

Routes into Teaching: the basics

You need to have professional qualified teacher status (QTS) in order to work as a teacher in state-maintained schools in England and Wales. To be awarded QTS you must complete a period of initial teacher training (ITT).

The main training routes

1. University-led training

You will attend classes at the university or college but will also spend at least two thirds of your time on placements in at least two schools.

Usually one-year full time course although part time options may be available.

In addition to ECT (Early Career Teacher) you'll get a PGCE or PGDE (an academic qualification).

Fees are usually around £9,250 but student loans and bursaries are available for certain subjects.

2. School-led training

May be known as Lead School Partner route (previously known as School Direct), or SCITTs (School-centred initial teacher training). Training is provided by a group of schools and colleges. You will usually spend most of the time in one school, with further placements in other schools in the group.

More 'hands on', less time is spent learning about the theory of teaching than in a university-led training. However many courses give you a PGCE or PGDE in addition to ECT.

Courses typically take one year but you may be able to study part-time.

Fees are usually around £9,250 but student loans and bursaries are available for certain subjects.

3. Salaried Training routes

Teach First Leadership Development Programme: 2-year salaried programme aimed at highest calibre graduates looking for career in classroom leadership/education management. It trains teachers to work in schools in low-income communities across England and Wales in both primary and secondary sector.

School Direct Salaried: Some schools offer School Direct Salaried opportunities where the trainee is paid as an unqualified teacher during their training. Often prior work experience is required, and these opportunities tend to be focussed in subject or geographical areas where it is hard to recruit.

Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship (PGTA): Similar to the School Direct salaried route, candidates are paid an unqualified teacher's salary as they train.

Finding Courses

You can search for most postgraduate teacher training courses on GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses>

The exception to this is Teach First, which you can apply for directly at www.teachfirst.org.uk/our-programme. New places are released in June with recruitment carried out on a rolling basis with vacancies being filled as soon as suitable candidates are found. Therefore, apply as early as possible.

Making Applications

Applications for all teacher training courses (except Teach First, see above) are through:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training>

Courses usually open for applications in mid-October for entry the following year (usually starting in September, but sometimes January).

You can generally browse courses from early October and make your application from mid-October.

Teacher training providers allocate places as people apply through the year, and courses stay open until they are full.

If you're keen to join a popular course, it's wise to apply as soon as you're ready rather than putting it off.

Funding

Funding for teacher training is dependent on factors such as the training route and degree classification obtained etc... For information about possible funding for the different teacher training routes, please visit:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-my-teacher-training>

You may also wish to see the leaflet [Funding for Postgraduate Teacher Training](#) in **firstpoint** or on the Careers website.

Further Help and Advice

For further information about routes into teaching, choosing a course, gaining experience, and making applications go to Get into Teaching <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

They have a useful chatline and you can also ask for support from an adviser to help you along the steps of your application.

Further information can also be seen at:

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/teaching-and-education>

Also see [Funding for Postgraduate Teacher Training](#) and [Applying for Postgraduate Teacher Training](#) from **firstpoint** or on the Careers website.



If you would like to book a careers appointment, please visit:

<https://worchester.targetconnect.net>

myCareer

The information provided is intended as a guideline only. Funding for teacher training may be subject to change. Potential applicants should always research and check eligibility for funding for teacher training via Get into Teaching or with the teacher training provider.