PRACTICE TUTOR

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY IN WALES ITE PARTNERSHIP

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION (ITE) STUDENT TEACHERS?

We're seeking to directly appoint Practice Tutors from across all our Partnership schools. Practice Tutors support students during their completion of our unique part time and employment-based routes into teaching.

Using remote teaching technology, you will benefit from being part of our professional community of teacher educators, helping our student teachers to become high-quality entrants to the profession through providing excellent support and assessment. You'll also work in partnership with schools across Wales, providing supporting and coaching opportunities to mentors.

Our innovative, blended routes into teaching seek to widen access and diversify the entrants to the teaching profession. We want our team of Tutors to be representative of our broad and diverse student cohort, so we warmly welcome applications from all parts of the community, particularly those from underrepresented groups and Welsh medium speakers.

FIND OUT MORE

Click	Job Description & Essential Criteria
Attend	Information event: 4pm, 7 Dec
Apply	Online Application Form

£150 per student teacher, per visit
Pan Wales (online role)

Job Description – Practice Tutor

Reports to: Open University ITE Partnership – Regional Senior Practice Tutor
Location: Pan Wales
Remuneration: £150 per student teacher per visit paid directly to tutor on submission of final report (average payment of £1200p.a. based on 4 student teachers per year).

About the Role

The OU ITE Partnership (Wales) is seeking to appoint Practice Tutors to support the online assessment of student teachers during their completion of the OU PGCE (Salaried and Part Time pathways) via distance learning. The role comprises of providing effective support and assessment of the student teacher in relation to the Welsh Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership and contributing to the effective quality assurance of assessments made by school-based mentors and school coordinators in OU Associate and/or Employer Partner schools. In addition, Practice Tutors lead small but powerful networks of mentors and provide coaching to support and develop mentoring provision within their cluster. Practice Tutors will work within regional clusters, supported by Senior Practice Tutors from Lead Partner Schools and OU academic leads.

To become a Practice Tutor, you should be an experienced, high-quality practitioner with a proven track record of effective teaching and learning within a Primary or Secondary school setting. You should have a strong understanding of how early career teachers learn and be able to demonstrate and apply specific pedagogical approaches relating to ITE to your practice. You should have demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the principles of the reform of ITE in Wales and be ready to apply a blend of experiential learning which helps the student to link theory and practice. You should have experience of mentoring student teachers within a school setting and be able to demonstrate a capacity to engage in effective coaching of mentors.

As a Practice Tutor you will undertake four online visits to each student in your cluster across the two years of the programme. Ordinarily, Practice Tutors may be allocated between 3-5 student teachers. You will undertake assessment of students in relation to the QTS descriptors of the Welsh Professional Standards and provide coaching to mentors within your cluster. You will also contribute to the quality assurance of students' practice learning experiences. You are a vital part of the communication chain between students, mentors and the University based Curriculum Tutors, and as we are a distance and blended PGCE programme, you will need to be ready to engage in a range of online tools to support your work, including IRIS connect to undertake your lesson observations. You will be asked to complete and submit a report on each student at the end of each module. Payments are made subject to the receipt of a high-quality report.

In return, you will have access to a programme of professional learning to support you to undertake your role effectively and to develop your own skills in relation to the Leadership standards of the Professional Standards of Teaching and Leadership. You will be supported by a Senior Practice Tutor and OU academic leads. You will have the opportunity to share practice with senior colleagues across Wales and to participate in opportunities for research and scholarship within the Partnership.

Key aims:

- To assess the student teacher in relation to the Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership, including conducting an online visit and submitting a report.
- To provide oversight of and quality assure the assessment of student teachers' practice learning experience.

- To coach mentors across schools and provide support for the effective mentoring of student teachers.

Key Responsibilities:

- Observe student teachers' practice once per module in year 1 and twice in year 2 as part of the assessment of progress towards the Professional Standards of Teaching and Leadership and provide summative feedback on the student teacher's progress
- To review the student teacher's Standards Development Profile and practice learning evidence in relation to QTS stored within their e-portfolio
- Provide additional observation/intervention in accordance with the Student Support Framework, where required
- Provide formative feedback to the student teacher which supports, challenges and guides the student teacher to critically reflect on their progress as a practitioner
- Produce a written assessment report via the student teacher's e-portfolio on each student teacher each module
- Meet with school mentors to provide support and coaching for the effective mentoring of student teachers
- Support the quality assurance of the assessment of practice learning through moderating judgements across the partnership and engaging in cluster moderation activity
- Communicate effectively using online methods to establish and maintain relationships with students and mentors within your cluster
- Make effective use of Partnership resources including the Sharepoint, VLE and the discussion forums, keeping up-to-date with regular communication and information
- To have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the OU Partnership vision for student teacher learning and to be familiar with key approaches, as well as necessary processes, as outlined in the Practice Tutor Guide
- Undertake training and engage in Partnership professional learning opportunities to support you to undertake your role effectively
- Share best practice within Practice Tutor networks at a cluster level, as well as across Partner schools pan-Wales
- Work with the Partnership to identify strengths and areas for development in programme provision relating to student teacher practice and effective mentoring

Person Specification

Skills and Experience

Essential

- A qualified, experienced teacher in the Primary or Secondary phase who holds QTS.
- Demonstrable current or recent (3 -5 years) high-quality practitioner experience, with a secure understanding of effective pedagogy and the Welsh school context
- A post-graduate qualification (e.g. Masters) in an education focused subject or commensurate senior experience
- Knowledge and understanding of the principles of Initial Teacher Education (including the reform of ITE in Wales) and an understanding of how adults learn
- Demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the Curriculum for Wales and how to support student teachers to develop a holistic, purpose-led approach

- Knowledge and understanding of the principles of evidence-based practice and the ability to apply the integration of theory to your own practice
- Knowledge and understanding of the application of the Welsh Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership
- Experience of mentoring ITE students and a strong understanding of the principles of effective mentoring and coaching
- Good communication skills, able to listen and with an ability to provide effective feedback to colleagues at different stages of the professional learning continuum
- Ability to engage with a range of distance learning tools to effectively support and assess the student teacher and support mentors

Desirable

- The ability to communicate effectively in spoken and written forms through the medium of Welsh (***highly desirable****)*
- Senior leader experience within a school setting
- The ability or the potential to engage in close-to-practice research and to support the ITE Partnership to promote and develop evidence-based approaches and through involvement in research and scholarship activity to promote effective teaching and learning

How to Apply

To apply, please complete our online application form which includes a personal statement of no more than 1000 words which evidences how you meet the essential criteria in the person specification.

You may also wish to attend our 'Becoming a Practice Tutor' event on the 07/12/21. Please register for the event here.

The Open University is an Institution that strives to create an academic climate in which diversity is embraced by maintaining and respecting the dignity, respect and civility of individuals from all backgrounds, identities, cultures and experiences. The OU PGCE programmes seek to widen participation through our social justice mission and have a key recruitment aim of diversifying the teaching profession in Wales and widening access to the teaching profession via our employment based and part time provision. We strive to recruit, retain and develop the careers of a diverse pool of students and staff, and particularly encourage applications from all underrepresented groups.

We promote diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.