

St Joseph's Specialist Trust, Cranleigh, Surrey

Teaching Assistant (University Placement Year 2026-27)

St Joseph's Specialist Trust – Cranleigh, Surrey

20 minutes from Guildford - £20,224 plus £1,000 Retention Bonus
– Term-time only



Start your career making a difference

Are you ready to change lives and take your first steps towards a truly rewarding career? At St Joseph's Specialist Trust, we're offering university students the chance to gain invaluable experience in our unique Teaching Assistant Placement Programme – perfect for psychology students, aspiring teachers or anyone considering a career in education, SEN or care.

This isn't a typical TA role. Here you'll be part of a passionate, supportive team, helping children and young people (ages 5-19) with complex learning disabilities, social communication needs and challenging behaviours to thrive. You'll gain the skills, training and resilience to empower some of society's most vulnerable individuals – all while growing personally and professionally.

What makes this role special?

- **Comprehensive training** – including a twice-weekly TA training package (theory and practical), working towards a CPD-certified teaching assistant apprentice qualification.
- **Career-building experience** – SEN experience that's highly valued in education, psychology, social work and beyond
- **Real impact** – watch your support help young people build confidence, independence and brighter futures
- **Supportive community** – join a team of nearly 250 staff on our stunning 23-acre campus with a strong focus on wellbeing and professional growth

What we're looking for:

We're not expecting you to have years of experience – we'll provide full training. What matters most is that you bring:

- Empathy, patience and compassion
- Strong communication skills
- A sufficient level of mental, physical and emotional resilience to meet the demands of the role
- Willingness to learn and adapt
- The ability to stay calm in challenging situations

What you'll gain:

- Transferable skills in teamwork, communication, creativity and problem-solving
- Hands-on insight into the education, care and special needs sectors

- Personal growth in resilience, adaptability and leadership
- A strong foundation for a career in teaching, psychology, SEN or health & social care

Pay & Benefits

- £20,224 actual salary (39 working weeks plus holiday pay paid in 12 equal instalments)
- £1,000 retention bonus (£250 after 1 month, £250 after 1 year, £500 after 18 months)
- Free lunch during termtime
- Free on-site parking
- Medicaash and Life Assurance schemes
- Certified CPD modules and 1:1 mentoring - all staff will need to complete Team Teach Positive Behaviour Support training before starting, refreshed annually.
- Employee Assistance Programme – 24/7 wellbeing and counselling support
- Excellent career progression opportunities

Ready to apply?

We welcome applications from students in any subject area. If you're curious, compassionate and eager to make a real difference we'd love to hear from you.

- Request an application pack: recruitment@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk
- Call us: 01483 272449 (ask for recruitment)
- Visit: [St Joseph's Specialist Trust – Staff Vacancies](#)

Interviews will be arranged as applications are received – so don't wait!

Safeguarding commitment: St Joseph's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This role requires an enhanced DBS check and references.