

Applying for Teacher Training



Getting into Teacher Training

If you are thinking about applying for a teacher training course, there are facts you should be aware of and action you can be taking right now.

Here's what you need to know:

What are the different ways of training to become a teacher?

There are two main options:

1. University led training
2. School led training – which can be either:
 - School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)
 - School Direct
 - School Direct salaried (for experienced career changers)
 - Teach First

How much does it cost?

Usually fees are around the £9,000 mark depending on the provider. You should not have to pay anything up front. You should have access to a Student Loan for fees and/or perhaps a grant depending on your financial and personal circumstances. In addition some training courses attract a training bursary. If your course attracts a training bursary you do not have to pay this back and it is paid to you in instalments throughout your training. Funding for international students is different, please ask for details.

How and when do I apply?

Applications for post graduate teacher training courses are made through UCAS, Teacher Training. You can make up to three applications through Apply 1 when systems open - usually around October. In Apply 2 you can make one choice at a time if you don't hold a place through Apply 1. You can apply to both University led and School led courses on the same system.

The only exception to this common application system is the Teach First route which will continue to be a separate application process. The Teach First Leadership Development Programme is offered and applied for throughout the year separately to UCAS.

To apply on UCAS you will need to have an excellent personal statement which is used in the selection process. Information is provided at the back of this booklet.

What do I need before I start?

Qualifications:

An honours degree. You can apply in the final year of your degree (with predicted grades), or after you have graduated, you will need to have been awarded your degree before you begin the training. To teach a subject at secondary level you will usually need at least 50% of your degree to be in that subject. It is sometimes possible to complete a

subject knowledge enhancement course (SKE) if you do not have enough subject knowledge to teach your subject of choice, although this is likely to be for subject areas where there is a shortage of qualified teachers, such as Physics, Maths and Modern Languages.

To train as a teacher, on any programme, you must have a grade C in GCSE English and Mathematics. If you want to teach primary or key stage 2/3 (ages 7-14), you must also have a grade C in a Science GCSE. In an increasingly competitive application process some providers may only take candidates with a B grade in their GCSEs and may also want to select only those with a 2:1 or a first class degree. Some providers, but by no means all, will accept equivalents to GCSEs (such as Key Skills level 2) if this affects you, then check with your chosen course/s.

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Experience:

It is likely you will also need some recent experience of working in a classroom environment with the age group of children you would like to teach. If teaching secondary you need experience in the subject area you want to teach. The amount of experience required will vary from course to course and it is probably true to say that the more competitive the course the more experience the course provider is likely to ask for.

For individuals who want to teach Science, Maths, Geography, Languages or Computing, the Premier Plus Service can help you with your application and with getting experience in schools

The 'School Experience Programme' can also help you gain experience within a school and decide whether or not teaching is right for you.

Refer to the Department for Education Get into Teaching website for more information.

Other things you need to know...

Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

Most teacher training courses lead to a Post/ Professional Graduate Certificate in Education with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Some will just award QTS – so do check carefully. The PGCE is the academic and theoretical part of the qualification to teach, and it is often this qualification that will allow you to teach in other countries. A PGCE can be focussed on Early Years, Primary, Secondary or Further Education. If you are applying for Secondary/ Further Education it will be based on the subject of your degree, for example a PGCE History for History graduates.

School Direct/SCITT

There is no set model for the delivery of either of these routes and each can vary considerably. If you want to apply for a place you will need to research each option in order to ensure you are applying for the route most suitable for your needs. Things

that candidates should research when choosing a training provider include:

- What will my training package look like?
- Where will my main place of work be – at which school?
- Where will the training take place?
- Am I getting a PGCE qualification and/or QTS?
- Which university accredits the course, and will I need to be taught there?
- How much supervision will I get?
- How many trainees will there be in my school and in the consortium?

What is the expectation of employment after the training?

Often School Direct/SCITT hold Open Day events.

Teach First

This highly competitive training route attracts a salary and puts you in the classroom from day one. To apply you will need a 2:1 degree. Selection is via an Assessment Centre – just like other graduate

recruitment schemes. There is plenty of information on the web site so do your research to check if this route would be right for you.

What's this I hear about professional skills tests?

You will need to complete Skills Tests in Literacy and Numeracy before you begin a teacher training course. It is possible that some course providers will only interview candidates who have already passed their skills tests so it is important that you get this done sooner rather than later. Providers will be able to see whether you have passed or failed and your score. It is vital that you practise using the online examples prior to taking the tests. Google 'professional skills tests for teachers' to locate instructions to register and practice tests.

Composing a Personal Statement

You have 4000 characters including spaces to persuade the course providers to offer you an interview. Write your draft personal statement in Word so you can check it for spelling and grammatical errors and then copy and paste it into the UCAS application form. Include the following information in the Personal Statement:

- » Your passion for teaching, your subject area and for the age range of children you wish to teach.
- » Evidence of your experiences including what you have observed and done in the classroom and what you have learnt from it.
- » If you are applying just for one route, say why you think this is the most suitable route for you.
- » If you have undertaken the School Experience Programme, mention what you have learnt from this in your statement
- » Use our website resources to research the educational sector and use correct educational terminology to demonstrate your knowledge of teaching and the National Curriculum.
- » Think about the skills that make an effective teacher. Which of these skills do you have? How have you developed them? Provide evidence.
- » Include your knowledge and understanding of the 'realities and practicalities of the teaching role itself. Teaching is not just about teaching a particular subject or helping someone to learn in a school/college. What other things does the teaching

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- role involve?
- » What else have you done to show you enjoy working with young people or children?
Include both voluntary and paid work and show how the skills you have gained will help you to become an effective teacher.
 - » How will the skills, as well as the subject knowledge, gained from your undergraduate degree help you in the classroom

This information is correct as of September 2018 and applies solely to teaching in England.

Relevant websites:

www.teachfirst.org.uk/graduates
www.ucas.com/ucas/teachertraining
www.getintoteaching.education.gov.uk
www.pearltrees.com/mycareer_resourcehub



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