



School Experience Programme

Participant FAQ

ELIGIBILITY

1. Why does the programme focus on maths, physics, chemistry and modern foreign languages teachers?

The Government set targets to ensure there is a sufficient supply of teachers in these subjects. The School Experience Programme (SEP) complements the other work of the Teaching Agency to encourage people with these degrees and an interest in teaching these subjects to apply to Initial Teacher Training (ITT).

2. If I do not meet the participant requirements, what support is available?

Teachers of other subjects are not currently eligible to participate in the SEP however they can still arrange their own school experience. Try approaching schools in your local area. They may be happy to arrange for you to spend a day or so observing one of their classes or shadowing one of their teachers. If you have more time to spare, then you could speak to a local school about becoming a regular volunteer – perhaps as a classroom assistant.

3. How will it be confirmed I can go on the SEP?

If you meet the participant requirements and have registered for the SEP the Teaching Line will call you to discuss further and arrange your initial one day placement. Please remember that placements are subject to availability and demand is high. We endeavour to match participants and schools located as close as possible but participants may be asked to travel a reasonable distance to the nearest available placement.

4. Can I only do the additional placement days in the school that I completed my initial day in?

All participants must first complete a one day placement. You and your school will then discuss and agree how many further placement days will be arranged. It is up to you to ensure you get the best out of your school experience placement and it meets your needs. Due to CRB checks, additional placement days have to be completed at the school where you undertook your one day placement.

5. How will I know if I am entitled to participate in further placement days?

All SEP participants will undertake a one day placement. Subject to the school's agreement, placements may be extended by a further nine days on the SEP. You should discuss your individual requirements with your host school and establish how many additional placement days would be appropriate.

6. Will my additional placement days be in a block placement or can these be split over a period of time?

This is between you and the school to agree, and is subject to availability.

7. I applied for SEP and meet the participant requirements but have not been offered a placement, why?

All placements are subject to availability and demand is high. If a placement cannot be arranged for you through SEP, you can still arrange your own school experience. Try contacting schools in your local area and asking if you can spend a day observing a class or shadowing a teacher. If you have more time to spare, then you could speak to a local school about becoming a regular volunteer – perhaps as a classroom assistant.

APPLICATION

1. How do I apply?

You can find out more about the SEP and register online at www.education.gov.uk/teachsep

2. How many times can I access the School Experience Programme?

Participants will only be able to access the programme once.

3. How will I know which school I've been allocated to?

As part of the registration process participants will be asked to provide details of where they wish to undertake their placement. The Teaching Line will discuss with you available schools in the area and once a placement has been booked, you will receive a confirmation email of the school's details and contacts. Where possible, placements will be arranged at a school in the local area or within reasonable travelling distance.

CRB CHECKS

1. What is a CRB check?

The CRB check searches your details against criminal records and other sources, including the Police National Computer. The check may reveal convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings. You and your school will see the results of your search. Whatever the results your school will decide on whether or not they can allow you to complete your placement.

2. Why do I need a CRB check?

Some schools will require a CRB check if you are on a placement and you will be working with young children. It is recommended that you check with your host school prior to your placement. If your school does require a CRB check they will apply for this on your behalf.

3. How long will a CRB check take?

If a CRB check is required, it could take between two to four weeks to process from being received at the Criminal Records Bureau, therefore you will most likely complete the additional placement days at a later date. It is recommended that you discuss this with your host school.

4. How much will a CRB cost?

Your host school will cover the cost of your CRB check if required.

5. Which type of CRB check is required?

Your school may or may not require a CRB check. If a CRB check is required it will either be a standard or enhanced check. For more information on CRB checks please visit www.crb.gov.uk

6. Do I need to have a CRB check before I can apply?

Not necessarily. Most schools will be happy for you to undertake your one day placement without a CRB check as long as you are accompanied at all times and have provided appropriate ID on arrival. It is recommended that you check with your host school prior to your placement. If you already have a valid CRB check, let your school know and take it with you on your one day placement.

7. I don't have the required identification; can I still go on a placement?

It is recommended that you contact your school prior to your placement to discuss what identification will be required. It is possible that you may not be able to go onto school premises without identification.

PLACEMENTS

1. What if I want to attend for more days than I have been offered?

You can only attend a SEP placement for the duration you agreed with your host school. If you feel that you need more school experience you can arrange additional days yourself. Try contacting schools in your local area.

2. What if I want to attend more days that the SEP programme and the school can accommodate them?

Any placement days above the maximum available on the SEP programme will not be funded by the Teaching Agency and will not therefore be counted as part of your SEP placement. However, you can arrange additional days with the host school outside of the SEP.

3. How will the dates of my placements be agreed?

Your initial one day placement day will be arranged by the Teaching Line in agreement with you and the host school. Once the one day placement has taken place it is between you and the school to discuss and agree any additional placement days and when these will take place.

4. What if I want to complete my placement at a different school?

Placements are subject to availability and will be arranged with schools that are registered to participate in the SEP. Please contact the Teaching Line on 0800 389 2500 to discuss further.

5. What can I expect to happen on my placement?

Every placement will be different however it is recommended that schools structure and personalise your placement to accommodate your specific requirements. It is up to you to ensure that you get the best out of your experience and it is recommended that you discuss your requirements with your school. Before your placement, identify what it is you want to achieve from the placement and what questions might support your learning.

6. What happens if I cannot attend my placement?

You should notify the school as soon as possible. You must also contact the Teaching Line on 0800 389 2500. In some circumstances placements may be re-arranged.

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