

Routes into teaching



CAREER
STUDIO

What postgraduate teaching courses are available?

You need to gain QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) to teach in England and Wales, but you do not need to gain a PGCE to teach. There are several routes to gain QTS status, some of which offer a PGCE qualification. The routes to gain QTS are listed below:

PGCE – the most common postgraduate route to train to teach. PGCEs are an academic qualification that offer practical experience and academic teaching through a university setting.

SCITT – these programmes offer teacher training delivered by a group of schools. Some offer a PGCE within the programme, but some don't. You will be based in a school throughout the course.

School Direct – this is another programme that is based within schools, you will either be salaried or will need to pay tuition fees. You will be based at a school but will also attend university or a SCITT to receive theory training. The intention is that you will then work at that school once you have qualified. The majority of courses will offer a PGCE as part of the course, but some won't.

Teach First – is a charity which offers a two-year salaried programme, in which you will become qualified teacher. You will be placed within a school from day one, gain QTS status, completed your NQT (Newly Qualified Teacher) year and gain a PGDE (Postgraduate Diploma in Education and Leadership). You will also have the opportunity to undertake a summer internship with one of the UK's leading employers.

Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeships – these are similar to School Direct salaried programmes and offer teacher training through work-based learning. You will complete your QTS and then complete an EPA (end point assessment) to consolidate your learning.

All of these courses have a minimum of 24 weeks placement (with many having more), compromise of academic study to provide you with the knowledge to teach and carry out observations to assess your teaching skills.

What are the requirements for these courses?

To apply to a postgraduate teaching programme you will need to possess a degree or be in your final year of university, have an English and Maths GCSE Grade C (4) and also have a Science GCSE Grade C (4) if you are applying for a Primary programme.

If you do not have the required GCSE grades, you may be asked to undertake an equivalency test set by the training provider. You will no longer need to pass numeracy and literacy skills tests to gain a place on the course. You must complete fit to practice checks before beginning your course.

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What are subject knowledge enhancement courses?

Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses aim to develop your knowledge further before you progress on to a PGCE course. If you need to undertake a SKE course this will be identified at the interview, this may be because you studied an unrelated degree to your proposed PGCE subject, or you have had a large break since studying your degree. The length of the course can vary from 8 weeks to 28 weeks dependant on each individual student. You may be eligible to receive a tax-free bursary of £200 per week throughout the SKE course.

Can I receive a tuition fee and maintenance loan?

Tuition fee and Maintenance Loans are available to students on non-salaried teacher training courses and cover the course cost of course fees up to £9250. Tuition Fee Loans are not means tested, so you will be eligible for the tuition fee loan regardless of your household income. In contrast, the amount of Maintenance Loan you will receive is dependent on your household income.

Can I receive a bursary or scholarship?

You will have need to obtain a 1st, 2:1, 2:2, a Masters or a PhD and be studying a non-salaried teacher training course to be eligible for a bursary or scholarship. Bursaries are available for a wide range of courses but not all. Scholarships are only available in a few subject areas, are awarded by professional subject associations and are of higher value than the bursaries.

If you are eligible for a scholarship you will not be able to receive a bursary. Early-career payments are also available for some subject areas, these entitle you to receive a further bursary in your second, third and fourth year of teaching.

What is the teacher's student loan reimbursement?

These are available to people teaching languages, computing and sciences in specific areas of England. The reimbursement scheme will pay back the student loan repayments you have made in previous years.

How do I apply?

You can use the Department for Education's postgraduate teacher training search tool to find opportunities in England (the link can be found in the Useful Sources section below). For courses run by universities, colleges and schools in England and Wales, you will need to complete the UCAS Teacher Training application.

What is the UCAS teacher training application?

You will need to fill in your personal details and then make up to three course choices. You will also need to complete information about your qualifications and work experience. You will submit a personal statement of 4000 characters or 47 lines whichever comes first and will need to provide two references as part of your application.

Do I need school experience?

Whilst school experience is not compulsory for a teacher training application, school experience will help you decide if teaching is the right career for you and will also enable you to enhance your application.

How can I get further support?

You can get support with your application from an academic adviser by registering your details at the following link:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses>

<https://www.gov.uk/teacher-training-funding>

<https://www.ucas.com/postgraduate/teacher-training/ucas-teacher-training-apply-and-track>

<https://www.ucas.com/postgraduate/teacher-training/train-teach-england/postgraduate-teacher-training-england>

<https://www.teachfirst.org.uk/>

You can receive peer to peer career support from our Career Coaches via our Digital Career Studio.

To get in touch you can:

- Email careers@staffs.ac.uk
- Telephone 01782 294991
- Or ask a question on our online chat at www.staffs.ac.uk/careers.

Other leaflets in this series:

Further study

Work experience

Life after university

Available online at www.staffs.ac.uk
or from the Career Studio