

Become a **SUPA** teacher;  
a world of opportunities on your doorstep

Southampton University Partnership Alliance



# Welcome to SUPA teaching



On behalf of all the schools which make up the SUPA alliance, we'd like to welcome you to what we think is the most exciting teacher training route on the South Coast; your pathway to a career in secondary teaching.

Teaching is an incredibly rewarding career. It takes both empathy and intelligence to see learning through the eyes of the learner; playing a positive and inspirational role in students' lives is hugely enriching.

There isn't a better job out there.

If this sounds attractive, we offer an unbeatable package.

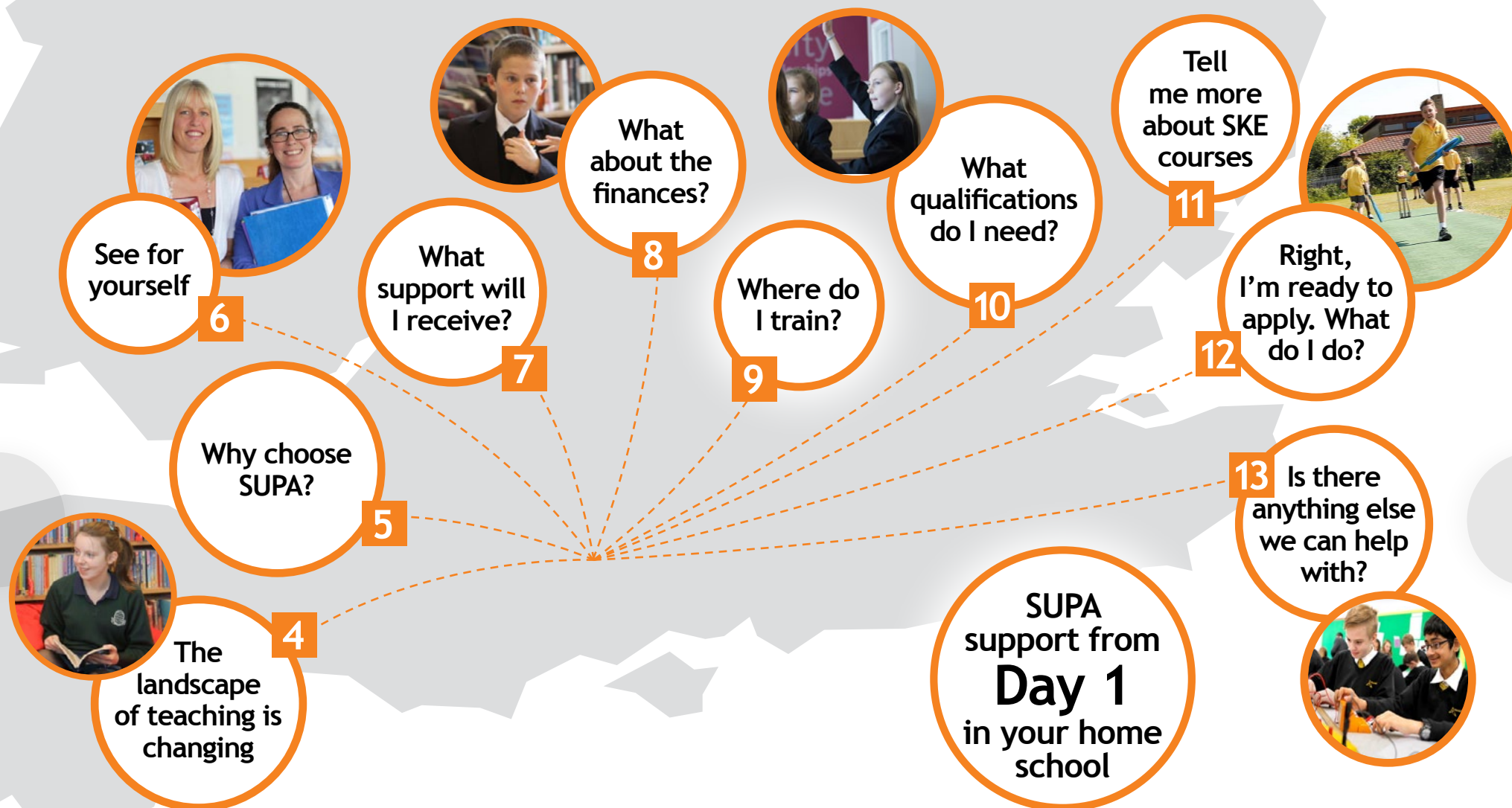
Our area, which includes Southampton, Dorset and Wiltshire is varied and stunning. Our training schools have a proven expertise in successfully developing new entrants to the profession, and we are ably supported by the world-renowned Russell Group University of Southampton.

Please read on to discover why we're so proud of what we do.

We're confident you'll find we have all the tools and experience you need to begin your career as a secondary teacher.

All the teachers and staff who make up the SUPA alliance would like to wish you good luck with your application and we hope you have a long, successful and varied career as a teacher.

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# The landscape of teaching is changing

Today, teachers find themselves in a modern, flexible profession, with well-defined career paths and rewards that match performance.

It's a fun, stimulating and creative role, with bags of variety. A classroom is one of the most exciting workplaces in the world. Every minute of every day, teachers are called on to use their management, leadership and communication skills.

Because you spend so much of your training year in the classroom, you're making a difference to students' lives from the word go.

If you're concerned you're not a 'typical' teacher, don't worry. Teaching welcomes a genuine mix of applicants. Recent graduates, people looking for second careers and returners to the job market are all being drawn to the challenge and reward of teaching.

Interested? Let's learn some more about what SUPA offers.



# Why choose SUPA?

**Southampton University Partnership Alliance (SUPA)** is a unique collaboration which combines the expertise of highly experienced teachers in secondary schools across three counties (Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire), with the renowned academic support of the education faculty at the University of Southampton.

Our training programme allows you, as a trainee teacher, to develop strong links with your home school from the very beginning, along with regular academic input from the University of Southampton - we think it's the best of both worlds.

With the SUPA experience, you will spend the first three weeks of your training in your home school. You will get to know your new colleagues, and your new school, before experiencing the work of another school for three months.

Your main practice in your home school will be from January to June. Throughout the year, you will also attend the University of Southampton with other trainee teachers. This gives you access to the best training available and to a network of trainee teachers who can support and help you.

All our home schools have a proven passion for developing new entrants into the profession. They have worked with the University of Southampton for many years and provide strong and knowledgeable guidance which will help you grow into a highly employable secondary teacher.

Once you are qualified, our trainees usually find a job locally within the alliance.



## JAMIE BIGGS

Secondary Maths School Direct trainee  
Bishop Wordsworth's School

### Why did you choose School Direct?

School Direct is a great way to train. You are based in a school from day one, working with experienced teachers and learning how a school really works. The time at the University of Southampton is also a great way of developing your practice outside the classroom. You get to meet other trainees and work alongside University staff who have great experience of the education sector.

### How was the course?

I was placed at two really contrasting schools. This provided me with real variety and I developed a range of skills which I will be able to apply throughout my career. The school based part of the course was very supportive and the University gave great guidance throughout.

### Top tip

Make sure you listen to teachers; they are willing to give you help, advice and things to try. Be brave and always be willing to try something different.

“I love being able to interact with the kids. To inspire them to be good learners and seeing that light bulb moment; it’s just fantastic.”

**Vicki Johnstone**  
**SUPA Trainee Teacher**





# What support will I receive?

## Be reassured, you're not alone.

There's no such thing as a standard applicant.

Our trainee teachers join from previous careers, straight out of University and after career breaks.

For them, and no doubt for you too, it can be a scary time. There will be the anxiety that comes with any big life decision, as well as the entirely natural concerns about whether the finances are going to add up.

You'll receive huge amounts of support from your fellow trainee teachers, the university tutors and your home school - you're part of their family now and they'll always go the extra mile for you.

The University of Southampton backs all this up with world class theory and knowledge, giving you the best start possible.



## DENISE SYMONS

St. Edmund's Girls' School Salisbury.  
Head of Physics and Leader of  
Teaching and Learning.



### How did you get into teaching?

Although I had a successful career as a Chartered Accountant, I was not happy. I knew I didn't want to be doing the same thing in 10 years.

### How was the move into the profession?

It was daunting and the journey was full of peaks and troughs, but I can honestly say that I have never regretted it.

I still use the skills I developed in my previous 'life', such as organisation, planning and data analysis. But now I also get to share my enthusiasm for my subject and encourage a passion for lifelong learning.

### What would you say to another career changer?

Teaching offers me rewards that money can't buy. Yes, the training will be hectic and probably stressful at times, but it is worth it. As a teacher no two days are the same. Your experience outside school adds depth to your teaching and enhances the learning experience of your students.

### Top tip

If you think you might be interested get in touch. There are now so many routes into teaching. You just have to ask!

## What about the finances?



We offer a one year School Direct training programme which equips you to become a secondary school teacher. Nationally, this is a popular option with trainee teachers. In 2015, over half of postgraduate initial teacher training courses were school-led.

Our trainee teachers pay £9,000 for their training.

That's a fixed cost, it's the same across the country.

The good news is there has never been a better time to train as a teacher. Depending on your qualifications, and the course you choose, there are tax-free bursaries and loans and grants available while you train.

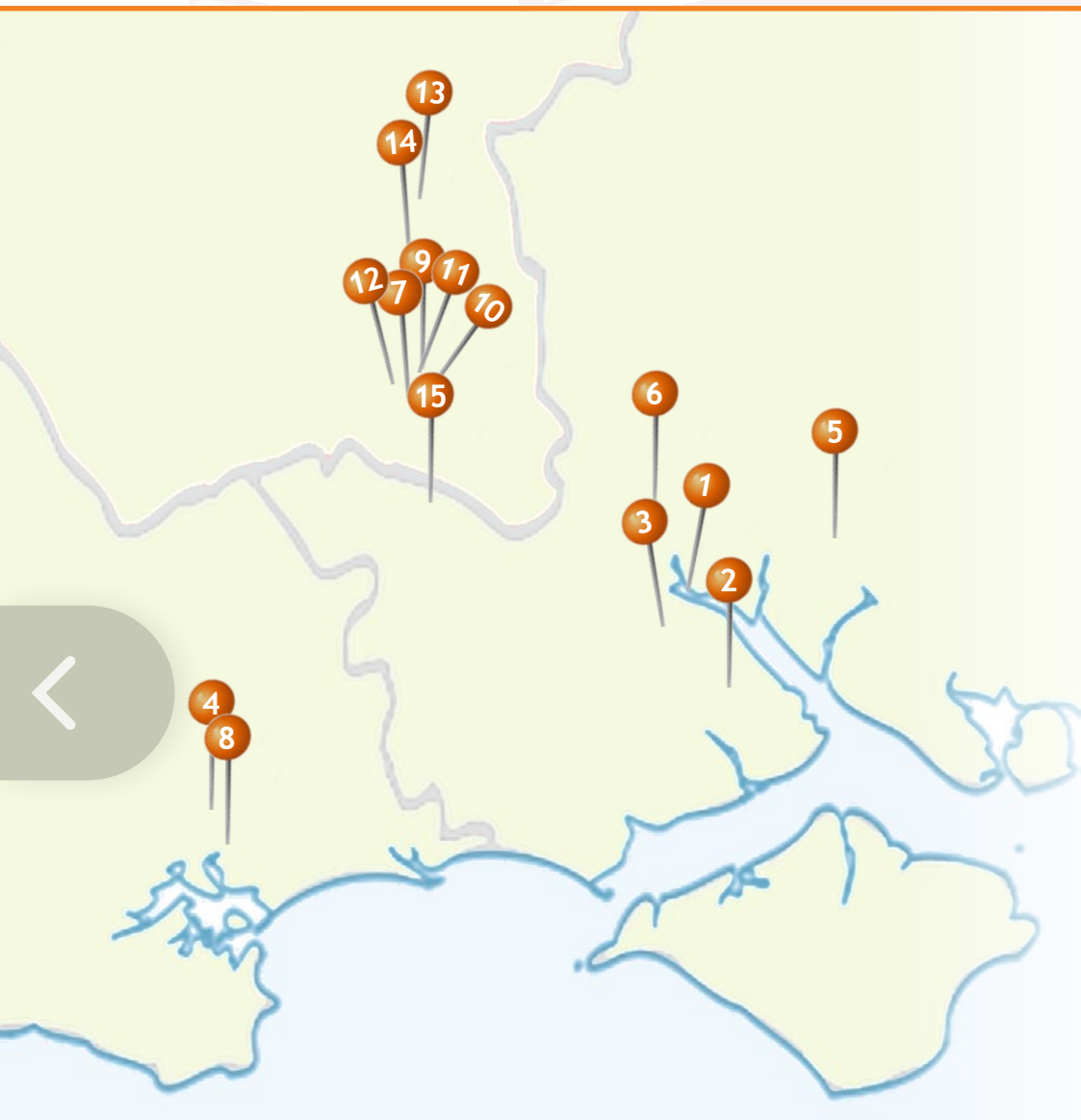
You can use this money to pay your fees and cover your living costs.

**SUPA training  
is the best  
of both worlds**

**Assistant  
Headteacher**



## Where do I train?



We offer exciting secondary school placements in your area. It helps you build contacts and connections locally and, once qualified, you're more likely to secure a job close to home.

During your training, you'll enjoy two contrasting placements, perhaps grammar and comprehensive, or maybe rural and large urban. You'll love the variety of our home schools. From inner cities to the doorsteps of National Parks. We've got it all.

We have home schools in a triangle roughly stretching between Salisbury, Southampton and Poole. You never have too far to travel, keeping costs down and allowing you to concentrate on gaining vital knowledge and experience.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <a href="#"><u>Redbridge Community School</u></a> | 10 <a href="#"><u>St Joseph's Catholic School</u></a> |
| 2 <a href="#"><u>Noadswood School</u></a>           | 11 <a href="#"><u>Wyvern College, Salisbury</u></a>   |
| 3 <a href="#"><u>Hounslow School</u></a>            | 12 <a href="#"><u>South Wilts Grammar School</u></a>  |
| 4 <a href="#"><u>Corfe Hills School</u></a>         | 13 <a href="#"><u>Avon Valley College</u></a>         |
| 5 <a href="#"><u>Wyvern College, Fair Oak</u></a>   | 14 <a href="#"><u>The Stonehenge School</u></a>       |
| 6 <a href="#"><u>The Romsey School</u></a>          | 15 <a href="#"><u>The Trafalgar School</u></a>        |
| 7 <a href="#"><u>Bishop Wordsworth's School</u></a> |   |
| 8 <a href="#"><u>Parkstone Grammar School</u></a>   |   |
| 9 <a href="#"><u>St Edmund's Girls' School</u></a>  |   |

## OK, I'm interested. What qualifications do I need?

It's really simple.

We require a minimum of:

- Grade C GCSE in maths and English, or equivalent.
- a good honours degree
- some classroom experience.

If you've got that nailed, you can submit an application via [UCAS](#).

Before you start your course with us, we'll ask you to take a professional skills tests in numeracy and literacy - that's a national requirement. All intending teachers have to pass the tests.

If you're keen but think you need a bit of subject support, a Subject Knowledge Enhancement course could be for you.

What subjects can I train in with SUPA?

Biology  
Chemistry  
Computer Science  
English  
Geography  
History  
Mathematics  
Modern Foreign Languages  
PE  
Physics  
Physics with maths





# Tell me more about Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) courses

We want to get the best teachers into our classrooms. This means supporting every trainee teacher who has the potential to deliver great lessons and inspire the next generation.

We offer opportunities, through completing a University of Southampton Subject Knowledge Enhancement course prior to your PGCE, to train to teach computer science, mathematics, biology or physics, even if you don't currently have the required qualifications or detailed knowledge.

Perhaps you have a degree that is closely related, but not identical, to your preferred subject. You might be a graduate with a relevant A-level, but not a degree in the subject you would like to teach.

Or you might need some help transferring your professional experience into a classroom environment.

Whatever the reason, a Subject Knowledge Enhancement course is ideal if you have the right qualities and enthusiasm to teach one of these subjects, but just need some additional subject support.

The courses are delivered in-house by our recognised experts, are fully funded - you won't pay tuition fees - and you may be eligible for a bursary of up to £5,600 to support you through your course.

Courses are between 12 and 28 weeks long depending on your subject, qualifications and experience.

For more information about all our PGCE courses, including SKE, visit our [website](#).





## Right, I'm ready to apply. What do I do?

Brilliant news! Welcome onboard.

Once you're sure you have the minimum entry requirements, simply visit the UCAS website and get started.

We're delighted to be helping you along the path to a new, exciting career in secondary teaching.

You'll need to quote the correct code on your UCAS application; SUPA Salisbury is 1FZ and SUPA Southampton 1ZE

The support network at the university is brilliant  
SUPA trainee teacher

### PARRIS SMALL

Current School Direct trainee teacher

#### How are you finding the course?

I have just started the SUPA PGCE course, specialising in secondary English. The course is well organised and expectations are clear. The lectures are all delivered by academics who are passionate, not only about their subject, but also about teaching generally.

#### Why did you choose SUPA and School Direct?

I liked the balance between lectures, university time, and placements. The support network is also really important - I know there is always someone I can go to for help, whether that be for advice, direction, or even if I just feel a little overwhelmed.

#### What's next for you?

I feel well prepared for my life in the classroom and can't wait to get stuck in! I feel like I am getting the highest level of training from people who genuinely love what they do which gives you the confidence you need to succeed. All the schools in the partnership are welcoming and supportive and I'm confident that I could work in any of them and have the opportunity to develop and flourish.

# Is there anything else we can help with?

**Q. There are a range of teacher training courses on offer. How would you describe this one?**

A. We offer a School Direct (Training) course. It's targeted at graduates, recent and experienced, who want to train locally to become a secondary teacher.

**Q. How much are the fees for the course?**

A. The fee is £9,000 - this is a flat fee across the country for these courses.

**Q. With a School Direct (Training) course I don't get a salary. How do I pay the fees and afford to live?**

A. You may be eligible for a tax-free bursary to help with fees and living costs. The [Department for Education](#) has more detailed information.

**Q. Is there any other financial support available?**

A. There are various other [loans and schemes](#) on offer to support you.

**Q. I have GCSE's in English and mathematics. Do I still need to do the Professional Skills Tests?**

A. Yes. All applicants are required to pass the [Professional Skills Tests](#) before they begin their training.

**Q. How is the SUPA School Direct course different to the University Led course?**

A. It offers the best of both worlds - close links with a SUPA 'home' school and the benefits of the university-led training course.

**Q. Do I need some classroom experience?**

A. Yes. We expect all our applicants to have spent about a week in a classroom. We can help you get that experience, and there is a [School Experience Programme](#) which is very useful.

**Q. Can I do the course part-time?**

A. No, they are all full-time courses.

**Q. I need to complete a personal statement. What do I include?**

A. Tell us why you want to be a teacher. Demonstrate that you understand what being a teacher is all about. Share your experiences of working with young children, what you learned from your classroom visit and what you bring to the profession.

**Q. What are your Training Provider Codes?**

A. SUPA Salisbury is 1FZ and SUPA Southampton 1ZE.

**Q. Where do I apply?**

A. You start by going to the [UCAS site](#) and search for SUPA.

**Q. Do I have to arrange my own school placement for when I train?**

A. No. We will arrange both of your placements for you.

**Q. Will I gain Masters credits?**

A. Yes. Our courses are Masters level. Most of our trainees gain 30 ECTS credits, a third of a Masters degree, from the University of Southampton. You can complete the Masters degree in your own time over the next few years.

**Q. Am I guaranteed a job at my school when I qualify?**

A. No. But every year well over 90% of our PGCEs are employed as teachers, many in our partnership schools.

**Q. I have some specific questions. Who can I talk to?**

A. We're here to help. [Contact us directly](#) - we have a wealth of experience and knowledge that we'd be delighted to share.



## SUPA Southampton University Partnership Alliance

Phone Michelle Milton - 02380 597269 (EXT 27269)

email - [SchoolDirectAdmissions@soton.ac.uk](mailto:SchoolDirectAdmissions@soton.ac.uk)

[Visit our website for more information](#)

[See our partner schools](#)



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