) Procedure](#) and subsequently reinstated;
- ii) for salaried Students, if you lose your school employment through no fault of your own and The Open University are unable to find an immediate replacement school which will support you on the PGCE (Wales) qualification. Please note The Open University and Regional Consortia will make every effort to find you a replacement school.

9.4 In certain circumstances in agreement with The Open University and your Employer school or under the [Fitness to Study Policy](#), you may be permitted to take a study break between modules (see [Appendix A](#): circumstances under which Students may be considered for a deferral or study break to complete the PGCE programme and achieve the qualification). This means that you would take a break from study between completing modules in one year and before starting the next module the following year. In order to take a study break, you will have submitted and passed

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your assessment on the module which you are currently studying, before commencing the next module, after you have finished your study break. Taking a study break may have implications on your ability to complete the PGCE qualification: In order to qualify for the PGCE qualification, all study must be completed within four years of module PGCE 1 start date. The procedure and reasons for taking such a study break must be discussed with the Director of PGCE Programme in Wales or their delegate and the Headteacher of your Employer School. There is no guarantee that you would be allowed to take a study break on the salaried Student route.

- 9.5 If study is not completed within four years, you will not achieve the PGCE qualification nor QTS recommendation. You may, subject to the [Academic Regulations \(Taught Courses\)](#), be able to use any credit you have already completed towards another qualification that you register for outside of the PGCE Programme.

10 Information sharing and Data Protection

- 10.1 The Open University, the Regional Consortia and partner schools may share necessary information about your health, disability, academic performance, conduct, fitness to practise and professional standards. Such information will be kept secure and will only be processed in accordance with [The Open University's PGCE Privacy Notice](#), and is limited to these organisations.
- 10.2 Information about your health and any declared disability may be shared with Schools in line with legal obligations to provide reasonable adjustments in order to comply with obligations under the Equality Act 2010 in England, Scotland and Wales; the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 for Northern Ireland; or any other statutory duty or obligation.
- Additionally, data may be shared so that neither you nor members of the public are put at risk while you carry out a placement.
- 10.3 Please see The Open University's [Student Privacy Notice](#), and the [PGCE Privacy Notice](#) for full information on how data is collected and used by The Open University.

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Glossary of terms

Associate School

This means a school where PGCE part-time Students will undertake practice learning periods.

Code of Conduct and Practice

This contains the professional standards of practice and behaviour for teachers as published by the Regulatory Authority: [EWC Code of Professional Conduct and Practice](#).

Conferment of qualification

This means the point at which your qualification is awarded to you formally via The Open University awarding processes.

Curriculum Tutor

This means the Student teachers' key contact with The Open University in Wales.

Deferring your studies or Taking a Study Break

Deferral: in certain circumstances (as detailed in Appendix A), you may decide you need to stop studying before you submit the End of Module Assessment (EMA) for a module. This is called deferral and means you would stop studying the module you are currently registered upon before submitting and passing your assessment for that module, and The Open University would re-register you to begin that module at its next start date.

Taking a study break: in certain circumstances (as detailed in Appendix A) or under the [Fitness to Study Policy](#), and in agreement with The Open University and your Employer school, you may be permitted to take a study break between modules. This means that you would take a break from study between completing modules in one year and before starting the next module the following year. In order to take a study break, you will have submitted and passed your assessment on the module which you are currently studying, before commencing the next module, after you have finished your study break. Taking a study break may have implications on your ability to complete the PGCE qualification.

E-Portfolio

This contains evidence submitted by the Student at the end of each module, to show their progress towards the outcomes of the PGCE.

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Employer School

This means a school with a PGCE Student teacher employed within their school. Student teachers are employed at the unqualified teacher rate as set by the national pay structure for teachers in Wales.

Lead Partner School

This means a school which is a lead member of The Open University partnership. These schools hold a strategic voice in the direction and management of the partnership.

Mentor

This means your main contact at your Employer school supporting you on completion of your PGCE studies.

Module

This term refers to a set of study units; the PGCE is made up of three modules. A Student must successfully complete both the academic assessments and practice learning requirements for each module in order to pass.

Partner School

This means a school which holds either Lead, Employer or Associate status. Schools may hold more than one status.

Part-time Route

This means the route through the PGCE Wales qualification which is self-funded by Students. Students can apply for a student loan and part-time maintenance grants. This route offers some flexibility as they can gain part-time practical teaching experience in a school alongside existing commitments.

Practice Learning Periods

This means dedicated PGCE teaching experience time for those Students on the salaried programme.

Practice learning/ practice-based learning

This is the generic term for learning experiences based in a practice environment.

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Practice Tutor

This is an experienced Initial Teacher Education tutor from another school who monitors your progress on the PGCE qualification.

Routes in the PGCE

There are two routes to achieving this qualification: the Salaried Route and the Part-time route (both comprise three modules, two 30-credit modules at level 6 (undergraduate) and a 60-credit module at Level 7 (postgraduate)).

Salaried route

This refers to Students employed in a state school as a teaching assistant, or in a non-teaching role, who can apply for their school to endorse them. Students following this route work in school full-time and their application must be endorsed by their school (who will pay their salary). Their costs of study will be funded by the Welsh Government. Students who do not currently work in a state school can apply for the salaried route but will need endorsement by a state school.

School Coordinator

This is a senior member of school staff, provided by schools.

Second School

This means the second school that salaried Students are placed in to complete their practice learning.

Student Recruitment and Support (SRS)

This means the section in the Open University in Wales (OUiW) who deals with enquiries about registrations, and who provide pastoral, general and specialist additional support (e.g. disability support) to Students during their studies.

Further clarification

For specific guidance on how this agreement may relate to your personal circumstances, please contact the PGCE team on 029 2047 1170 or email Wales-PGCE@open.ac.uk who are specially trained to advise on the implementation of this agreement.

If you have any comments about this policy document and how it might be improved, please submit these to SPR-Policy-Team@open.ac.uk.

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Alternative format

To check the latest postal address and other contact details, or if you would like to find out more about our most up-to-date response times for receiving and sending postal correspondence to The Open University, please see [Open University offices](#).

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact The Open University in Wales:

The Open University in Wales

If you are resident in Wales, you can speak to a student support advisor in Welsh or English.

18 Custom House Street

Cardiff

CF10 1AP

Phone +44 (0)29 2047 1170

Email wales-support@open.ac.uk

I siaradwyr Cymraeg

Os rydych yn siarad Cymraeg a fyddai'n well gennych trafod eich anghenion drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r Brifysgol Agored yng Nghymru yng Nghaerdydd os gwelwch yn dda ffôn +44 (0)29 2047 1170 neu ebost wales-support@open.ac.uk

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Appendix A

Table 2: Circumstances under which Students may be considered for a deferral or study break to complete the PGCE programme and achieve the qualification.

Criterion	Conditions and notes	Examples of types of supporting evidence required
1. Death of a close family member, partner or dependant.	A close family member is defined as someone on whom you were dependent (emotionally or financially) or who was dependent on you.	Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence. Certified copy of death certificate (an exception may be made if the death occurred within six weeks before application).
2. An unforeseen prolonged incapacity of yourself or a close family member due to serious illness, accident or medical condition	If you were aware before the module start date of the medical problems, the condition needs to have worsened or deteriorated since then, i.e. it could not have been anticipated at the outset of the module that the illness or condition would have adversely impacted on your study.	Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence. Certificate, letter or medical statement from GP or consultant confirming the situation. (The period of the illness needs to have a bearing on the timing of the withdrawal).

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<p>3. Disability</p>	<p>The reasonable adjustments made by the University in order to comply with obligations under the Equality Act 2010 in England, Scotland and Wales; the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 for Northern Ireland; or any other statutory duty or obligation, have not enabled you to study effectively; or</p> <p>The impact of a disability on your studies has been more severe than anticipated; or</p> <p>There has been an increase in your disability/disabilities affecting your studies since the module start date.</p>	<p>Certificate, letter or medical statement from GP, consultant, non-medical helper or a support person or organisation confirming the situation.</p> <p>Corroborative evidence from University records e.g. tutor or Student Support Team (SST).</p>
<p>4. An unforeseen prolonged incapacity of yourself due to pregnancy, maternity/paternity, or surrogacy.</p>	<p>If you were aware of the pregnancy before the module start date, the impact on your study of the pregnancy, maternity/paternity or surrogacy must be greater than might reasonably have been anticipated.</p>	<p>Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence.</p> <p>Certificate, letter or medical statement from a health professional, e.g. a GP, consultant, or midwife confirming the situation.</p>
<p>5. An unforeseen prolonged incapacity of yourself due to adoption.</p>	<p>If you were aware of the adoption before the module start date, the impact on your study of the adoption process or caring responsibilities must be greater than might reasonably have been anticipated.</p>	<p>Supporting evidence e.g. report from social services, adoption agency, or a certificate, letter or medical statement from GP or consultant confirming the situation.</p>

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<p>6. An unforeseen prolonged incapacity of yourself due to gender reassignment</p>	<p>If you had undertaken gender reassignment before the module start date or by then you were aware of the arrangements to do so after that date, the impact on your study must be greater than might reasonably have been anticipated.</p>	<p>Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence. Certificate, letter or medical statement from GP or consultant confirming the situation.</p>
<p>7. An unforeseen change in employment circumstances with the effect that it is not reasonably possible to continue to study due to the extreme nature of the work, poor communications or the absence of study facilities.</p>	<p>Circumstances which may normally occur in the course of undertaking your Salaried Route employment such as a change of tasks, an increased workload or reasonable travel requirements will not be considered.</p>	<p>Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence. E.g. letter or email from your Employer School.</p>
<p>8. Maladministration on the part of the University.</p>	<p>Action or inaction which could be classed as maladministration on the part of the University and which has affected your academic progress. This does not extend to circumstances that are beyond the control of the University.</p>	<p>Any relevant evidence to support your application e.g. record of Student contact.</p>

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<p>9. Other exceptional circumstances of a serious nature beyond your control.</p>	<p>Circumstances beyond your control that significantly reduced the time available for study over a sustained period.</p>	<p>Supporting evidence e.g. report from emergency services, social services, police or counsellor, or household insurance documentation.</p>
<p>10. An unforeseen change in caring responsibilities</p>	<p>If your caring responsibilities were in place before your module start date, the impact on your study must be greater than might have reasonably been anticipated.</p>	<p>Hard copy or email notification followed by documentary evidence. E.g. Letter or medical statement from GP, consultant, non-medical helper or a support person or organisation confirming the situation.</p>

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