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Segment Title: Suggestions from the Citizenship community

Title: Applying to the PGCE

Intro: In this new segment we will present tips from the subject community, in this first piece Amit and Hans give tips to pass on to those you know might want to apply to train to be teacher in Citizenship.

Article Begins (Short article).

Applications for teacher education programmes opened on 11th October. There are a few places that you can apply to do Citizenship, Kingston, IOE, UCL's Faculty of Education and Society, Sheffield Hallam, Bishops Grosseteste in Lincoln, Harris Federation and other SCITTS. There is load of advice you can get by emailing the course leaders and hearing from alumni. But make sure that when preparing your application you write about all your roles, your volunteering and active citizenship, that you research the programme and make clear indication why you want to teach citizenship education. Have two referees and get all your documents to hand. If you get through that stage when you are preparing for a PGCE interview ensure you have a clear rationale as to *why* you want to become a teacher. Surprisingly, this is an answer that candidates often do not answer well at interview. We hear things like – I get on well with teenagers, or I have always wanted to be a teacher, lastly wanting to share your degree knowledge with students is not a good enough response. Teaching is a demanding. In order to keep up with the demands of teaching it means devoting the next few years of your working life sometimes including evenings and weekends to your craft. At interview, we want to be convinced that teaching is something that matters deeply to you, as this will anchor you in the waves of demands that training to teach presents. This might be a social justice disposition, a subject centred disposition or perhaps both. Our advice would be to take time to deeply think about why it is you want to become a teacher, what is it that draws you to the profession and then advocate that case throughout your application. Remember to read about the subject and contact us about your questions. Good luck!