TRAINING TO TEACH

Training to teach
To work as a teacher in state-maintained schools in England and Wales you need to have professional teacher status (QTS).
To be awarded QTS you must:

• Complete a period of training, such as a one year Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) or a school-led programme, which recommends you for QTS
• Complete a period of induction, known as a newly qualified teacher (NQT) period
• In July 2019 the Government announced that it will no longer be a requirement to pass a professional skills test in numeracy and literacy before commencing teacher training. Further guidance on this should be available from September, 2019.

Teachers in independent schools are not required to have QTS, but most do. Further information about training to teach in an independent school is available at: www.hmcteachertraining.org.uk
Academies and free schools also have the freedom to employ unqualified teachers with particular skills, such as technical experts, sports tutors, musicians or linguists.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO TEACHER TRAINING COURSES
You must have at least a C or above in English and Maths GCSE, or equivalent, to train for secondary school teaching and, in addition to English and Maths, at least a C pass in a science subject to teach in primary schools. You will need to check with individual teacher training providers as to what they will accept as an ‘equivalent’ to GCSE grade C or above. Some may offer the opportunity to undertake a GCSE equivalency test. If you hold overseas qualifications, you can check for equivalency to GCSE level through the National Recognition Information Centre (NARIC): www.naric.org.uk

You will also need a degree, usually at grade 2:2 or above. If you have a third class degree, contact the teacher training providers direct to see if you have enough good school experience and any other attributes to be considered for a place.

It can be very helpful to have undertaken a period of observation of teaching in schools before commencing your course (and ideally before applying). For advice on getting experience, register through www.getintoteaching.education.gov.uk
Recruiters will want to see evidence that you have the ability to withstand the pressures of working in a challenging, albeit rewarding, environment, with a positive and energetic attitude. Above all you need to provide evidence of your ability to communicate with and enjoyment of being with children and young people.

You will also need to complete a medical questionnaire. If you have a disability, it is helpful to give details to the training provider so that they can make any adjustments you may need during the recruitment process or training course.

Training providers will also undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Past criminal convictions, cautions or bind overs must be declared, but, depending on the circumstances, these are not an automatic barrier to becoming a teacher.

**TRAINING OPTIONS**

There are several training options available:

**Early years**
It is possible to specialise in early years/foundation stage teaching which covers ages 0-5. The entry requirements are the same as for primary teaching and you can register for further information at [https://bit.ly/2hZwzP1](https://bit.ly/2hZwzP1) (Get in to teaching website). Although the early years initial teacher training qualification enables you to teach Reception classes in schools, if you want to focus on teaching age 4+, rather than babies and children under three, you could research primary school initial teacher training, leading to QTS.

**Primary**
The options to train in primary school teaching are many and varied. Some courses focus on all ages, from 3-11, whilst others focus more on specific age groups, such as 3-7, or 7-11. There are also primary school training courses, with subject specialisation, covering topics such as computing, a modern language, English, English as an additional language, religious education, music, physical education and mathematics. To gain an understanding of the different options available, visit the course search section of the Teacher Training area of the UCAS web site.

**Secondary school teacher training**
If your degree or experience has given you a strong knowledge of a national curriculum subject and you wish to teach pupils age 11+ you can apply for secondary school teacher training in that subject.

If your degree was not in the subject you intend to teach (for example in Engineering, but you wish to teach Maths, or in Forensic Science, but you wish to teach Chemistry),
you may still be able to train as a teacher in the subject, if it formed a large part of your programme by undertaking a Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) course. Depending on the provider to which you apply the SKE can be done before or during your teacher training course. SKEs last from between 8 to 28 weeks and some or all of the course can be completed online. Talk to your preferred training provider about this option. SKEs are often funded and may attract some additional bursary money. Further details are available at: [http://bit.ly/2gR1A8t](http://bit.ly/2gR1A8t) (Get Into Teaching website)

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES (SEND)**

In order to teach in the state maintained SEND sector you must have QTS and mainstream teaching experience. Some teacher training programmes incorporate SEND specialisation within their programmes and you can find a list of these at: [https://www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses](https://www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses)

To work as a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) in a school you need to complete the National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordination within three years of undertaking this role.

**ROUTES INTO TEACHING**

The two main routes into teacher training are university-led and school-led initial teacher training.

University-led initial teacher training involves attending university, with the majority of course time spent in placements in two or more schools. Successful completion of the programme leads to QTS and award of at least a PGCE.

School-led initial teacher training is organised by schools and academies, called Schools Direct programmes. You will sometimes see the term SCITT used also, which stands for School Centred Initial Teacher Training. Teaching Apprenticeship programmes have also been developed relatively recently. School-led programmes involve undertaking a placement in one school for most of the time and one other school – usually for a short period. Successful completion of school-led programmes leads to QTS and most also offer academic qualifications, such as a PGCE with many providers offering the option of progressing to a Masters.

To simplify matters, the application process for most school and university led education is organised through UCAS and a centralised website: [https://www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses](https://www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses) so you can apply to a mix of university-led and school-led options, depending on where you want to teach and what you want to teach.
Teach First
Teach First is a charity which aims to increase the social mobility of pupils in low income areas. The Teach First programme is aimed at high achieving graduates and involves completion of a fully funded two year leadership development programme and a Post Graduate Diploma in Education, with the option to complete a masters afterwards. During the programme you receive a salary and undertake placements in a main school and one other. Applications open in the summer before year of entry and are made direct to Teach First - www.teachfirst.org.uk

Researchers in school
This route is for people with a doctorate and aims to attract researchers into the classroom. It is a three year salaried programme. Placements are available across England. See: http://www.researchersinschools.org/

New initiatives
The teacher training landscape is changing all the time, with new initiatives being developed to help future teachers to gain pre-entry skills. For instance, some companies offer a paid teacher training programme, from teaching assistant, through to qualified teacher status. Many recruitment companies also offer teaching assistant roles aimed at graduates to help them gain more experience prior to commencing teacher training.

APPLYING
Most, but not all, school and university-led teacher training programmes use the UCAS centralised admission process. You will have three choices on the UCAS system, but you do not have to use them all. Your application can include a combination of university and school-led options.

If you are unsuccessful in your first round of applications you will go into ‘apply 2’ which will give you further choices, each of which will go out one at a time. The list of vacancies on courses changes frequently so you need to check the UCAS site often. Teacher training providers may close and then re-open courses throughout the application cycle, according to whether their course is full. Places for certain specialist areas and age groups are often still available up until the summer in the year of entry.

FUNDING
A wide range of funding options is available for the above teacher training initiatives and these are updated each year. Availability of funding can vary according to how much demand there is for certain subject specialists, grade of your degree and the training route you wish to take. The options are regularly updated on the Get into Teaching web site. Salaries are available through the School Direct (Salaried) route which is aimed at those who have experience in a different career. The Apprenticeship route also offers a salary.

OTHER OPTIONS
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Researchers in school
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TEACHING IN FURTHER EDUCATION

There are no specific compulsory qualifications for teaching in the further education sector (16+ age group), but there are a number of different qualifications and entry routes available, such as a PGCE in post compulsory education. Some colleges offer their own graduate training scheme. Information about other qualifications is available at: https://www.feadvice.org.uk/

TEACHING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

For information about becoming a lecturer in higher education see: https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/higher-education-lecturer/ You will normally need to study for at least a Masters, with many lecturers holding a PhD in their chosen subject. Lecturers can study for teaching qualifications once in post and apply for fellowship of the Advance Higher Education Academy (www.advance-he.ac.uk), which is often a requirement for lecturer positions.

USEFUL PUBLICATIONS

• The Guardian on Tuesday
• The Times Educational Supplement
• The Times Higher

USEFUL WEBSITES

https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/ Comprehensive information on a career in teaching
www.ucas.ac.uk Application to teacher training programmes
www.tes.co.uk Job vacancies and articles on teaching
http://www.google.co.uk/ Simply search under ‘teaching jobs in my area’ to view a list of local teaching opportunities
https://www.education-jobs.co.uk/ Teaching and teaching assistant vacancies
https://www.jobs.ac.uk/ Jobs in higher education
http://www.feadvice.org.uk/ Advice on becoming a further education teacher
https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/ Information about higher education lecturer roles
https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education/ Overview of teacher training including alternatives to traditional teaching careers

SUPPORTING YOUR NEXT STEP

The Careers team can advise and support you with your applications for teacher training. Please contact us for further assistance at: careers@uwl.ac.uk
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This statement is in compliance with the University of West London’s equality statement which can be accessed on the website: https://www.uwl.ac.uk/about-us/policies-and-regulations/equality-and-diversity

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