UCL Institute of Education

UCL
Centre for
Educational Leadership



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

FULLY FUNDED PLACES AVAILABLE

UCL's Excellence in Reception Teaching Programme

Supporting experienced teachers deepen their understanding of the key areas of child development.

Funded by
Department for Education

ucl.ac.uk/ioe/ertp

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

About UCL as a provider of this programme

UCL Institute of Education, ranked Number 1 in the world for Education (QS World University Rankings) for 13 consecutive years work with a number of exceptional educational organisations across the country to deliver the Early Career Training Programme and the full suite of National Professional Qualification Programmes supporting 20,000 participants each year.

> **UCL Institute of Education (UCL IOE) provides participants with professional development experience that goes above and beyond.**
>
> **Ofsted 2024**

High-quality reception teaching is the most important in-school factor in improving pupil outcomes. Using the latest early years evidence relevant to the modern classroom, this high-quality, research-informed programme, designed and delivered by early years specialists will support teachers to deepen their understanding of the key areas of child development, classroom practice, inclusive practice and partnership working.

As part of the National Professional Development suite of courses the Excellence in Reception Teaching Programme is informed by the best available research and endorsed by the Education Endowment Foundation.

About the programme

Reception teaching is a critical point in early education and can affect the long-term outcomes of children, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds. This programme will support teachers to deliver high-quality reception teaching by providing the knowledge, tools and confidence to apply innovative learning approaches.

Who is this programme for?

This programme is suitable for teachers who want to develop their reception-specific classroom pedagogy including:

- current reception teachers
- teachers moving into a reception role
- teachers who have completed their induction

Please note: this course is not suitable for teaching assistants.

What you will learn on this programme

You will learn practical strategies to improve children's outcomes, including how to:

- **Child Development**. Apply evidence-informed reception specific pedagogical

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knowledge to the classroom and establish effective communication and language development strategies.
- **Classroom Practice**. Plan appropriate curriculum and assessments and improve physical activity to develop children's well-being and motor-skills.
- **Inclusion and SEND**. Build expertise in identifying and adapting barriers to learning, ensuring every child receives the best start.
- **Transitions and Partnerships**. Build positive and collaborative relationships with parents/carers, other school professionals and external agencies and support smooth transitions for children in and out of reception.

UCL is commited to provide additional resources for people leading within a school (early years leaders/headteachers) to maxmise teachers' engagement and the impact of the programme.

How is the programme delivered?

Designed to fit around your teaching commitments, the programme will:

- be delivered locally by regional Delivery Partners and support professional dialogue within and between schools,
- blend self-directed on-line study, face-to-face sessions, webinars and reflection activities,
- be inquiry-focused to support applying knowledge into practice over time and beyond the programme,
- take two school terms to complete (minimum 24 hours).

What funding is available?

Fully funded places are available for teachers working in most `state-funded settings, including academies.

Examples of settings where funding is not available include:

- schools outside England
- independent schools

If you are not eligible for funding, you have the option to self-fund. If you choose this option, you still need to register with DfE. Once registered with DfE, they will younform if you are eligible for funding.

Find out more

Registration is now open. Programme starts in January 2027.

If you are interested in engaging with this programme please visit www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe/ertp and apply via the DfE link. If you would like more information about the programme, please email us at tte@ucl.ac.uk.

Apply for your place today: www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe/ertp

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> **The course facilitators were outstanding - combining deep subject knowledge, practical insights, and a brilliant sense of humour. Every session was rich in challenge and ideas, but what really made the course exceptional was the professional learning community they nurtured. Each session pushed my thinking, strengthened my subject knowledge, and equipped me with tools I could apply straight away.**
>
> **NPQ participant**

UCL offer the full suite of National Professional Qualifications.

Registration on DfE portal opens on 23 June 2026. Visit our NPQ page for more information and to register for your chosen programme.

