

GET INTO TEACHING

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. INSPIRE LEARNERS IN CLASSROOMS, HOSPITALS OR PRISONS.

SO YOU WANT TO TEACH?

Before you commit to becoming a teacher, you need to explore whether this profession is right for you. This leaflet will help you to evaluate whether you want to build a career in teaching and help you to gather the materials for a great teaching application.

“TEACHING IS BEWILDERING, FRUSTRATING AND EXHAUSTING, BUT IT IS ALSO THE MOST AMAZING, THE MOST REWARDING, THE MOST JOYOUS JOB I CAN IMAGINE”

James Handscombe, Principal, writing in **TES**

GET CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

Experience is essential to get realistic insights to the demands of the job and contemplate whether you are suited to a career in teaching. It's also a great opportunity to talk to teaching professionals and observe classroom strategies that may inspire and influence your own teaching style.

Here are a few ways to get classroom experience:

- Apply to Explore Teaching at the University of Essex where you can learn more about the routes into teaching and gain some first-hand classroom experience. To learn more about this route or to enquire further please email explore@essex.ac.uk
- Sign up for the SU V-Team and volunteer in local schools / community groups. essexstudent.com/volunteering
- Sign up to the School Experience Programme getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/school-experience
- Become a Student Ambassador and get involved in Outreach and Recruitment activities. [See CareerHub vacancies](#)
- Approach Schools/Colleges directly to arrange volunteer / work opportunities yourself.

ROUTES INTO TEACHING

There are various routes to becoming a qualified teacher. Visit getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options for more information.

- **PGCE** (Postgraduate Certificate in Education) University led training with integrated school placement.
- **PGDE** (Post Graduate Diploma in Education) This route is similar to a PGCE but comes with more credits towards a master's qualification in education.
- **Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship** Paid training route for graduates leading to QTS (Qualified Teacher Status).
- **School Direct** (tuition fee) Programme Training in a school, leading to QTS - may include PGCE.
- **School Direct** (salaried) Programme Paid version of School Direct for candidates with 3+ years' transferable experience. May include PGCE.
- **SCITT** School Centred Initial Teacher Training school-based scheme similar to School Direct with training led by a network of schools. May include PGCE or MA credits.
- **Teach First** Spend 2 years working in a challenging school, qualifying as a teacher and gaining a PGDE. Also receive leadership training and possible work experience with top employers.
- **Overseas Trained Teacher Programme** For those who qualified as a teacher outside the UK/EU.
- **SKE** Subject Knowledge Enhancement An opportunity to top up your A Level or unrelated degree and train to teach subjects including science, maths, English, geography or design, technology, education and Languages.

FE Teaching

If you want to teach in an FE college then there are a variety of options available. The full teaching qualification for the sector is the level 5 Diploma in Education and Training (DET). Some providers call it a PGCE or a Cert Ed. with the designation PCET (Post Compulsory Education and Training) to distinguish it from a schools' PGCE. Note that FE teaching qualifications alone do not qualify you to teach in a school, in case you think you might change your mind in the future.

feadvice.org.uk

Talent to Teach in FE

This programme offers a £300 bursary for students that complete a 50 hour placement with one of their partner colleges. You can find out more at the below link;

[et-foundation.co.uk/resources/teacher-recruitment/talent-to-teach/](https://www.et-foundation.co.uk/resources/teacher-recruitment/talent-to-teach/)

REFLECT ON YOUR SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND QUALITIES

Reflecting on your time in the classroom is vital to a strong teaching application. Keep a log or diary each day of your classroom placement and reflect on what you observed. For example, best practice in classroom, behaviour management or how to build rapport with less confident learners. Also, record what skills you developed or applied.

Reflective notes are a chance to take stock on what teaching means to you and if you are still motivated to build your career in this challenging field. You'll also find these notes helpful in developing your personal statement, interview answers and future lesson plans.

Is teaching right for you?

[targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education/164-would-a-career-in-teaching-and-education-suit-me](https://www.targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education/164-would-a-career-in-teaching-and-education-suit-me)

TEACHING APPLICATIONS

UCAS (University and College Admissions Service) coordinates applications for the majority of the training routes.

Applications open from mid-September until June each year. Teaching is competitive, so the earlier you apply the better. Notable exceptions to UCAS application routes are Teach First (direct application) and Higher Education qualifications (applications to your local provider).

[ucas.com/teaching-in-the-uk](https://wwwucas.com/teaching-in-the-uk)

Wherever you apply you will need to submit a statement summarising your motivations, suitability and experience relevant to teaching. Consider what each experience has given you that will make you a great teacher, rather than simply listing duties. We can help you to plan and develop your personal statement. Read our blog to make a start and then book an application support appointment to have it reviewed.

FUND YOUR TRAINING

There is a wide range of funding available to aspiring teachers. Salaried training routes give you the option of earning while you're training. Bursaries or scholarships are offered for subjects in particular demand (e.g. Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

For a full overview of the funding options check out: [getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-and-salary](https://www.getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-and-salary)

ALTERNATIVE TEACHING CAREERS

Educators work in a variety of settings.

- Teaching outside the classroom – e.g. in hospitals or prisons – requires qualifications equal to the age of the pupil
- Teaching international students involves Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certificates e.g:
 - TEFL: Teaching English as a Foreign Language
 - TESOL: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
 - DELTA: Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults
- To explore careers in further education and the specialist qualifications required visit [feadvice.org.uk/](https://www.feadvice.org.uk/)

If your degree has inspired you to become a University Lecturer, you may need to pursue a PhD. Professional services roles with teaching responsibilities are also available within Higher Education.

- Prospects - Teaching & Education: [prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/teacher-training-and-education](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/teacher-training-and-education)
- Get Into Teaching: [getintoteaching.education.gov.uk](https://www.getintoteaching.education.gov.uk)
- Target Teaching: [targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education](https://www.targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education)
- Further Education Jobs: [fejobs.com](https://www.fejobs.com)
- Higher Education Jobs: [jobs.ac.uk](https://www.jobs.ac.uk)