

What should I look for in a good pre-training geography school experience?

Think about spending the equivalent of two weeks in schools and during this time you should look for opportunities to:

- see a range of different geography lessons and age groups being taught and discuss them afterwards with the geography teacher
- observe lessons that use different teaching methods and styles, such as discussion, questioning, explaining, geographical enquiry, decision making activities, role play; observe whole class teaching as well as lessons where pupils work in groups
- find out how different resources play an important role in geography teaching, e.g. maps, video, photos, IT, fieldwork, GIS
- interact with pupils in lessons, such as working with a small group or helping individual pupils
- talk to pupils about their geography lessons and what excites them in geography
- meet with geography teachers to ask questions about being a geography teacher and discuss what they consider to be good geography teaching
- find out about the geography National Curriculum and the current GCSE and AL syllabuses and the expectations for pupils studying geography in schools today
- shadow a pupil for a day, to find out their experiences in other lessons as well as geography and discuss what you observe with a geography teacher
- shadow the geography head of department to find out what “a day in their life” is like;
- join geography teachers in a department meeting
- have a go at marking some pupils’ work (photocopies not the originals)
- talk to the person in charge of teacher training in the school, to find out what ITE training in school involves
- meet any trainees in the school who are training to teach geography, to discuss their experiences of training
- discuss with the geography teachers their views on the different routes into teaching.

(Last updated July 2016)