

## Applying to Teacher Training for entry 2020

Sep 2019

This help sheet outlines the procedures for applying to the Professional Certificate in Education/Postgraduate Certificate in Education, (PGCE) teacher training courses in Northern Ireland, England and Wales, the Professional Graduate Diploma in Education, (PGDE) in Scotland and the Higher Diploma in Education (HDip) and Postgraduate courses in the Republic of Ireland

### Introduction

It is important to be clear about your reasons for wanting to teach. If you are not sure, then it would be advisable to spend more time researching teaching as a career and gaining additional experiences before applying. Visit schools, talk to teachers, and gain a realistic picture of the rewards and frustrations of teaching as well as the hard work involved. It is not sensible to apply for teacher training simply because you cannot think of anything else to do with your degree. In your application you will be expected to have demonstrated, over time, your commitment to progressing into this profession – get relevant experience!

### Fitness to Teach

All candidates must, by law, satisfy 'fitness to teach' requirements. Your medical fitness will be assessed and you will be scrutinized to ensure that you do not have a criminal record that would inhibit your ability to work safely with children. The provision for convictions to be regarded as 'spent' under the [Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974](#), does not apply to teaching applications.

All trainee teachers in Northern Ireland have to be AccessNI checked before starting school-based training: See AccessNI for further details – [www.accessni.gov.uk](http://www.accessni.gov.uk)

In England Scotland & Wales, the Criminal Records Bureau will check all trainee teachers before starting school-based training. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/agencies-public-bodies/crb/>

In the republic of Ireland, all potential Trainee Teachers have to have a Garda check carried out before commencing training. The Teaching Council is the authorised body for administering Garda Vetting for teachers Ireland. <http://www.teachingcouncil.ie/> (see Vetting tab).

## Teacher Training in Northern Ireland:

In Northern Ireland, postgraduate students can undertake a relevant Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) at either Primary or Secondary level. This is known as initial teacher training (ITT). More information is available from the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland [www.gtcni.org](http://www.gtcni.org).

Useful resources:

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education/advice/468064-training-to-teach-in-northern-ireland>

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/qualified-teach>

## PRIMARY: Where to Train

INSTITUTION	COURSE	CLOSING DATE
Ulster University, Coleraine Cromore Road Coleraine BT52 1SA Tel. No: 028 7012 4595 <a href="https://www.ulster.ac.uk/courses">https://www.ulster.ac.uk/courses</a>	PGCE Primary Education	<b>Confirm with institution</b>  15th November 2019
St Mary's University College, Belfast 191 Falls Road Belfast BT12 6FE Tel. No: 028 9032 7678 <a href="http://www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk/">http://www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk/</a>	PGCE Irish Medium	<b>Confirm with institution</b>  Usually Feb. 2020
Stranmillis University College, Belfast Stranmillis Road Belfast BT9 5DY Tel. No: 028 9038 4263 <a href="http://www.stran.ac.uk/informationabout/courses/">http://www.stran.ac.uk/informationabout/courses/</a>	PGCE Early Years (3-8 age range)	<b>Confirm with institution</b>  Usually Feb. 2020

**NB: Check the institutions websites for specific details in relation to entry requirements and application methods and closing dates.**

## SECONDARY: Where to Train

INSTITUTION	COURSE	CLOSING DATE
Ulster University, Coleraine Cromore Road Coleraine BT52 1SA Tel. No: 028 7012 4595  <a href="https://www.ulster.ac.uk/courses">https://www.ulster.ac.uk/courses</a>	PGCE English (with Drama and Media Studies), Geography, History, Art and Design, Music, Home Economics. Physical Education, Technology and Design.  There are normally 3 places available for students to train to teach their subjects through the medium of Irish.	<b><i>Confirm with institution</i></b>  December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2019
Queen's University, Belfast School of Education 69-71 University Street Belfast BT7 1HL Tel. No: 028 9097 3323/5941 <a href="http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEducation/StudyattheSchool/InitialTeacherEducationPGCE/">http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEducation/StudyattheSchool/InitialTeacherEducationPGCE/</a>	PGCE Science, (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), English, Maths, IT/Computing, Modern Languages (two from French, German, Spanish, Irish), R.E., Sociology, Politics, Irish Medium Education.	<b><i>Confirm with institution</i></b>  Usually 1 <sup>st</sup> week in November 2019

**NB: Check the institutions websites for specific details in relation to entry requirements and application methods**

**Finance:** Students ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland are eligible for a non means-tested loan for fees and a means-tested maintenance grant. More information and application details can be found at <http://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk/>.

Candidates from a country within the European Union, can find information at:

<https://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk/types-of-finance/postgraduate/european-union-student-including-roi/>

Further details from: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/>

**Useful Information:**

Education Authority - <http://www.eani.org.uk/>

### ***Useful links for researching getting into teaching in Northern Ireland :***

NI Curriculum	<a href="http://ccea.org.uk/">http://ccea.org.uk/</a>
Department of Education	<a href="https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/">https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/</a>
Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS)	<a href="http://www.onlineccms.com/">http://www.onlineccms.com/</a>
General Teaching Council	<a href="http://www.gtcni.org.uk/">http://www.gtcni.org.uk/</a>
Applying for Teacher Training	<a href="https://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-teacher-training">https://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-teacher-training</a>
Applying for Teacher Training	<a href="https://targetpostgrad.com/subjects/teaching-and-education">https://targetpostgrad.com/subjects/teaching-and-education</a>

### **Teacher Training in GB**

#### **Introduction:**

You need Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) to teach in UK schools. This is gained normally either by completing a PGCE / PGDE that is normally a one-year full-time course or by completing school centered training which recommends you for Qualified Teacher Status. This is known as Initial Teacher Training (ITT - England & Wales), Initial Teacher Education (ITE - Scotland).

See: <https://targetpostgrad.com/subjects/teaching-and-education/how-do-you-become-a-teacher>

#### **Where to Train:**

There is a huge array of Initial Teacher Training / Education Providers in England/Scotland/Wales. Your choice will depend on where you want to go, the subjects, the age range offered and the method by which QTS is obtained. All applications for PGCE, Schools Direct programs or School Centered Initial Teacher training programs can be made through the UCAS – Teacher Training application system.

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training/getting-started/which-route-right-you>

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas-teacher-training-apply-1>

For more information in relation to the different programs offered – see:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options>

<https://targetpostgrad.com/subjects/teaching-and-education/overview-of-your-postgraduate-teacher-training-options>

**NB:** The UCAS Teacher training application does not cover the Teach First programme.

This is an alternative route to obtaining Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

See: <https://graduates.teachfirst.org.uk/why-teach-first>

## Teacher Training in England

### **PRIMARY – General Entry Requirements – (NB. Double check with specific institutions for any variations).**

- GCSE English Language, Maths and a Science subject. Equivalent qualifications may or may not be acceptable, make sure you check with the institution you intend applying to.
- A good degree (2.2 or above) *which does not have to be in a national curriculum subject*. Your previous education must provide the necessary foundation for work as a primary school teacher so 'A' levels or equivalent and postgraduate qualifications can also be taken into account.
- Demonstrate **extensive experience** of working with children of primary age preferably in school environment. (The sooner you begin to gain experience the more able you are to demonstrate extensive experience)

### **SECONDARY - Entry Requirements - (NB. check with specific institutions for variations).**

- GCSE Grade C English & Maths.
- Degree in a subject relevant to that which you wish to teach. It is generally expected that at least 50% of your degree subject should be directly relevant.
- Demonstrate experience of working with young people preferably in the school environment. Many course providers insist on a minimum number of days' observation focused on your subject in a secondary school other than the one you attended.

### **How to Apply**

<http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/teacher-training>

also see

<http://graduates.teachfirst.org.uk/index.html>

### **Alternative Entry Routes**

Students in England may also apply for the **Schools Direct Programme**

(<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/school-led-training/school-direct>)

## Finance

Fees are payable for all PGCE courses. Tuition fees vary depending on the course and the Higher Education Institution (HEI) or School Centered Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) provider. You should contact the HEI or SCITT provider of the course or programme you are interested in directly. You may take out a fees loan and may be eligible for a means tested maintenance grant.

A non –repayable bursary may be available dependent on undergrad subject & classification.

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training/finance-and-support-trainee-teachers>

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-and-salary/overview>

## Useful Information:

Organisation	Web Address	Telephone Number
Department for Education	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education</a>	0370 000 2288
Training Development Agency (TDA)	<a href="https://www.tda.uk/">https://www.tda.uk/</a>	0800 389 2500
National Curriculum	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum</a>	0300 303 3011

## Teacher Training in Wales

Training to teach in Wales is broadly similar to training to teach in other parts of the UK, but there are key differences you need to be aware of. The university-based Postgraduate or Professional Certificate of Education (PGCE) route is the same. You can also apply for the Graduate Teacher

Programme in Wales (<https://www.ucas.com/postgraduate/teacher-training/train-teach-wales/postgraduate-teacher-training-wales>).

School curriculum in Wales differs from that in England. It specifies all subjects should be taught from a Welsh perspective or have a Welsh dimension. Welsh language as either a first or second language is mandatory in both primary and secondary schools. Whilst you do not need to be a Welsh speaker to undertake teacher training in Wales it is likely you will be encouraged to learn Welsh on a primary PGCE course to at least basic level and it may be compulsory as Welsh is a core subject to Key Stage 4. On secondary courses, you may be offered the opportunity to learn Welsh.

For more information about teacher training in Wales see:

<https://targetpostgrad.com/subjects/teaching-and-education/training-to-teach-in-wales>

Three collaborative ITT Centres of teacher education provide for initial Teacher Training (ITT) Wales. Each Centre comprises of two ITT providers. The structure, organisation and course portfolios of the Centres will vary and will reflect the individual institutions involved. The Centres are:

[North and Mid Wales Centre](#) - Bangor and Aberystwyth University.

[South West Wales Centre](#) - Swansea Metropolitan University and University of Wales.

[South East Wales Centre](#) - University of Wales, Newport and the University of Wales Institute.

**Entry Requirements:** *Check with specific institutions to confirm criteria for primary and secondary.*

**Primary teachers** teach all the subjects in the Welsh National Curriculum; English, Mathematics, Science, Design & Technology, Information & Communication Technology, Geography, History, Physical Education, Art, Music, Religious Education and Welsh. Your previous education (Degree, A Levels, and equivalent qualifications) should match at least one of these National Curriculum subjects. If you have a Non National Curriculum degree, you should highlight on your application form any modules that relate specifically to primary education Welsh National Curriculum subjects.

**Secondary teachers** are subject specialists. You are expected to have at least 50%-degree relevance to the specialist-teaching subject being applied for. There may be flexibility in some subjects; other degrees may contain very relevant subject knowledge. For example, engineering, economics, business studies, management science, and health sciences.

## How to Apply

<http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/teacher-training> also see  
<http://graduates.teachfirst.org.uk/index.html>

## Useful Information

Teacher Training & Education in Wales	<a href="http://teachertrainingcymru.org/index.htm">http://teachertrainingcymru.org/index.htm</a>	0800 389 2500
Welsh Assembly Government –Education & Skills	<a href="http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/?lang=en">http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/?lang=en</a>	0845 010 3300
Student Finance Wales	<a href="http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/">http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/</a>	0845 602 8845
Welsh Curriculum	<a href="http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculuminwales/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculuminwales/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/?lang=en</a>	0845 010 3300

## Teacher Training in Scotland:

Graduates wishing to train in Scotland must apply for entry to the Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE), which is normally a one-year full-time course. Some courses are offered part-time or by distance learning although entry to these may be restricted. Please see the 'Teaching in Scotland' website for more details: The PGDE is offered at primary level, (which covers a wide range of subjects and ages: pre-school and 5 to 12), or in individual secondary subjects and ages 12 to 18.

<http://teachinscotland.scot/>

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training/train-teach-scotland>

<https://targetpostgrad.com/subjects/teaching-and-education/training-to-teach-in-scotland>

## Where to Train

You may train at the universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and University of the West of Scotland at Paisley or Strathclyde. At secondary level not all subjects are offered at all universities. *Check the 'Teaching in Scotland' website for details.*



University of Aberdeen	<a href="https://www.abdn.ac.uk/education/">https://www.abdn.ac.uk/education/</a>	01224 274776
University of Dundee	<a href="https://www.dundee.ac.uk/esw">https://www.dundee.ac.uk/esw</a>	01382 381400
University of Edinburgh	<a href="http://www.ed.ac.uk/education">http://www.ed.ac.uk/education</a>	0131 6516138
University of Glasgow	<a href="http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/education/">http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/education/</a>	0141 3303202
University of the West of Scotland UWS (Paisley campus)	<a href="http://www.uws.ac.uk/schools/school-of-education/">http://www.uws.ac.uk/schools/school-of-education/</a>	0800 027 1000 01292 886206
University of Strathclyde	<a href="https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofeducation/">https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofeducation/</a>	0141 950 3000
Open University	<a href="http://www2.open.ac.uk/students/_data/documents/careers/becoming-a-teacher.pdf">http://www2.open.ac.uk/students/_data/documents/careers/becoming-a-teacher.pdf</a>	0131 2263851

### PRIMARY - Entry Requirements:

- Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) English at Higher Grade Pass/GCSE Grade C or above **in both English Language & Literature**.
- SCE Maths at Standard Grade 1 or 2, GCSE Grade B or above.
- Your education should include at least 2 of the following subjects: Science, Social Studies, Expressive Arts, Religious and Moral Education, Technology, Modern Foreign Language.
- A degree that will give you the necessary foundation for working as a primary school teacher and **extensive experience** of working with children of primary school age *preferably* in a school environment.

### SECONDARY - Entry Requirements:

- Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) English at Higher Grade, GCSE Grade C **in both English Language and Literature** (Maths is not required).

- Degree content must contain two passes (80 credit points) in subject relevant to that you wish to teach and at least 40 credits must have been gained in the second or later years of the course. Make sure you check with institution that you wish to study at that your degree satisfies their criteria.
- Some subjects have additional requirements and you should check these with the individual institution's website for details.

### How to Apply:

<http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/teacher-training> also see  
<http://graduates.teachfirst.org.uk/index.html>

### Interviews

Applicants who are short-listed will be interviewed. Selectors look for:

- Knowledge of the Scottish national curriculum guidelines for your subject(s)
- Knowledge of the teaching profession & your Suitability for a career as a teacher.

There is usually an interview, a group activity and to complete a written and practical test in your subject.

### Finance

The government bursaries that are offered in England and Wales do not apply to Scotland. If you live in Scotland contact the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) <http://www.saas.gov.uk/> Most Scottish domiciled students will have their fees paid if they have not studied a vocational course previously. You can apply for support if your course qualifies you for a Scottish Studentship or other studentship award from a research council or government department and will be entitled to further funding if you wish to teach a number of subjects. See the 'Teaching in Scotland' website for details. Students ordinarily resident outside Scotland should check with their Local Education Authority or, in Northern Ireland their Education & Library Board, as to what funding may be available. You may take out a student loan.

Organisation	Web Address	Tel No
Scottish Executive Education Dept.	<a href="http://www.teachinScotland.org/">http://www.teachinScotland.org/</a>	08453454745
Student Awards Agency for Scotland	<a href="http://www.saas.gov.uk">www.saas.gov.uk</a>	0300 555 0505

Scottish Education and Curriculum for Excellence	<a href="http://www.ltscotland.org.uk">www.ltscotland.org.uk</a>	0870 0100297
General Teaching Council for Scotland	<a href="http://www.gtcs.org.uk">www.gtcs.org.uk</a>	0131 314 6000

## Teacher Training in the Republic of Ireland

### Introduction

For all teaching posts you will need a recognised teaching qualification and registration with the Teaching Council in the Republic of Ireland. Primary teachers are qualified to teach the entire range of subjects in the curriculum from junior infants to Sixth class (age range 4-12). Entry to post primary training requires a degree with significant subject content which enables you to teach at least one curriculum subject to Leaving Certificate at Higher Level geared towards the 11-18 age range.

**NB:** If you obtain teaching qualification outside Ireland in an EEA member state and wish to return to Republic of Ireland to teach you will need to complete any required period of post-qualification professional practice in that member state before registering with the Teaching Council for Ireland.

**Primary** <http://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/Teacher-Education/Initial-Teacher-Education/>

### Where to Train

DCU Institute of Education	<a href="https://www.dcu.ie/institute_of_education/index.shtml">https://www.dcu.ie/institute_of_education/index.shtml</a>	(01) 884 2212
Maynooth Uni. Froebel Dept. of Primary & Early Childhood Education.	<a href="https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/froebel-department-primary-and-early-childhood-education">https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/froebel-department-primary-and-early-childhood-education</a>	(01) 708 6000
Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9	<a href="https://www.mie.ie/en/">https://www.mie.ie/en/</a>	(01) 805 7700
Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick	<a href="http://www.mic.ul.ie/education/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.mic.ul.ie/education/Pages/default.aspx</a>	(061) 204 300

## Alternative Routes to Qualifying as a primary teacher

Hibernia College, Dublin offers a Graduate Diploma in Primary Education by distance learning recognised by the Department of Education and Science. See <https://hiberniacollege.com/>

### SECONDARY - Where to Train

**Trinity College, Dublin** – offers Science, Modern Languages, Business Studies, English, Irish, History, Geography, Maths, RE, Music. *Closing Date:* Check with institution - Direct application.

**University of Limerick** – offers Business, Modern Languages, Music, Physical Education and Technology. *Closing Date:* Likely to be 1<sup>st</sup> week in March. Check with institution

**National College of Art & Design, Dublin**-offers PG Dip in Art & Design Education. *Closing Date:* Check with institution – usually 1<sup>st</sup> week in April. Direct application

**Dublin City University** - offers a 2 year part-time Graduate Diploma in Education to applicants from a wide variety of degree subjects and experience. Applications open in October – Check with DCU.

Trinity	<a href="http://www.tcd.ie/Education/postgraduate/">http://www.tcd.ie/Education/postgraduate/</a>	<a href="#">Contacts</a>
University of Limerick	<a href="http://www.ul.ie/graduateschool/courses/education-health-sciences">http://www.ul.ie/graduateschool/courses/education-health-sciences</a>	(061) 234377
National College of Art and Design, Dublin	<a href="http://www.ncad.ie/postgraduate/school-of-education/">http://www.ncad.ie/postgraduate/school-of-education/</a>	(01) 6364200
Dublin City University	<a href="http://www.dcu.ie/prospective">http://www.dcu.ie/prospective</a>	(01)7005338

**Hibernia College, Dublin** – offers a 2-year online post primary Higher Diploma in Arts Post Primary Teaching. Programme is accredited for the following 13 subjects: Gaeilge, English, Modern Languages, History, Geography, CSPE, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Accounting, Business and Economics. Not all subjects may be offered at every start date. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. See website for details: <https://hiberniacollege.com/>

**The NUI Universities (UCD, Galway, Cork and Maynooth)** have a common application process. <http://www.pac.ie/main.php?inst=pe&ln=e>

Organisation	Web Address	Tel No.
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National University of Ireland, Galway	<a href="http://www.nuigalway.ie/education">www.nuigalway.ie/education</a>	(091) 492 195
University College Cork	<a href="http://www.ucc.ie/en/education">www.ucc.ie/en/education</a>	(021) 490 2465
University College Dublin	<a href="http://www.ucd.ie/education">www.ucd.ie/education</a>	(01) 7167965 (01) 7167777
National University of Ireland, Maynooth	<a href="http://www.nuim.ie/academic/education">www.nuim.ie/academic/education</a>	(01) 708 3656

### Entry Requirements

Degree recognised by the General Teaching Council. It is vital to check that your degree is one of a list of approved degree courses – before applying to a PME. There is no requirement to pass an Oral exam in Irish, but if you wish to teach in a secondary school you will be required to undertake a written test in the history of education in Ireland. See: <https://gradireland.com/further-study/areas-of-study/postgraduate-study-in-teaching-and-education>

### Finance

Students resident in the Republic of Ireland may obtain awards from their HEG and VEC Scholarship Schemes. Find information at <http://postgradireland.com/advice-and-funding>  
Students domiciled in the UK should in the first instance contact the local educational authority.

### Useful Information

Postgraduate Applications Centre (PAC) 1 Courthouse Square, Galway	(091) 549 260	<a href="http://www.pac.ie">www.pac.ie</a>
The Teaching Council, Block A, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	(010) 651 7900	<a href="http://www.teachingcouncil.ie">www.teachingcouncil.ie</a>
Department of Education & Science, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1	(01) 8896400	<a href="http://www.education.ie">www.education.ie</a>

## **Teacher Training – Further Education (FE)**

The Further Education (FE) sector covers post-compulsory education 16+ years and, for the most part, is based in further education and sixth form colleges or adult and community settings. Lecturers teach at a variety of levels from basic skills and vocational qualifications to Foundation degrees. It is not essential to have a professional teaching qualification in order to obtain a post, although most entrants are graduates. In certain subjects, especially in areas such as construction trades, it may be possible to enter with relevant work experience, however regulations introduced in 2007 specify that all teachers/lecturers who have a full range of teaching responsibilities must attain qualified status within a specified number of years, (ranging from two to five), of taking up their post.

However, it is still possible to enter FE teaching with no teaching qualification and begin a qualification once in post teaching. It is up to individual colleges which qualifications they might ask for. Some colleges put all new teachers through their own in-house 30-week training programme, others insist on qualifications prior to starting.

Teachers who have qualified to teach in post primary schools and have obtained Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) are eligible to teach in the Further Education (FE) sector but will be required to obtain the specialist FE qualification whilst in-service.

Lecturers in FE may be appointed to full or associate positions. Full lecturers undertake the complete range of teaching and planning while associates have less responsibility and often less hours.

Teachers of all subjects will be expected to have at least a level three qualification in their specialist subject. They will also need evidence of level 2 (GCSE or equivalent) English, Maths and ICT to apply for Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS).

Teachers of literacy, numeracy or English for Speakers of Other languages, (ESOL) will be expected to have a good knowledge of the subject they intend to teach - shown through A' levels or university study, or through other qualifications or experience. They will also need to have good personal skills in the supporting areas of English, Maths and ICT.

## **Sources of Information about Further Education**

The Education & Training Foundation is the main conduit for disseminating information about training to teach in FE. They also run the main FE information website: <https://www.feadvice.org.uk/i-want-work-fe-skills-sector>

## **Training to Teach in FE in Northern Ireland**

In Northern Ireland a recognised teaching qualification is not required **initially** to obtain a post in the FE sector but is expected to be obtained within 3 years of taking up employment.

The qualifications recognised for teaching in the NI Further Education Sector are:

- The Certificate in Teaching (CIT) at Ulster University. It is a recognised qualification for those working in the learning and skills sector. It is a pre-requisite that you have a minimum of 4 teaching hours per week.
- Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), obtained in the UK;
- Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE / PME), obtained in the Republic of Ireland (provided the individual also holds a 'conditional registration' or 'full registration' with the Teaching Council of Ireland);
- Bachelor of Education Degree (B.Ed), obtained in the UK or the Republic of Ireland;
- University of Ulster BA (Honours) in Education;
- Northern Ireland Post Graduate Certificate in Further and Higher Education (PGCFHE).
- The addition of a further year of study for the Postgraduate Diploma in Further and Higher Education provides eligibility to teach in post primary schools.
- Northern Ireland Post Graduate Certificate in Education (Further Education) (PGCE (F.E)). The Certificate in Teaching (mentioned above) is a pre-requisite to entry onto the PGCE(FE).

Prospective lecturers who do not hold one of the qualifications listed above, may still be eligible to apply for a teaching post, provided they complete the in-service PGCE (Further Education) teaching qualification. Prospective lecturers with a B.Ed. or PGCE may be required to undertake further professional development.

Since August 2012, all new full-time, associate and part-time **Essential Skills** lecturers must hold a degree in the chosen subject specialism or a degree that forms a minimum of 50% of the subject studied. In addition, all new Essential Skills lecturers, who do not hold a teaching qualification that is recognised for teaching in the Northern Ireland FE sector (see above) must achieve Year 1 of the Post Graduate Certificate in Education (Further Education) (PGCE (FE) within the first year of appointment. The second year must be successfully completed within the next two years.

## Funding

If you are not being supported by your employer the funding available will be as for an undergraduate course. There are no bursaries available in Northern Ireland.

See: <https://targetpostgrad.com/subjects/teaching-and-education/training-to-teach-in-northern-ireland>

## Training to Teach FE in England

<https://targetpostgrad.com/subjects/teaching-and-education/training-to-teach-in-further-and-higher-education>

Full teaching roles require that you are registered with the Institute for Learning: [www.ifl.ac.uk](http://www.ifl.ac.uk) and obtain the Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QLTS).

Associate teaching roles require that you obtain Associate Teacher Learning and Skills (ALTS) status within five years of being appointed to the post.

## FE teaching qualifications

There are no two ways about it: this bit can be confusing. There is a suite of teaching qualifications approved for the sector and offered by Universities, Colleges and other providers but they have various names. There are also in circulation qualifications from previous approved series. We try to make sense of it in the following:

- Level 3 Award in Education and Training (QCF)
- Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training (QCF)
- Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training (QCF)
- Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training including a specialist pathway (QCF)
- Level 5 integrated specialist diplomas (QCF)
- Level 5 standalone specialist diplomas (QCF)

For more information, see:

<https://www.feadvice.org.uk/i-want-work-fe-skills-sector/i-want-be-teacher-fe-skills>

## Funding

Loans, fee awards and grants may be available to support individuals undertaking a teaching qualification. Bursaries are available for Maths, English Lang. and Special Educational Needs and up-to-date info can be found here: <https://www.feadvice.org.uk/want-work-sector-i-want-be-teacher-fe/incentives-new-teachers>

## Training to Teach in FE in Wales

To teach in FE colleges in Wales, you need to hold, or gain, an Institute for Learning, <http://www.ifl.ac.uk> endorsed teaching qualification, for Wales. Training courses may be taken either full or part-time. The



one-year full-time route is usually taken pre-service and is offered at the universities of [South Wales](#), [\(Newport\)](#), [Glyndwr](#) and [Cardiff](#). Contact FE colleges for details of part-time courses available and to organize some teaching hours if you do not have a teaching post already.

### Funding

You may apply for a fees loan and if you normally live in Wales you will also be entitled to a tuition fee grant and loan. Training Incentive grants for Maths and Science may be available to provide support for living costs with additional help from Student Finance depending on your circumstances. See: <http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/>

### Training to Teach in FE in Scotland

In order to teach in the FE sector in Scotland you will normally require a degree/HND, or professional qualification and relevant employment in business or industry however a teacher training qualification is not mandatory. See <https://targetpostgrad.com/subjects/teaching-and-education/training-to-teach-in-scotland> (See qualifying to teach in Further Education in Scotland)

- Teachers of academic subjects may be trained to teach in the post-primary sector and hold a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE).
- Most FE lecturers take the Teaching Qualification in Further Education (TQFE) which is offered by the Universities of [Stirling](#), [Aberdeen](#) and [Dundee](#).
- There is no specific qualification to teach literacy and numeracy but ESOL provision and professional development initiatives may be found at: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45678.html>

### Funding

As training is undertaken in-service employers receive a government grant in respect of fees. Some lecturers self-fund as there may be a waiting list for funded places on a course. Scottish students studying in Scotland and taking a Professional Graduate Diploma in education (PGDE) in a priority subject normally will have their fees and a bursary paid. See: <http://www.saas.gov.uk/index.htm> for details. Students domiciled outside Scotland will need to apply to their local authority / education and library board to ascertain what funding may be available.

### Moving from further education into school teaching

Since April 2012, lecturers in further education who hold Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status, and are members with the Society for Education & Training, you are eligible to work as a qualified teacher in schools in England. See the Department of Education pages on QTLS recognition for more information. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/qualified-teacher-status-qts>

If you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact into your Employability & Careers Hub and talk to our Student Engagement Team or Employability Advisers.

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