

CAREERS IN... TEACHING

Routes into Teaching in Schools (England)

To be employed as a teacher in state maintained schools (excluding academies) you will need to gain **QTS (Qualified Teacher Status)** through a period of initial teacher training (ITT) and a period of induction as a newly qualified teacher (NQT). Although QTS is not a requirement for teaching in academies or independent schools, it may be preferred.

Additional information available relating to teaching in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland on [TargetJobs](#).

Note: There have been a number of recent changes to application processes, entry requirements and bursary criteria, so check the websites included in this handout for all the latest information.

Summary of alternative routes

- **PGCE or PGDipEd** (Postgraduate Certificate in Education or Postgraduate Diploma in Education). Typically university-based and one year full-time, including school placements (some have flexible study options). Apply via [UCAS Teacher Training](#).

School-based and school-led programmes which are typically organised by partnerships of schools, last for one year and may include PGCE/PGDipEd in partnership with a university:

- **School Direct**. Two routes: School Direct which is open to all graduates (tuition fees applicable, bursaries and scholarships available for certain categories) and School Direct (Salaried) for graduates with at least three years career experience. See [How to apply for School Direct](#).
- **School-centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)**. Most applications are through [UCAS Teacher Training](#) but some are direct.
- **Teach First**. A two-year employment-based programme available in specific regions, in schools that are in challenging circumstances. Combines PGCE and NQT with leadership development training. See [Teach First](#).

All training routes

- Cover a specific age range and at secondary school level, a subject specialism. Primary training covers the whole range of subjects taught in schools.
- Require a degree (minimum grade requirements can vary) and for Secondary this should be closely related to the subject you wish to teach. However shortage subjects, such as Maths and Sciences, are sometimes offered with [subject knowledge enhancement](#). Training providers require GCSE Grade C or above in English and Maths or equivalent and for Primary, GCSE Science Grade C or above.
- Require applicants to pass QTS Skills Tests in literacy and numeracy before starting their course. See [Get into Teaching - Professional Skills Tests](#).

Get more support from the College of Social Sciences careers team:

www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers/colss

- Book appointments for 1:1 careers advice
- Book a CV check at the recruitment and applications clinic
- Attend careers events and workshops
- Get individual advice on internships /work experience

- Normally require prior classroom observation experience gained in state schools for the subject and age range you wish to teach in addition to other experience of working with children of the relevant age. See the Careers Network handout **How to Find Work Experience in Teaching**.

Application process and deadlines

- For 2018 entry there will be a single application process for PGCE/PGdipEd, School Direct and SCITT with applications accepted from late October 2017 and no specified deadline (although popular courses/programmes will fill up early). Full details will follow, check [Get into Teaching](#). You can apply for up to 3 places and are permitted to apply to a mixture of training providers (i.e. School Direct and SCITT places). For Teach First recruitment takes place throughout the year, but certain subject areas fill quickly. See [Teach First Recruitment Process](#). Due to limited training place allocations across providers, it is highly recommended that applicants apply for their place early.
- For tips on applications and interviews see the handouts **How to write Personal Statements for Teacher Training Applications** and **How to Succeed in PGCE Interviews**.

Funding ITT – fees and bursaries

Tuition fees are payable for postgraduate ITT programmes and vary depending on course, institution and your status as Home, EU or international student. Loans may be available to cover the fees and other costs. Non-repayable bursaries are available for certain ITT programmes depending on subject area (shortage/priority subjects) and degree class. For full details see [Get into Teaching – Bursaries and Funding](#).

Find out more (campus events at Birmingham)

Events open to all students, usually in October/November (see [Careers Network Events Calendar](#)) include:

- **Train to Teach**
- **Explore Teaching** (the different routes into teaching)
- Postgraduate events (University of Birmingham) including [Postgraduate Open Day](#) and other [Postgraduate Study Events](#). Other universities run similar events.
- **Teach First** (presentation and attendance at careers fairs)

Other teaching routes

- **Early Years Teacher** –For the teaching of ages 0-5 replacing the Early Years Professional Programme. See [Applying for Early Years Initial Teacher Training](#) for further details and application process.
- **Teaching in Further Education (FE)** see [Get into Teaching](#)

- **Key online resources**
- [UCAS Teacher Training](#)
- [Teach First](#)
- [Prospects – Teaching and Education](#)
- [Target Jobs – Teaching and Education](#)

Electronic version with quick links available at www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers/coss

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the PGDipEd course. The University tutors are very supportive, as are the school staff from the partnership schools I was placed in and the course is generally well run. During block placements, as long as you are organised and enthusiastic you will be successful and there is always help at hand if you need it! The year has been busy but definitely enjoyable and worthwhile."

Leoni Hipkiss, Birmingham PGDipEd
2012-13