

## Starting Points: Postgraduate routes into teacher training

Teaching is a diverse and varied profession, so it is important to think about who, what and where you want to teach. Children, young people or adults? In the UK or abroad? Schools, colleges, early years settings or alternative settings, such as prisons, alternative education projects, or for private clients or institutions?

### Exploring teaching as a career

- Visit [education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching](https://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching)
- Have a look at job profiles at [prospects.ac.uk](https://www.prospects.ac.uk)
- Research the National Curriculum for Primary and Secondary levels to find out more about what you would teach.
- Get some experience with different age groups to decide which would suit you best.

### Routes into teaching

There are a number of post-graduate routes into teaching. For the most up-to-date information, go to the [education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching](https://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching) website.

Routes include:

University based Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

- School Direct
- School-centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)
- Teach First Teacher Training and Leadership programme (2 years)
- Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeships

Entry requirements:

- A degree - for secondary and post-16, this ideally needs to be in the subject you hope to teach, but if you have a relevant A level you may be able to do a Subject Knowledge Enhancement course to teach your chosen subject (see individual courses for requirements)
- Grade C/4 in English and Maths GCSE plus grade C/4 in Science GCSE if you want to teach primary or early years, or equivalent.

### Minimum requirements for Teach First also include:

- 2.1 degree or above although 2:2 will also be considered
- A degree or A levels which satisfy their minimum curriculum requirements
- Flexibility to work anywhere within their regions
- For further information see Teachfirst website

### Get some classroom experience

Teacher training providers will strongly encourage you to spend some structured time in a classroom with the age range/s you wish to teach, so you can start to build an understanding of how children and young people learn. Other volunteering with learners in different environments can also develop your experience and confidence e.g. youth clubs, holiday clubs, after school clubs.

Check course prospectuses for experience requirements and ideally arrange this before you apply for your teacher training. Be prepared to make links between your experience and your knowledge in your teacher training application.

## Applying for initial teacher training

PGCE, School Direct and SCITT for teaching in Schools (Qualified Teacher Status -QTS):

- Applications are made online through UCAS - [ucas.com/apply/teacher-training](https://ucas.com/apply/teacher-training). Check the UCAS teacher training site for important dates.
- Early Years Teachers (Early Years Teacher Status - EYTS): Applications are usually made direct to the training provider.
- Post-16 Teachers: Many providers accept direct applications, however some universities use the UCAS system above.

Always check requirements for the course/training provider.

## Funding for teacher training

This varies depending on which age-range and subject you want to teach, and what class degree you achieve. For information on bursaries and scholarships available for PGCE, SCITT, and School Direct routes into teacher training, visit [education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching](https://education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching)

## Useful resources

- Department for Education - [education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching](https://education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching)
- UCAS - [ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training](https://ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training)
- Times Education Supplement New Teachers - [newteachers.tes.co.uk](https://newteachers.tes.co.uk)
- Guardian Education - [theguardian.com/education](https://theguardian.com/education)
- Guardian Teacher Network - [guardian.co.uk/teacher-network](https://guardian.co.uk/teacher-network)
- advice on teaching in post-16 education - [feadvice.org.uk](https://feadvice.org.uk)

## Checklist

- Plan ahead - think about gaining some classroom experience as soon as possible.
- Check entry requirements early on - might you need to re-take any GCSEs or equivalency tests, for instance?
- Allow plenty of time to write your personal statement and to obtain references.
- See an adviser to review your personal statement.
- Contact the Student and Graduate Employability to see what support is available to help you prepare for a PGCE/School Direct interview. Email [careers@shu.ac.uk](mailto:careers@shu.ac.uk)

## Want to talk it through?

Contact Student and Graduate Employability for further advice and support via the below contact details. This information is available in alternative formats on request.