

Anticipating Practice FAQs

Q. Do I have to do my Anticipating Practice school experience during the dates you have specified in September?

A. Yes, unless there are extenuating circumstances. The dates specified in September are classed as the beginning of your PGCE programme. If there is any reason why you cannot complete this at the correct time you should contact the Partnership Office team on 01392 724841 to discuss this or email them on exeterpartner@exeter.ac.uk.

Q. If I have already had some recent school experience, do I still need to complete the Anticipating Practice school experience?

A. Yes, you will still need to do the two weeks' experience. If you are not able to arrange any school experience or are only able to arrange one of the two weeks, please contact the Partnership Office team (exeterpartner@exeter.ac.uk) who can advise further.

Q. I have completed a placement as part of the University of Exeter Learning for Teaching module, do I need to do two weeks preliminary experience?

A. Yes, the Learning for Teaching module is not designed to provide opportunities to cover the tasks that you are required to do during the Anticipating Practice school experience.

Q. Why do you need to know which schools I have arranged to visit?

A. Once you have informed us where you have arranged to visit we write to the schools to explain who you are, confirm your DBS disclosure status (if we have received it at this point) and the purpose of your visit. We also provide them with and explain the Anticipating Practice Feedback Form that they need to complete about you at the end of your visit. Afterwards we also write to the schools to thank them.

Q. How can I find out the contact details for schools in my area?

A. It is your responsibility to arrange your Anticipating Practice school experience. We advise you to look at school websites in your area. You may find the Department for Education's register of educational establishments in England and Wales helpful (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-information-about-schools>).

Q. How soon should I make these arrangements with the schools?

A. As soon as possible. Schools are very busy places and it may take them some time to respond to your request. The closer it gets to the end of term, the more 'rushed' schools become and the less likely to be able to deal with your request.

Q. I haven't arranged my Anticipating Practice school experience yet and now the schools are closed for the summer. What shall I do?

A. Large numbers of schools (particularly secondary) are open throughout the summer and so secretarial staff may be able to pass your enquiry on. Write to the schools as soon as possible and follow your letter up by telephone at the start of the autumn term (remember staff often start back a few days earlier than pupils).

Q. (Secondary PGCE applicants only) I've been accepted onto the Secondary PGCE programme. Why do I have to do a week in a primary school?

A. It is a requirement of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) that you are familiar with key stages either side of the ones you are training in. Spending time in a primary setting will give you a valuable insight into secondary pupils' prior education experience.

Q. (Primary PGCE applicants only) I've been accepted onto the Primary PGCE programme. Why do I have to do a week in a secondary school?

A. It is a requirement of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) that you are familiar with key stages either side of the ones you are training in. Spending time in a secondary setting will give you a valuable insight into primary pupils' transition into secondary education.

Q. Do I have to do my Anticipating Practice school experience in England?

A. You can do your Anticipating Practice school experience outside of England but should carry out the tasks with reference to local curricula and related policies. You should then reflect how these policies/practices compare with the English curriculum and policies.

Q. Can I do my Anticipating Practice school experience at an Independent school?

A. No. You need to be well acquainted with the ways in which schools deliver the National Curriculum and this is most commonly seen in state schools. The only exception to this is if you are arranging school visits in a country that does not have state education provision.

Q. Can I go to the school I went to as a pupil?

A. It would be of greater benefit to you if you didn't. We would advise you to gain as wide a range of educational experiences as possible and therefore suggest you try to find a school where the experience will be very different from your own schooling.

Q. I've now been allocated my main school-based work placements. Can I arrange my Anticipating Practice school experience in one of these schools?

A. Again, it would be of greater benefit to you if you didn't. We would advise you to gain as wide a range of educational experiences as possible and therefore suggest you try to find a school where the experience will be very different from your school-based work placements. If, however, you arrange your school experience and **later** find that it is one of your placement schools, there is no need to find another school.