Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) Courses: a guide

Subject knowledge enhancement courses are perfect for you if you are applying for teacher training in Biology, Chemistry, English, French, German, Maths, Physics or Spanish and either your degree is not subject-specific or you lack confidence in your subject. Some courses are available to complete online, others through distance or face to face learning.

SKE courses are fully funded, so you won’t have to pay any tuition fees and you may be entitled to bursaries available to support you whilst you complete your SKE.

SKEs come in a variety of lengths:

8 or 12 weeks (short)
A short SKE is designed to refresh knowledge or boost confidence in your subject area.

20, 24 or 28 weeks (medium/ long)
A longer SKE may be recommended if:

- your degree isn’t directly related to subject you are planning to teach,
- your degree was undertaken some time ago and your working life has not been related to subject knowledge needed to teach
- you would benefit from considerable confidence boosting in a facet of your PGCE subject knowledge e.g. for Modern Foreign Languages, French is fine but Spanish competence is limited.

An SKE course will either be stipulated as part of your PGCE course offer post-interview or you can request to complete an SKE once you are holding an offer.

IMPORTANT

If you are asked to complete an SKE as part of your offer, your course must be completed before you start your PGCE programme unless you have approved mitigating circumstances (such as illness) which prevent you from doing so.

If you are given an express permission to complete your SKE after your PGCE course has commenced, you must finish your SKE before December 31st in the same year you start your PGCE.

Useful sources of information

SKE Course Directory
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/subject-knowledge-enhancement-course-directory

Get Into Teaching website
https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/subject-knowledge-enhancement-ske-courses

TES Institute
https://www.tes.com/institute/subject-knowledge-enhancement-ske

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU LIST DR. CLAIRE SMITH (Claire.e.smith@york.ac.uk) AS THE CONTACT WHEN REGISTERING WITH AN SKE PROVIDER.

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