Highly respected route into teaching for graduates
Kingston School Direct Alliance is led by Coombe Girls’ School working with two accrediting providers, the UCL Institute of Education and Goldsmiths College (University of London). There are fifteen schools in the partnership, all located within, or nearby, the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon-Thames.

The borough of Kingston-Upon-Thames is approximately 30 minutes from central London by train, and has a well-developed transport network. The borough is compact, meaning that travel between any of our schools is easy. The town has an attractive riverside quarter, a large shopping district and is located near Richmond Park, Wimbledon Common and Hampton Court Palace. Our region has a number of major employers with which the partnership works to provide genuine employment links and experiences for students and staff.

The schools in our partnership are:

- Coombe Girls’ School (Lead School)
- Coombe Boys’ School
- Burlington Junior School
- Chessington Community College
- Coombe Hill Junior School
- Green Lane Primary & Nursery School
- King’s College School (Wimbledon)
- Knollmead Primary School
- Richard Challoner School
- Rosebery School (Epsom)
- Southborough High School
- The Holy Cross School
- The Tiffin School
- The Tiffin Girls’ School
- Tolworth Girls’ School

For further information, please see the school or partner HEI websites:

- UCL Institute of Education
  www.ioe.ac.uk
- Goldsmiths University
  www.gold.ac.uk
School Direct is a route into teaching which enables graduates to choose the schools where training takes place with an expectation of employment once the programme is successfully completed.

School Direct offers you the opportunity to spend the majority of time in school, learning directly from experienced professionals whilst also having designated time to undertake additional development opportunities in preparation for becoming a highly qualified and skilled professional.
Girls’ School leads a unique School Direct partnership between fifteen schools in Kingston-Upon-Thames, southwest London, one of England’s top performing local authorities. Our partnership aims to create a caring and vibrant environment, in which trainee teachers can develop their teaching expertise, knowledge and skills while feeling valued and supported by expert professionals and inspirational leaders. The Kingston School Direct Alliance embraces excellence. The lead school, Coombe Girls’ School was judged by Ofsted to be outstanding in every category at its last inspection in May 2013 and was re-accredited by the British Council in September 2013 as an International School with the Full Award.

The Kingston School Direct Alliance provides a unique opportunity to trainees due to the diversity of their provision, offering trainee teachers access to a diverse and contrasting range of teaching practices and training environments. For example, the secondary partnership includes co-educational schools, all girls and all boys schools. In addition, two of our schools are selective grammar schools, others are non-selective and one is an independent school. In all our schools there are opportunities to develop post-16 teaching practice. The schools in Kingston-Upon-Thames enjoy a highly valued reputation within our local community, many of them oversubscribed due to the competitive, high-performing profile of our borough. Students are happy, friendly, confident, ambitious and well-behaved. Results show that many consistently outperform their national peers and make significantly more progress. All our schools are judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.

In our schools we have dedicated, highly skilled teachers with a proven track record in training and professional development. Our teachers are excellent practitioners with exemplary teaching and behaviour management skills. They are committed to sharing their skills, knowledge and practice with the next generation of teachers.
On all our programmes, we are looking for ambitious trainee teachers who are passionate and enthusiastic about their subject. You will have a real desire to share this with young people of all abilities, needs and backgrounds at secondary level. You will ideally have some experience of working with young people, perhaps through volunteer work, young clubs, sports teams or charities. We would like you to have carried out some classroom observation, or you may have even worked in a school in some capacity.

For subject-specific entry criteria please see the Coombe Girls’ School or UCAS Website.
Coombe Girls’ School, as the lead school in the partnership, will co-ordinate the recruitment process. Following successful shortlisting, you will be invited to an interview day in school; this may include an individual interview, a presentation task, leading part of a lesson, a subject knowledge assessment and a written task. This will also be an opportunity for you to learn about the training programme and partnership, see the school and talk to some staff and pupils. The process will be rigorous and will enable us to assess your potential for the teaching profession and to identify strengths and weaknesses for you to begin to address.

If you are successful at the school interview, our university partner will complete the final stage of the interview process which could include a day at the HEI and/or final qualification checks and a potential opportunity to learn more about the PGCE course, the tutors and the facilities at the HEI.
Minimum degree required: Lower Second (non-salaried)  
Upper Second (salaried)

Higher education/ degree qualifications
Primary and secondary PGCE programmes are open to candidates who will hold a relevant degree by the time they start the PGCE.

GCSE requirements
Secondary PGCE applicants must have a GCSE pass (grade A* to C) in both English language and mathematics, or in approved equivalent examinations, by the time they start the PGCE. Primary applicants must also have a GCSE pass in science.

Skills tests
You must also currently pass two computer-based skills tests, set by the National College for Teaching and Leadership, in numeracy and literacy prior to confirmation of your place on the programme.

Proficiency in English
It is vital that you are able to use and understand English well. Without this ability, you will find it difficult to follow lectures, participate in tutorials, and teach classes in your placement schools or colleges. If English is not your first language, you will have to demonstrate a satisfactory level of English language proficiency. For initial teacher training programmes, we currently accept the following evidence of satisfactory competence: IELTS (International English Language Testing System) Minimum overall score 7.0 (with score of no lower than 6.0 for writing and 6.5 for reading) TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) 650 in the paper-based test 280 in the computerised test 114 in the internet-based test Cambridge Certificate in the Proficiency of English Grade A or B.

Medical fitness
Teaching is physically and mentally demanding, and there are fitness requirements set by the Department for Education for applicants to initial teacher training programmes. Please see the UCL IOE and Goldsmiths websites for further details.
The Kingston School Direct Alliance offers a variety of programmes including both salaried and non-salaried programmes. Why not visit our website or even better come and have a look at one of the alliance member schools in action? School visits can be arranged either through the School Experience Programme or in some instances by contacting the school directly and asking to speak to the member of staff in charge of Initial Teacher Training. We look forward to seeing you very soon.

For further information visit: www.coombegirlsschool.org or email: schooldirect@coombegirlsschool.org

UCL Institute of Education
University of London

The UCL Institute of Education, has been providing first-class teacher training, in partnership with schools and colleges for over 100 years. Founded in 1902, as a teacher training college in London, the UCL IOE is now a world-class research and teaching institution. UCL IOE graduates are highly sought after in schools and colleges throughout London and the UK. Its central location in historic Bloomsbury means that it is in the heart of London. The London Underground station at Russell Square is minutes from the main building and King’s Cross, St Pancras and Euston stations are also close by.

For information on fees and funding, see UCL IOE website: www.ioe.ac.uk/studentInformation/66.html

Information about our HEI partner:
Goldsmiths University of London

Goldsmiths, University of London have been training teachers since 1904 and are renowned as a leader in the field of educational research and teacher training. Goldsmiths work in close collaboration with a range of partner schools across London, in both teacher training and research. Goldsmiths programmes have a strong emphasis on active learning, creativity, inclusion and languages and graduates benefit from excellent employment opportunities. Goldsmiths campus is set in vibrant New Cross, with excellent London Overground, National Rail and bus links into central London.

For information on fees and funding, see Goldsmiths website: www.gold.ac.uk/pgce/secondary