

Routes into Teaching: the basics

You need Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) to teach in maintained schools in England, and from 2026 onwards most teachers in state-funded schools (including academies) will also need to have or be working towards QTS. 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 QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) you'll get a PGCE or PGDE (an academic qualification).

Fees are usually around £9,790 but student loans and bursaries are available for certain subjects.

2. School-led training

School-led training (often called School Direct or SCITT programmes). 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.

Training is school-based and practical, but all routes include both classroom experience and structured professional study. Many courses give you a PGCE or PGDE in addition to QTS.

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

Fees are usually around £9,790 but student loans and bursaries are available for certain subjects.

3. Salaried Training routes

Teach First Leadership Development Programme: 2-year salaried, competitive, leadership-focused programme aimed at graduates looking for a career in classroom leadership/education management. It trains teachers to work in schools in low-income communities across England 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. You will not pay tuition fees and are paid a salary, but you are not eligible for bursaries or student finance.

Further information on routes into teaching can be found at <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/teacher-training-and-education/routes-into-teaching>

Finding Courses

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

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

There are some exceptions to this, such as Teach First, which you can apply for directly at www.teachfirst.org.uk/our-programme. Places on the Teach First programme open in June for entry the following academic year. Early application is recommended, especially for popular subjects.

Other direct entry providers include [Ambition Institute](#), [Teach Now](#) and [Lift Schools](#)

Always check the teacher training programme/course provider for guidance on how and when to apply.

Making Applications

Applications for most teacher training courses are through <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training> although some teacher training programmes such as Teach First require a direct application.

Courses usually open for applications in early 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 are ready rather than putting it off.

Funding

Funding for teacher training is dependent on factors such as the training route, degree subject and classification (grade) of degree 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 useful advice that can be accessed by phone, text or WhatsApp, and you can also ask for support from an adviser to help you with your application.

Further information can also be seen at:

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

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/teacher-training-and-education/routes-into-teaching#teach-first>

Also see [Funding 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.