



DUBAI COLLEGE
A tradition of quality in education

Teacher of Biology *with General Science in Years 7 and 8*

Required for September 2018

Vacancy Information



Teacher of Biology *with General Science in Years 7 and 8*

The Post

The College is seeking to appoint a lively, enthusiastic and highly committed Teacher of Biology and Key Stage 3 Science to this thriving and successful department. As a teacher at Dubai College you will be expected to monitor, assess and evaluate the learning which is taking place and then report the findings to students and parents and adapt your teaching accordingly. You will also take responsibility for your own professional development and actively seek out opportunities in order to contribute to your own professional growth with support from the College. Finally you will also recognise that your role extends far beyond the classroom: you will be expected to be a form tutor to an assigned group of students, contribute to the school's PSHE programme through Enrichment Days, tutor time and class assemblies, as well as lead at least one extra-curricular activity per week and participate in one whole-school event in an evening or on a weekend at least once per term.

All applicants must:

be a graduate in Biology or a closely related subject with experience of teaching all ages and abilities up to and including GCSE, AS and A Level

have Qualified Teacher Status and a minimum of two-years teaching experience post qualification

have experience of teaching Biology in a British curriculum school

be up to date with current changes in the curriculum and be prepared in the implementation of those changes

In addition the successful candidate will:

be expected to teach Biology throughout Key Stages 3 to 5 and be able to stretch the most able students and support all students

be able to demonstrate excellent skills in classroom practice using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies

be an enthusiastic, creative and innovative teacher with a genuine love of the subject, who can motivate

and inspire students using a wide range of teaching strategies

be fully aware of Assessment for Learning and include AFL as an integral part of classroom practice

be able to work as a member of a team and to contribute to the further development of the department

be committed to their own professional development, and in particular to the integration of digital skills as a tool for teaching and learning

ensure the delivery of Biology conforms to the school health and safety policy

involve themselves fully in the College's extracurricular programme

The Department

The Science Department plays an essential role in the life of the school and future careers in science are highly respected and desired by students and parents alike. The Department consists of sixteen full time teachers along with four qualified and experienced technicians. Facilities are exceptional, with the Science Department occupying its own block of sixteen full sized laboratories, four prep rooms, a food technology lab, a computer lab, an optics lab and several ancillary rooms. The Department is extremely well equipped with practical teaching being the norm. The Science Department plays a key role in the co-curricular activities and runs an Environmental Club, F1 in Schools teams, Science weeks and clubs, and overseas trips to Space Camp.

The Science Department at Dubai College has an outstanding record of achievement at both GCSE and A Level. The Department is a very effective one, providing a stimulating and successful grounding in all three sciences. All GCSE students study the three sciences separately and begin these courses at the start of Year 9. The sciences are very popular at A Level.

In Years 7 & 8, students are taught in their tutor groups with a single Science teacher teaching the whole

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specification. In Year 9 onwards, students embark on their GCSE courses in Biology (Edexcel 1BIO), Chemistry (Edexcel 1CHO) and Physics (Edexcel 1PHO). Students are taught in sets based upon their academic ability. In Year 9 the students are taught in blocks with each subject containing a module of approximately twenty hours. In Years 10 & 11 the students receive two hours per week in each of the three sciences. In Years 9 to 11 the subjects are taught by specialist teachers. A practical/investigative approach is used whenever possible. Examination results have been excellent in the Science GCSE courses with 90% of students achieving A*/A grades.

A Level Biology is a popular subject with almost sixty students in five separate classes studying the subject at AS Level. The course followed is the Edexcel GCE in Biology A (Salters Nuffield 9BNo). The course contains a considerable amount of practical work which allows us to provide our students with the skills that they require to study science in higher education. Examination results are excellent with 54% of students achieving an A*/A Grade.

Teachers aim to add to pupils' experiences and broaden their horizons, promoting a genuine enjoyment of academic study through the delivery of a challenging and stimulating curriculum. Activities within the department include preparing students for the UK Biology Olympiad and Biology 'Top Up' lessons that aim to prepare students for the best and most academic universities across the world. In addition, we have students studying Psychology as an extra lesson. The successful candidate will be expected to implement and build upon existing departmental policies and be an active participant in further improvements to the quality of learning and teaching.

The College

Dubai College is an independent, coeducational, not-for-profit, selective school following an adapted English National Curriculum. The College was established forty

years ago and has a national and international reputation for the quality of its educational environment. The British Schools Overseas inspection of the College (conducted in January 2016) classified the school as 'Outstanding' stating 'It represents the very best of British education whilst, at the same time, respecting and celebrating the local culture in Dubai'. The key strengths of the school were identified as the progress and attainment of the students; the teaching, learning and assessment; the curriculum; relationships across the school and sense of community; personal development of the students and leadership across the school. The number of students on roll is currently 920 and comprises students in the 11 to 18 year age range with more than 250 in the Sixth Form. The College operates an eight form intake of 160 students in Year 7. Approximately 55% of the students are British, but over forty additional nationalities are represented.

The GCSE and A Level courses followed are those of one of four examination boards (Edexcel, AQA, WJEC and OCR). Examination results at both GCSE and A Level are consistently outstanding and place the College in the very highest echelons of English-curriculum schools worldwide. In 2017 Dubai College's GCSE performance was comparable to the 9th best UK co-educational independent school according to The Times UK Independent Schools League Tables 2017. Our consistently good A Level results mean that up to 28% of Dubai College leavers now go on to study at the top 1% of universities worldwide (according to The Times Global Reputation Rankings). We are yet again the top performing school in the United Arab Emirates achieving 85% A*/A grades at GCSE and 60% A*/A grades at A Level in 2017.

Classes are small and the facilities, resources and teaching environment are of a high quality. We place an emphasis on academic rigour and innovative learning approaches as well as stressing the importance of the flourishing extra-curricular programme. The College has developed a very strong regional and international reputation for Drama, Music and Sport. The College is also a member of HMC, COBIS (Council of British International Schools)

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and BSME (British Schools of the Middle East). There are also good opportunities for professional development.

The College occupies a very pleasant site (located very near to the iconic Burj Al Arab and Palm Island developments) and attracts students from the whole city. Over the years excellent facilities have been developed. Nearly all rooms have interactive whiteboards and there are extensive computer facilities throughout the school. The College is fortunate in having its grass playing fields and other sports facilities located on site. We have a state-of-the-art auditorium which is capable of seating over 900, the Sixth Form centre underwent significant expansion and redevelopment in 2014 and this year we have opened a new extension to the science block reasserting its position at the heart of the school. A new sports pavilion was completed in 2015 and we are about to embark upon the systematic overhaul of every classroom in the school.

Ethos

As a College we are aiming to engineer balance in the lives of students who are academically very gifted. There is no blueprint for a Dubai College student rather we are aiming for students to discover for themselves who they are and who they want to be. By creating a wealth of opportunities for students to participate in as broad a range of experiences as possible whether they are sporting, creative, philanthropic or academic, we are enabling them to discover their own place within the school community and in time within the world outside. We never lose sight of the fact that our academically gifted students aspire to perform as well as possible in public examinations and we continuously champion the academic. However, the ability to work as a member of a team, to manage set-backs and failure and to recognise personal strengths and weaknesses will be as important in enabling them to live their life with integrity and is consequently a core focus of what we do here. As a result our students leave us as confident individuals with the knowledge, skill set and outlook to succeed at the very best universities and eventually in their chosen, often

very challenging, career paths.

When asked what standards we expect of one another as professionals DC staff demonstrate a real sense of vocation, that working at Dubai College is not a job but a lifestyle choice. Teachers believe strongly that they should be able to fulfil their academic responsibilities to their students and must be accountable for the outcomes of every one of their students. The next most important expectation of staff at Dubai College is that they should embrace whole school life and contribute fully to the extra-curricular programme both during and after school hours. Working at Dubai College is intense; it is not a 9-5 job and for it to continue to feel like a real community staff must be willing to give freely of their time in exchange for working with exceptionally gifted students. Staff believe they should also display excellent professional courtesy to one another and their students: every subject is on the timetable for a reason and no-one should speak out of turn about somebody else's academic discipline; we work in an Islamic country and staff should dress professionally in line with cultural sensitivities and staff should treat one another and their students as they would hope to be treated themselves. Staff also feel that they each have a responsibility to go beyond the baseline: the national curriculum is a jumping off point not an end goal, an exam syllabus is a dot to be joined up to a bigger picture, the working day is the start but not the end of a day's work, an ALIS prediction is a minimum for a student to achieve. As practitioners staff feel they should be looking to develop, to enthuse, to inspire, they should be craftsmen with a passion for their subject and whatever their position in the school they feel they all ought to feel equally responsible for the outcomes of the College. As members of a school which feels more like an extended family than an institution we hope to educate well-mannered citizens who are empowered to fulfil their aspirations. The "not-for-profit" structure of our organisation perfectly embodies our ethos: everything is invested in the school and the students with nothing left over.

While this all sounds ideal it is important to understand,

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however, that Dubai College is not perfect. The post itself is an extremely challenging one and the College is tremendously busy. If you dislike hard work – sacrificing many weekends and evenings for the sake of the students – and are concerned by teaching highly able, intellectually demanding students, this post is simply not for you. Equally it must be clearly understood that the College is passing through a significant period of change and we are in a new phase of the College's development cycle. We are updating our learning approaches, facilities, policies, curriculum and IT capability. The successful applicant must both embrace and play their significant part in contributing to this change but without damaging, in any way, the core essential ethos of the school. It should be noted that, although we certainly embrace change, we do not run with every innovation emanating from the UK – we cherry-pick initiatives that suit our selective and highly able student body.

The College really does have a great feel about it. It already has an exceptionally strong local and regional reputation and now is the time for us to be recognised as a centre of excellence on the global stage. If you feel you have the potential to contribute to this aim then we would very much like to hear from you.

Remuneration

Dubai College offers an excellent remuneration package and the opportunity to work with our dynamic, highly qualified team in very pleasant surroundings with excellent facilities. The package will be discussed at interview.

How to apply

Applications should be sent by email to headassist@dubaicollege.org using the application form available on our website. The deadline for applications is Thursday 23rd November with interviews planned for Monday 27th to Thursday 30th November 2017. For further details about the College please visit our website - www.dubaicollege.org.

Dubai College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and operates child protection screening which includes checks with previous employers and Disclosure & Barring checks







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