

# Introduction to Teacher Training – Your options

To teach, you need Initial Teacher Education or Training (ITET) based at a university, school, or college in the UK. Before you start, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do you want to teach at Primary level or Secondary?
2. What route is most suitable for me?
3. How will I fund it?
4. What are the entry requirements?

## School-led Training

A popular route into teaching for trainees who prefer to learn by hands-on experience, with teaching theory learnt throughout your placements.

### School Direct

School Direct courses are based on the skills providers are looking for in a newly qualified teacher (NQT). Designed by groups of schools in partnership with a university or a school-centred initial teacher training (SCITT) provider, the schools recruit you as a trainee with a job in mind just for you. This is a popular choice for those who hope to secure a role in the network of schools where they train.

School Direct courses generally last a year and result in qualified teacher status (QTS) – most also award you a postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) and/or Master's-level credits. You'll train in at least two good schools, getting the chance to learn 'on the job' – but you shouldn't worry about being thrown in at the deep end. You'll be part of a team from the very start, receiving intensive support from experienced teachers and mentors. That means you won't be teaching classes unsupported until the school thinks you're ready.

### School Direct (salaried)

Similar to the School Direct route above, you'll have the opportunity to earn a salary and train to become a qualified teacher – learning from experienced teachers. Trainees on salaried programmes are recruited and employed directly by schools, and may continue teaching in their school following training.

The salaried route results in qualified teacher status (QTS), the cost of which is covered by the school – check with your training provider to find out if this also includes a PGCE and/or Master's-level credits. You'll be paid and taxed as an unqualified teacher. The salary awarded will differ between schools; you should check the salary with the school before you apply for salaried routes.

### SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training)

Networks of schools that have been approved to run school-centred courses are known as SCITTs. They provide practical, hands-on teacher training, delivered by experienced, practising teachers based in their own school or a school in their network. 'SCITT' is also a type of school-led course, similar to the non-salaried School Direct option.

SCITT courses generally last one year, with many including a postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) and/or Master's-level credits. Training as part of a SCITT gives you the opportunity to learn 'on the job' from the very beginning. You will benefit from working and learning every day in a school and getting an immediate insight into what teaching involves.

### Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship

Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeships are similar to School Direct (salaried) programmes, and are a new, nationally-recognised, work-based route into teaching. In addition to working towards Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) on successful completion of the course, apprentices will also complete an end point assessment (EPA) after the summer to consolidate learning from initial teacher training.

## Teach First

Teach First is a charity working to end educational inequality. They are building a movement of leaders who inspire young people from low-income communities to achieve their full potential. They do this by supporting applicants to become influential classroom leaders through their Leadership Development Programme.

The programme offers a two-year, paid position in a school where you'll build the skills and experience to become leaders in all sectors of society. You'll receive world-class teaching and leadership training, which will include a fully-funded Postgraduate Diploma in Education and Leadership (PGDE). There's also the option to top up the PGDE to a Master's degree that is specifically designed to further develop your effectiveness as a leader and a teacher. Find out more about Teach First and their programme on the Teach First website:

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

## University-led training:

### Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE)

Postgraduate teacher training courses are available across England, led by universities or schools. The course you choose will depend on your subject, degree class and location. Whichever course you choose, your training will largely be the same. If you don't have a degree, you can gain a degree and qualified teacher status (QTS) together on an [undergraduate course](#).

On a postgraduate university-led route, you will:

- be awarded qualified teacher status (QTS), which is needed to teach as a qualified teacher in England.
- be based at a university learning the method and practice of teaching' before you apply this to your school placements; you'll spend plenty of time in two contrasting schools – a minimum of 24 weeks.
- receive training to meet the [Teachers' Standards](#), which will include classroom management and making your subject accessible to your pupils.
- benefit from expert academic and practical guidance from mentors and tutors who are there to help you succeed.
- have the opportunity to receive a postgraduate qualification, usually a postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE).

### Funding your university study:

There are three types of funding available for teacher training - depending on your circumstances, you could receive all three:

1. Tax-free bursary or scholarship (up to £28,000 depending on subject and class of degree).
2. Tuition Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan (in addition to the above).
3. Additional financial support if you're a parent, carer or have a disability.

An overview of the generous bursaries and scholarships available can be found [here](#). You'll need a first, 2:1, 2:2, PhD or Master's to be eligible for a bursary or scholarship. Further information on funding options two and three can be found [here](#).

## Entry Requirements:

**There are various academic and non-academic requirements to be accepted onto all of the above teacher training courses**

### Academic requirements:

- Undergraduate degree awarded by a UK HE provider.
- GCSE grade C or above in English and maths
- Initial Teacher Training (ITT) providers will assure a candidate's fundamental English and mathematics either before or during their course. This applies to all routes into teaching. Click [here](#) for more information.
- To teach ages 3-11 (early years and primary) you will also need GCSE grade C or above in a science subject.

Find out more about academic requirements [here](#).

### Non-academic requirements:

- You need a strong understanding of the subject you want to teach before you start training. [Subject knowledge enhancement \(SKE\)](#) courses are available.
- Spend some time observing and helping out with lessons in a local school before you apply as this will help to strengthen your application. Click [here](#) for information on how to gain experience prior to applying for a course.
- Some providers will require you to complete a medical, usually just a form.
- You will need to have valid DBS clearance.

**Note:** Make sure you check with the provider what their specific requirements are

## Applying for Teacher Training: Postgraduate routes

You can search for postgraduate teacher training courses on the Gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses>.

You can apply for a training place via **UCAS**, or by using the GOV.UK service called [Apply for teacher training](#). This new service will eventually replace UCAS Teacher Training. **To apply for teacher training through UCAS there are two phases: Apply 1 and Apply 2.**

You get 3 initial choices via Apply 1. If you are not successful (i.e. if you are not holding an offer from Apply 1) you can then add choices one at a time via Apply 2.

Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, remember that popular training programmes will fill up quickly. Some subjects will have a limited number of places available, so make sure you don't leave your application to the last minute.

You can find lots of information about the different phases, and advice on your UCAS application [here](#).

## Useful Resources

- Get Into Teaching: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>
- UCAS – Teaching in the UK - <https://www.ucas.com/teaching-in-the-uk>
- UCAS – Key dates: [https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/scheme/teacher-training/type/key-date?keywords=&sort by=field event date value](https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/scheme/teacher-training/type/key-date?keywords=&sort%20by=field%20event%20date%20value)
- UCAS – Entry requirements: <https://www.ucas.com/postgraduate/teacher-training/train-teach-england/teacher-training-entry-requirements-england>
- SKE courses: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/subject-knowledge-enhancement-ske-courses>
- Finance and support: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training/finance-and-support-trainee-teachers>
- Prospects.ac.uk Teacher Training pages: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/teacher-training>

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