



BA (Hons) in Secondary Education (Maths and SEND)

For teaching assistants and others
supporting teaching and learning
in schools

For the **2026** start

BA (Hons) in Secondary Education (Maths and SEND)

This three-year course is aimed at those without a degree working in schools who want to become teachers. Those applying are likely to be teaching assistants, lab and IT technicians, and sixth formers who have been offered a teaching assistant job after A-levels. It can also be suitable for those whose degree was awarded overseas yet is not recognised as an equivalent to a UK university degree.

Once students have the degree they will need to take the one-year Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) course which is a requirement of many schools in England. This can be free-of-charge at The University of Buckingham via the apprenticeship route.



About the course

This is a three-year course involving 10+ hours of work every week. You have to find that time in the evenings, weekends and holidays.

Start date | **June 2026** (*the compulsory induction day is in June 2026, online*)

This degree has many significant advantages:

- › It enables students to work in a paid full or part-time job while taking the course.
- › The course is online, which enables participants to work and complete tasks at times they can manage.
- › The course materials are written by academics and leading maths teachers in England.
- › The course is excellent value. Every student will need to find out whether their employer is happy to pay, or whether they will take a student loan.
- › Each student is provided with a Chromebook for their personal use.
- › All students have a University of Buckingham tutor, who supports them throughout the course.
- › The degree course is integrated with every student's work because much of the study is based on them reflecting on their setting and what happens there.
- › We have been running a BA for teaching assistants in primary schools for the past three years on the same model, and it works well.
- › For students living in England, the BA can be followed by the 12-month Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) course at The University of Buckingham which is free of charge (at the time of writing) because it is paid, through your employer, by the apprenticeship levy. QTS is needed to teach in many schools in England.

In addition to their contracted hours of work, students will need to be able to commit approximately 10-12 hours per week to the necessary reading and writing for this course.

Overseas applicants should know that the course content is about secondary schools in England only. You will not be eligible for the apprenticeship-funded QTS course but can apply for the International QTS course for which there is a fee.

Course dates

Application deadline | **May 2026**

Course Welcome Webinar | **June 2026**

Course end date | **July 2029**



Entry requirements

- › Applicants must be in employment in a secondary school or other setting with secondary age students – characteristically for at least two days per week in term time. The school/setting concerned will need to write a letter supporting an application.
- › Applicants cannot have a UK university degree already.
- › Two A-levels or equivalents (overseas qualifications must be checked through UK ENIC to show they are the same standard as British A-levels).
- › GCSE Mathematics at grade C (4/5) and above.
- › Complete a successful interview with a member of the Faculty of Education.
- › It is not a requirement for the BA, but to apply for a place on a QTS course you must have a pass in GCSE English and maths (C grade/grade 4 or above) or an equivalent.
- › Overseas applicants must have a good standard of written English and have an IELTS score of **6.5** or above or have completed some of their education in English.
- › Sixth formers who are taking A-Levels may apply. Any offer made will be conditional.

Those who wish to apply for the BA but who do not have two A-levels, or who wish to improve their academic writing skill, should take the 14-week academic writing course we offer. It starts in January 2026 and will cost **£480** including VAT. Those who do not have two A-levels will be assessed at the end of the course and will either be permitted to apply for the BA or not.



Course structure

There are 10 modules of 30 credits each, and a final 60 credit **Enquiry module**. To help make the course appropriately progressive in terms of academic challenge, in Year 1 the four modules will be at **Level 4**, in Year 2 at **Level 5** and Year 3 at **Level 6**. The syllabus will be subject to revision but currently includes:

Year 1

- Module 1.1** Child development
 - 1.2** The purposes of education and approaches to learning
- Module 2.1** School organisation and regulation
 - 2.2** Quality secondary education
- Module 3.1** The science of learning
 - 3.2** Introduction to learning needs
- Module 4.1** The role of mathematics in the National Curriculum
 - 4.2** Successful learning in mathematics

Year 2

- Module 5.1** Child development and barriers to learning
 - 5.2** Classroom culture and managing behaviour
- Module 6.1** Transition from KS2 to KS3 - core concepts
 - 6.2** Core concepts of KS3 mathematics
- Module 7.1** Mathematics at KS3 - application of pedagogies
 - 7.2** Mathematical thinking
- Module 8.1** Mathematics at GCSE
 - 8.2** Mathematics beyond

Year 3

- Module 9.1** Understanding SEND in depth
 - 9.2** Supporting SEND
- Module 10.1** Becoming an effective teacher
 - 10.2** Managing challenging behaviour
- Module 11** Enquiry Module - a research-based assignment

Students will access a range of learning materials to work through and will be assessed based on three assignments per module. These assignments will be based on students' study and require them to link this to their in-school/setting observations and experiences. The final **Enquiry module** is assessed and will involve a longer, research-based assignment on an area of your choice from the programme. It will involve a literature review of 2,000 words and a research project of 6,000 words, written over two terms.



Course fees

Start	Type	1st Year	Total cost
June 2026	UK	£6,000	£18,000
June 2026	INT	£6,000	£18,000

- › The course is full time for three years.
- › A non-refundable registration fee of **£300** is also payable.
- › There is a limit to the numbers on this course so early applications are advised.
- › UK students can apply for student finance once accepted onto the course.
- › Bursaries can be available on application.

