



**LIVERPOOL  
JOHN MOORES  
UNIVERSITY**



# PGCE Primary

## Primary 5 – 11 Route

- General Primary
- Primary with Mathematics
- Primary with PE

## Primary 3 – 7 Route

September 2024 Entry

# SELECTION DAY GUIDE



# WELCOME TO LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY

## Congratulations on gaining an interview.

We are delighted that your application has been successful so far and we are really looking forward to speaking with you on the Selection Day.

## Why study with us?

We are exceptionally proud of our Primary Education programme and the fantastic experience our teacher training students gain while studying at LJMU.

As an institution, LJMU has strong, long held relationships with partner schools across Greater Merseyside and the Northwest, meaning that we're able to place our students in schools that are a commutable distance from where they live. These schools work with us to give you the best possible support and training to reach your full potential as a Primary teacher.

These are some of the comments from last year's PGCE cohort:

*'I have thoroughly enjoyed the sense of community that has been encouraged throughout the course. I feel that I and many other trainees have greatly benefitted by being able to regularly share ideas and discuss difficulties with one another. I have never felt alone on this course or that I have had nobody to turn to as all trainees have been encouraged to be supportive to one another.'*

*Throughout the year I have felt fully supported personally and professionally during both of my placement experiences by both my ITT school mentor and my LJMU Liaison Tutor.*

If you have any questions about the interview process or studying at LJMU, please don't hesitate to contact the Admissions Team - [education@ljamu.ac.uk](mailto:education@ljamu.ac.uk)

Best wishes,

**Elizabeth Malone**

Programme Leader & Head of Primary Programmes

## YOUR SELECTION DAY

**Please read this document very carefully. It explains our entry procedures, gives you a good idea of what to expect and confirms how you can prepare in advance in order to be confident on the day. Although our selection process is rigorous, please do not be anxious; we are a friendly and welcoming community who genuinely want you to succeed in your choice of a career in teaching.**

Important: Interviews will be conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams. Your booking confirmation will include a Teams meeting link to join the Welcome talk which is compulsory for you to attend. You will be allocated your individual slot for your interview on the day, and you will normally receive your interview link during the Welcome talk. Please ensure you have access to Microsoft Teams.

Please ensure you have a form of photo identification at your interview e.g., passport or driving license (a provisional is also acceptable) and that you have a device you are confident that you can access Microsoft Teams on.

Please note, if you are successful, a condition of your offer will be to provide clear and legible copies / pictures of your GCSE English Language, mathematics, and science certificates (or equivalent), 2 references ([guidance for references](#)) as well as your degree if you have already completed this. You will be emailed information with a link on how to upload/send these to us once your offer has been processed. If you believe you hold an equivalent qualification, please ensure you contact the Admissions Team **prior to your Selection Day** to ensure that we accept it. It is vital we confirm that your qualification IS equivalent. We do not accept Level 2 qualifications as equivalent.

For your individual interview your name must be visible, and your camera must be turned on. You must also have your photo identification available for the start of your interview.

**Individual Interview:** You will be interviewed individually by a member of LJMU Primary team.

Each candidate is asked the same questions. We are seeking to find out why you want to teach and what qualities you feel you have to offer. We will also explore work you have undertaken in primary schools and how this has informed your understanding of the role of the Primary teacher. Each interview will last approximately 20 minutes.

All judgements of the individual interview will be based on the following criteria:

- Understanding of the full role of the primary teacher.
- Potential as a teacher in a range of school contexts.
- Communication skills, expressing views and values clearly.
- Academic ability and potential – realistic view of what the PGCE will entail.
- Resilience and perseverance.
- Awareness of the primary curriculum and of assessment in schools.
- Awareness of children's social, emotional and learning needs and their implications for teachers.

### **Preparation for the Individual Interview (All Applicants):**

With reference to the guidance below, select a text which represents quality children's literature, prepare a section to read aloud (up to a minute) and be prepared to explain your choice.

*The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education makes some key suggestions about how to choose quality books to use in the classroom with young readers.*

These **include:**

1. *We should use books written by use a range of authors which represent our diverse society. We should not rely on common texts or our own childhood favourites (however good this might be!).*
2. *Choose books with quality artwork which either complement or extend the story.*
3. *When selecting information books, select texts that present information in a variety of interesting ways.*
4. *Over time, select a range of books that reflect diversity in all ways – race, heritage, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic class, status, religion and culture. Allow children to see themselves reflected in the books at times, and through other books, to see into other worlds.*
5. *Select books that draw children in - that have a rich plot line – that make them care what is happening. Books should be emotionally appealing.*
6. *Select books with rich language.*

### **Task for Primary Mathematics Route only:**

**Prior to interview** you will need to successfully complete a short online mathematics task. Please contact Education Admissions by emailing [education@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:education@ljmu.ac.uk) to arrange this task, if you have not already completed it.

## **Interview Checklist - please make sure that:**

- Any equivalent qualifications are checked prior to you attending interview by emailing a copy of them to [education@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:education@ljmu.ac.uk) quoting the course you have applied for and your DfE Apply application number
- You have access to Microsoft teams and it is set-up on your device, with your full name visible
- You are in a suitable, quiet space and will not be interrupted
- Your device is charged, and power supply is available on the day
- You have your photographic identification ready
- You have prepared your book task for the individual interview

## **What happens after my Selection Day?**

Following your interview, we will make a decision as soon as possible as to whether we can offer you a place on the course. Our overall decision on your application is based on all elements of the assessment process. We are looking for a balance of knowledge, skills, experience and commitment, which will give us the confidence that you have the potential to complete the course and progress to a successful career in teaching.

Our Admissions Team will update DfE Apply on our decision. DfE Apply/LJMU will generate a notification to you, letting you know the University's decision. We will make a decision in as timely fashion as possible after interview.

## **Offer Conditions**

Any offer is usually conditional on your achievement of specified entry requirements. Your offer will include:

- Achieving a 2:2 or above in your honours degree (or equivalent as confirmed by NARIC for overseas qualifications). If you have already achieved your degree, we will require a copy of this\*.
- Copies of your GCSE English Language, mathematics and science certificates\* or equivalent (you must check any equivalence with us as not all are acceptable for teacher training courses).
- Two references ([Guidance for references](#))
- Obtaining a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check\*

If you are part of the DBS Update Service and have a DBS Enhanced certificate working with children, we can accept this if you send us a copy to verify. Alternatively, LJMU will contact you separately once you have made LJMU your Firm choice usually from May 2023 onwards.

- Successful completion of Medical Clearance process (LJMU will contact you separately once you have made LJMU your Firm choice usually from May 2024 onwards)

*\*You will be contacted following any offer being made with how and when this information will be required for completion and how to send this information to LJMU.*

## **DBS Check and “Fitness to Train to Teach”**

If you are successful at gaining a place on one of our teacher training courses, the receipt of an Enhanced DBS (formerly CRB) will be a condition of offer for your course. The DBS Check will be undertaken by the University and will be sent to you from May 2024 onwards.

**Please note:** All applicants for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) programmes must satisfy the Government requirements regarding ‘Fitness to Teach’. You will need to complete a Health questionnaire, which we will send to you. The LJMU Occupational Health Unit will process your form and is responsible for confirming that you are cleared for practice. On occasion this may involve an appointment with the Occupational Health Unit, which you would be required to attend.

## **Why not visit LJMU in person?**

There will be opportunities to book onto a LJMU Campus Tour to see the LJMU facilities at any stage of your application and information on how to book on will be available via your LJMU Applicant hub at: [www.ljmu.ac.uk/applicant](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/applicant)

## **USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS**

### **Education Admissions Team**

If you have any questions, please contact us:

[education@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:education@ljmu.ac.uk)

0151 231 3000

[ljmu.ac.uk/teach](http://ljmu.ac.uk/teach)

### **Accommodation**

If you require accommodation during your time with LJMU (once an offer is made and you have accepted it), please contact our Accommodation Office:

[accommodation@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@ljmu.ac.uk)

0151 231 4166

[ljmu.ac.uk/accommodation](http://ljmu.ac.uk/accommodation)

## Student Advice Team

LJMU employs staff that can offer advice and support to students and prospective students on a range of issues such as student funding and support for students with a disability, this includes any support you may need as part of the interview process.

Disability

[disability@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:disability@ljmu.ac.uk)

0151 231 3164

Funding and Money Advice

[moneyadvice@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:moneyadvice@ljmu.ac.uk)

0151 231 3153

[ljmu.ac.uk/discover/student-support](http://ljmu.ac.uk/discover/student-support)

The information in this booklet is correct at the time of production (October 2023). However, changes may inevitably occur. The University reserves the right to withdraw or make alterations to the course, modules and facilities if necessary.

