

# Further Study Options

## Course Types

### Taught Masters

Taught Masters are similar to undergraduate degrees. They involve lectures, seminars and practical work, with assessment through essays, exams, dissertations and group projects. You'll study independently while receiving close tutor support. Taught Masters suit students looking to change careers, boost prospects or gain a wide-ranging skillset (Prospects.ac.uk).

### Masters by Research

Research Masters involve learning through research. You'll study one topic closely with the support of a supervisor, producing a dissertation. Research Masters, particularly MRes degrees, suit students who work well independently, want their work published, are interested in a specific topic, or are planning to undertake PhD study (Prospects.ac.uk).

### Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas

A certificate usually involves fewer academic hours of study than a diploma, and a diploma involves less than a master's course. Diplomas and certificates are taught and resemble taught master's degrees in structure and approach. They are often professional qualifications connected with career development (ucas.com).

### PhD

A PhD – also known as a doctorate – is more demanding than a masters by research (MRes). You'll create a lengthy, in-depth, unique, and important piece of research that draws upon all your abilities in setting objectives, fact finding, analysis and interpretation. The end result will be a thesis of around 100,000 words, worthy of inclusion in a learned journal (ucas.com).

### MBA

A Masters in Business Administration (MBA) is designed to give you first-rate skills and knowledge of business management practice. MBAs are divided into: general courses, those which are combined with other academic disciplines and those geared to a particular industry (ucas.com).

### Professional Qualifications

Professional courses help you with your career. They can be divided into two main groups:

- professions for which by law you need to be properly qualified to practice, e.g. medicine, dentistry, law and social work;
- those which are seen as highly desirable or the norm within the profession, and which bring professional status and accreditation, open the most doors in terms of employment prospects and increase the potential for additional pay (ucas.com).

### Law Qualifications

The Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) is a one-year diploma specifically for non-law students and provides the foundation for study of the barrister's training course (Bar Professional Training Course or BPTC) and the solicitor's training course (Legal Practice Course or LPC, or the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice/DPLP in Scotland). If you have an undergraduate degree in law you can study for an LPC or a BPTC without taking a GDL (ucas.com).

### Conservatoires

UK conservatoires provide specialist professional training for talented, ambitious musicians, actors, and dancers the training, freedom, and encouragement to fulfil their creative and professional aspirations (ucas.com).

## Teaching

There are a number of ways in which you can train to be a teacher at postgraduate level. Not all of these options involve staying on at university. In order to understand more you'll need to become familiar with the jargon:

- First of all, you'll need to undertake what's known as Initial Teacher Training (ITT), which will give you Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).
- You are then also a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) and will complete an induction in a school (ucas.com).

Taking a PGCE is the most popular route for graduates to take to become a teacher.

Teacher Training options include:

- University led courses
- School Direct - salaried
- School Direct - non-salaried
- School-centred initial teacher training (SCITT)
- Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship Programmes
- Teach First Leadership Development Programme
- Early Years Initial Teacher Training
- Further Education Teacher Training

## Useful Links

UCAS Postgraduate – <https://www.ucas.com/postgraduate>

UCAS Teacher Training – <https://www.ucas.com/teaching-in-the-uk>

UCAS Conservatoires - <https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires>

Get Into Teaching (Department of Education) – <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

Teach First – <https://www.teachfirst.org.uk/>

Further Education Teaching Advice - <https://www.feadvice.org.uk/>

Prospects – <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

TARGET postgrad – <https://targetjobs.co.uk/postgraduate>

FindAMasters – <https://www.findamasters.com/>

FindAPhD – <https://www.findaphd.com/>

Funding for postgraduate study – <https://www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study>

Masters Compare - <https://www.masterscompare.co.uk/>

## Sources of support

- The Student Money Advice Service at the University of Cumbria can help you with finding funding for postgraduate study: [www.cumbria.ac.uk/moneyadvice](http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/moneyadvice)
- The University of Cumbria Careers and Employability Service is here to support you for up to three years after you complete your course. You can find lots of resources on our web pages at <https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/careers>. You can also log on to our career hub, My Career Enriched (<https://mycareerenriched.cumbria.ac.uk>) to book an appointment, find events, arrange a practice interview or request feedback on your application.

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