



Working as a Teacher

Teaching is an important and increasingly popular choice of career. Whatever your circumstances if you are at school, about to graduate, or are looking for a change of direction – there are many ways to enter the profession and more support available to help you get there.

Basic requirements

The subjects you study as a secondary student and as an undergraduate will make a big difference to your opportunities in the long term. Getting good basic qualifications is the first step towards achieving qualified teacher status.

- You will need GCSE in Maths and English Grade C or above.
- A GCSE in a science subject grade C or above if you want to teach primary or key stages 2/3
- A UK degree
- All Teachers must have a Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

If you have qualifications from outside the UK - the National Academic Recognition Information centre (Naric) will be able to advise you on whether your particular qualifications are equivalent to the minimum requirements set out above, and they may also provide certification where appropriate.

Contact: UK Naric, Ecctis Ltd, Oriel House, Oriel Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1XP.
Tel: 0870 990 4088

Routes into teaching

The next step is to plan how to achieve your qualified teacher status (QTS), enabling you to teach across state-maintained schools across England and Wales. This almost always means completing a programme of initial teacher training (ITT).

On all routes you will spend at least 18 weeks or more training in schools. ITT helps you develop the skills you need to become an effective teacher and achieve qualified teacher status.

The ITT comes in all shapes and sizes, providing options to suit everyone:

Undergraduate options

- Train to be a teacher while completing a degree:
- Bachelor of education (Bed) Courses
- Bachelor of arts (BA) or science
- (BSC) with QTS courses



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Postgraduate options

If you already have a degree you can train to be a teacher in 1-2 years:

- Postgraduate certificate (PGCE)
- School-centred initial training (SCITT)
- Teach First Programme

Employment-based options

Train and qualify as a teacher while working in a school:

- Graduate teacher programme (GTP)
- Registered Teacher Programme (RTP)
- Overseas Trained Teacher Programme (OTTP)

OTS assessment only option

For more information please refer to the Training and Development Agency for schools on www.tda.gov.uk or contact them on 0845 6000 991

What would you like to teach?

Primary: You would teach pupils between the ages of 4-11, spending most of the school day with your class.

Secondary: You would teach pupils between the ages of 11-16. Secondary teachers have at least one specialist subject. Every teacher trains to work with at least two consecutive age ranges at either primary or secondary.

Rewards of Teaching

Teachers enjoy up to 12 weeks holidays a year, giving them opportunities to pursue their personal interests and spend time with their families.

Teaching offers the flexibility to fit your work to your life through job sharing and part-time work.



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Teachers have a generous occupational pension scheme with guaranteed benefits and retirement age of 60 for both men and women.

Careers prospects and development

Teaching is a rewarding profession in more ways than one, offering fantastic career prospects and development opportunities.

You could gain responsibility for:

- A particular subject as a head of department, faculty or curriculum
- A particular age group as head of year or key stage coordinator
- A particular area such as special educational.

Ultimately, you could progress to a senior management position such as deputy or assistant head or headteacher – at which point you will have overall responsibility for the management of a school and the education its pupils receive.

Funding whilst you train

During your initial teaching training (ITT) you may be eligible for funding to offset tuition fees. Funding depends on the kind of ITT course you're taking. Visit www.directgov.uk for more information on funding.

Useful organisations

For additional information on teaching, information providers and course information contact:

www.teachernet.gov.uk or 0870 000 2288

www.tda.gov.uk or 0845 6000 991

www.canteach.gov.uk

www.directgov.uk

www.teach.gov.uk

www.gttr.ac.uk (Graduate Teacher Training Registry)