

Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) FAQ's

What is an SKE?

The School of Education at Liverpool Hope University offers fully funded Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) courses to anyone with a conditional place on a PGCE Secondary Course.

SKE courses are designed to help potential Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees gain the depth of subject knowledge needed to train to teach their chosen subject prior to, or alongside, undertaking a teacher training programme.

How do I gain a funded place on the course?

The DfE's entry criteria stipulates:

Participants must have accepted a conditional offer of a place on an eligible ITT course via Apply (which may be a deferred ITT place) or received a recommendation of SKE via a High Potential Initial Teacher Training (HPITT) provider. The completion of an SKE course must be a specific condition of the ITT offer (or recommendation in the case of HPITT).

Applicants need to have achieved (or working towards) at least a 2:2 in their degree. Applicants who have a degree in their chosen ITT subject awarded in the previous 5 years are not eligible for a funded SKE course.

Evidence of the candidates' eligibility to receive DfE funding, i.e., proof of home status for the purpose of drawing down student finance will be required.

Can I do an SKE alongside my ITT course?

SKE courses can be done in parallel with an ITT course. Please note that here at Liverpool Hope University we do not normally recommend/offer this as a route due to the volume of work on your ITT programme. You cannot receive an SKE bursary alongside an ITT bursary.

Can I study the SKE full time or part time?

SKE's can be studied full or part time but this will depend on the start date of your SKE. A full time SKE is 25 hours per week a part time SKE is 12.5 hours per week. Please see start dates for more information.

What are the start dates for the course?

Full Time (25 hours of learning per week)

- Wednesday 1st October
- Wednesday 5th November
- Wednesday 3rd December
- Wednesday 7th January
- Wednesday 4th February
- Wednesday 4th March (8, 12, 16, 20, 24 week only)
- Wednesday 1st April (8, 12, 16, 20 week only)
- Wednesday 6th May (8, 12, 16 week only)
- Wednesday 3rd June (12 and 8 week only)
- Wednesday 1st July (8 week only)



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Part Time (12.5 hours of learning per week)

- Wednesday 1st October (8, 12, 16, 20, 24 week only)
- Wednesday 5th November (8, 12, 16, 20 week only)
- Wednesday 3rd December (8, 12, 16 week only)
- Wednesday 7th January (8, 12, 16 week only)
- Wednesday 4th February (8, 12 week only)
- Wednesday 4th March (8 and 12 week only)
- Wednesday 1st April (8 week only)
- Wednesday 1st May (8 week only)

Start dates can be adjusted to suit individual needs

Will my SKE be funded by the DfE?

If you meet the DfE entry requirements your application will be sent to the DfE for funding approval. Once we are informed if funding has been approved we will inform you.

What does my ITT provider need to include in my offer letter?

Your ITT provider will need to confirm that you have been given an SKE as a condition of your ITT offer and provide the length and subject of the SKE, they will also need to complete a referral form which can be requested from SKE@hope.ac.uk.

I have not yet completed my degree, will I still be entitled to funding?

If you have not yet completed your degree you will need to provide an email from your current tutor to confirm your predicted grade (this needs to be a 2:2 or above) to meet the DfE entry requirements. Once you have confirmation of your degree you will need to email this to SKE@hope.ac.uk and your bursary will be released if you have been awarded a 2:2 or above.

I am an international applicant, am I entitled to funding?

International students are eligible for funding in MFL and Physics SKE courses only.

When will I receive my bursary

Once the DfE have confirmed your funding we will release your SKE bursary on a monthly basis. You will be required to submit your timesheet, using the Vidlearn online platform, on a monthly basis and inform SKE@hope.ac.uk before the 1st of each month with the total number hours you have submitted. If you have submitted the required number of hours (full time - 25 hours a week, part time 12.5 hours) your bursary will be released in monthly instalments.

What If I am not meeting the required monthly hours?

If you are not meeting the required hours we may pause your training bursary until the required hours are submitted. You may also be asked to submit an extension form if you anticipate or have missed deadlines. We may contact your ITT provider if we have concerns of your progress on the SKE.

How is the course delivered?

Our SKE courses are fully online and you work on the course at a time that suits you. You will have your own Liverpool Hope University tutor that you can contact for support during your course. For MFL courses you will be required to complete a spoken component in your SKE language.

How do I access the course?

Our SKE's are fully online using the online learning platform Vidlearn. Once your application has been accepted you will be given a Vidlearn log-in to access your SKE.

How will my progress be measured once on course?

The first task you will be required to complete on your SKE is the initial audit and multiple-choice questionnaire, you will be asked to complete another audit at the end of the course to measure your progress.

How is the course assessed?

Online assessments are taken at the beginning and end of each core module then at the end of the Module, after you have revised and feel ready, you can retake the Assessment. We expect all trainees to make a significant improvement between their first and second assessment takes, and you should aim to achieve at least 80% for your second assessment. You will also be asked to take Subject Knowledge Audits at the beginning and end of each module and there is usually one assignment per core module to submit where you get the chance to evidence your study by reflecting on the module and summarising the topic.

MFL students are also required to complete a verbal baseline assessment with their tutor.

When will I receive feedback on my work?

Work will be marked within ten working days of submission. Feedback may take longer over University closure periods (i.e. Christmas and Easter periods).

Will I have a tutor I can contact for support?

You will have your own Liverpool Hope University tutor that you can contact for support during your course.

Can I fail the SKE?

You will need to pass all audits, submit all required assignments and hours to successfully complete your SKE.

Will my ITT provider be informed that I have completed the SKE?

On successful completion of your SKE we will email you a certificate to confirm you have passed your SKE. You can forward this certificate to your SKE provider to confirm successful completion of the course.

What certification will I receive once I have completed the course?

Once you have passed the course you will receive a certificate to confirm you have passed your SKE. You will also be able to download an end of course statement from your online platform, Vidlearn, once you have completed the course.

Will I still have access to online materials once I have completed the course?

You will have access to your online platform, Vidlearn, until the August after you have completed your SKE (normally a year after completion).

I am a current teacher, Is an SKE suitable for me?

Yes, we offer an SKE for current teachers please see more details at www.hope.ac.uk/education/subjectknowledgeenhancement/

If you require further information please email SKE@hope.ac.uk