

NEC CAREER TRACKS: Teaching

Are you thinking about a career in teaching? This NEC Career Tracks guide tells you about the routes into the profession and looks at the qualifications, qualities and skills you'll need.

Teaching as a career

This Career Tracks covers **primary** (looking after the educational, social, physical and emotional development of children aged 5–11) and **secondary** (teaching young people aged 11–16, or up to 19 in schools with a sixth form).

If you want to make a difference to the lives of children and young people, teaching is a great career to choose. As well as the chance to work virtually anywhere in the UK, teaching offers a structured career path, with options to specialise in SEN (special educational needs), work in pastoral care, or, as you become more experienced, as a leader of education, supporting teachers in other schools. A UK teaching qualification is highly sought after by schools all over the world, so if you want to work abroad for a few years, teaching's a good career choice.

Why be a teacher?

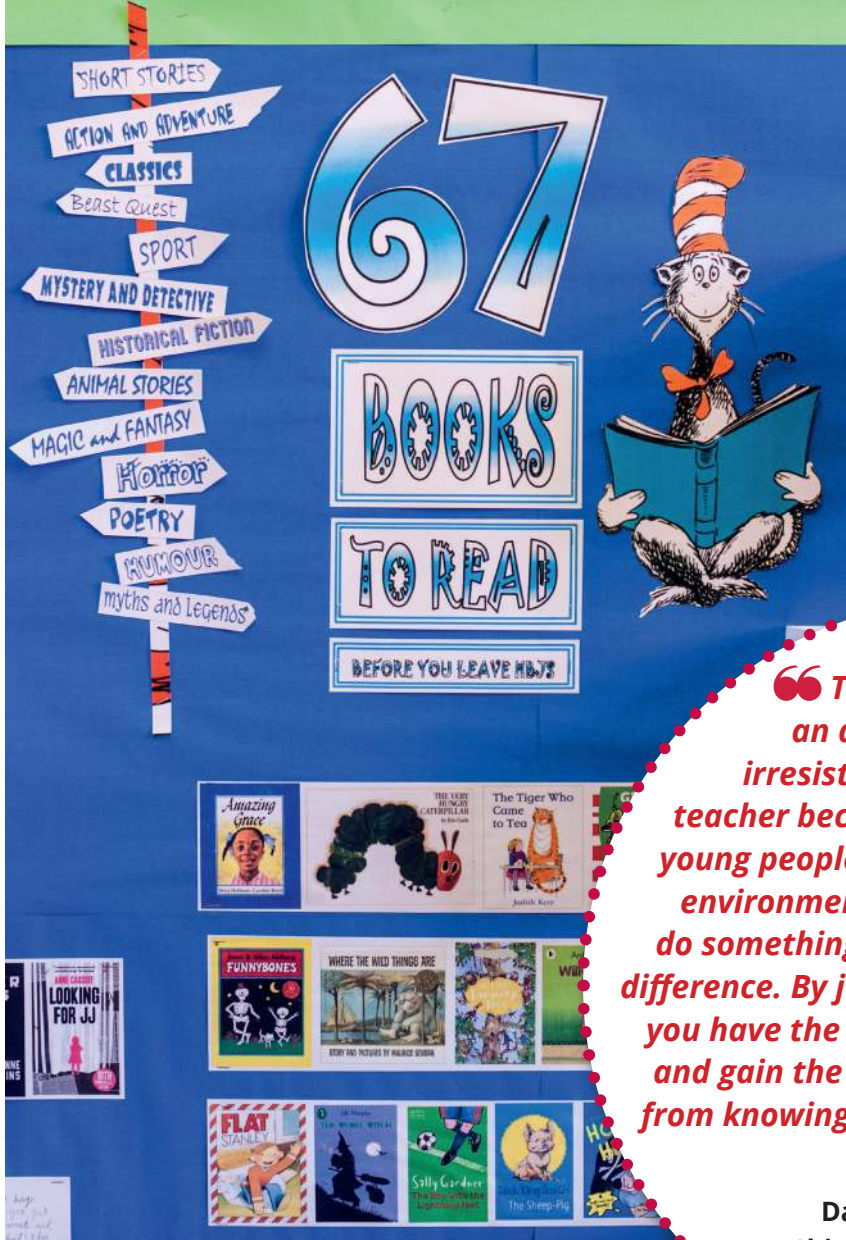
Your reasons for wanting to become a teacher are unique to you. Here are some of the reasons why people choose teaching:

- for the variety and challenge of working with children and young people
- to work towards a qualification that leads to a professional career path
- to develop a career that enables you to work in your local area
- to gain a range of skills and experience that are transferable to other careers
- to gain a qualification that can be used abroad

If one or more of these reasons strike a chord with you, read on.



For an inside view of what it's like to be a teacher in a secondary school, watch an episode of Channel 4's *Educating* series. Locations include Cardiff, Essex, London's East End (pictured left) and Yorkshire, with Salford coming up in 2017.



How much do teachers earn?

Based on current salary levels, new teachers should expect a starting salary of £22,500+, rising to £39,000+ for highly experienced teachers.

“Teaching provides an amazing, varied and irresistible career. I became a teacher because I wanted to work with young people in a vibrant, ever-changing environment and because I wanted to do something that might make a positive difference. By joining the teaching profession, you have the opportunity to inspire others and gain the true satisfaction that comes from knowing your efforts will change lives for the better.”

**Dame Alison Peacock,
Chief Executive, Chartered
College of Teaching**

What qualifications will I need?

To apply for a place on a teacher training course you need:

- 1 An undergraduate degree** from a UK university.
- 2 In England, GCSE English and maths at grade C/grade 4 or above, or the Welsh equivalent. For primary, a science GCSE at grade C/grade 4 or above.**
- 3 Two or three days experience in a school.** Time in a school will give you the opportunity to talk to teachers about what working in the profession is like day-to-day, watch lessons and observe pastoral work. Register through the Department for Education for its School Experience Programme.
- 4 Passes in the government’s literacy and numeracy tests for teacher training.**
- 5 A DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check,** to verify that you don’t have a criminal record that would prevent you working with children and young people.

Job prospects

The ease with which you’ll find a job once you’re trained depends to a large extent on what area of the UK you live in. The TES Recruitment Index, available from www.tesglobal.com, provides information by region at primary and secondary level. You need to start job hunting at the end of the preceding calendar year to start work in September, when the school year begins, applying for jobs from January onwards.

ROUTES INTO TEACHING

There are two main routes into teaching: school-led training and university-led training.

School-led training	University-led training
<p>Course duration: 12 months Qualification: QTS (Qualified Teacher Status)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">120 days in total spent in a schoolyou will learn from experienced teachers throughout the training periodin most cases, working towards a PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education)	<p>Course duration: 12 months Qualification: PGCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">placements in schools for half of the courseyou will study the pedagogy of teachingyou will be working towards a PGCE <p>To gain Qualified Teacher Status, you will need to teach in a school for a year after the PGCE course.</p>

If you have substantial experience of working in schools in the UK and are a graduate, you can choose an assessment route to Qualified Teacher Status, without doing a teacher training programme.

For exceptional former service personnel, the **Troops to Teachers** offers another route into teaching (England only).

CASE STUDY

From graphic designer to secondary school director of specialism

Naila Din was pregnant when she was studying for her first degree, in graphic design. She had her daughter during half term and, with the permission of the university, took her baby into class until she was three months old. Later, when Naila decided to train to be a teacher, she needed to improve her GCSE English grade to be eligible for a place and enrolled with NEC. She went on to qualify as a secondary teacher and was fast-tracked to the leadership role of director of specialism at a secondary school in East Anglia. As well as working on the college's branding, she developed and taught a new course in graphic design, and helped the college obtain the Arts Mark Gold, a national award celebrating schools that champion the arts. Naila says: 'NEC's GCSE English was by far the best option for me as it gave me the flexibility to complete everything in a few months. My experience of using language was specific to graphics work, so the course helped me broaden out my skills. The school where I worked really understood the value I was able to bring to students through the professional skills I had developed as a graphic designer. Becoming a teacher is one of the best career moves I have made!'



Teacher training across the UK

The Welsh Graduate Teacher Programme

is very similar to the school-led programmes in England and typically lasts for 12 months. Students then have to pass an NQT (Newly Qualified Teacher) to become fully qualified.

Scottish Initial Teacher Training is a university-led programme offering a combination of theoretical understanding and school experience. Scotland doesn't offer a school-led training option.

In Northern Ireland there are two main routes into teacher training: the 'concurrent' route, which involves completing a B Ed (Bachelor of Education degree) or the 'consecutive' route, which involves the completion of a first degree and a subsequent year studying for a PGCE.

Teach First recruits outstanding graduates for the two-year Teach First Leadership Development Programme, training them to teach and become

educational leaders in primary and secondary schools in low-income communities.

Now Teach was set up in 2016 by former *Financial Times* journalist Lucy Kellaway and Katie Waldegrave, who trained to teach with Teach First. It aims to attract into teaching experienced professionals from the private and public sectors who want to use their leadership skills in schools.

School Direct is the name given to in-school teacher training in England. School Direct offers two main options: tuition fee, run by a school or group of schools who work closely with a university or School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) consortium. Students are unpaid. Salaried is a further programme run by a school or group of schools. Students are employed by a school as an unqualified teacher. Providers work closely with a SCITT consortium.

CASE STUDY

Combined Science IGCSE opens the door to primary teaching

With an A in Combined Science IGCSE (International GCSE), Stella Lawrence is well on the way to becoming a primary school teacher. When she received her exam result in 2016, she wrote to her NEC tutor: 'This result is totally unexpected and beyond my wildest dreams. I put my success firmly with NEC and your relentless patience and very prompt responses throughout the six months of my course. The result will change my life and has made my confidence soar. I only hope I can be half as good a mentor and teacher as you.'



How NEC can help you fulfil your ambition to be a teacher

Achieving essential GCSE qualifications:

if you left school without a GCSE in maths or English, or need to improve your grade in one or both subjects, NEC can support you. You will have a tutor to guide you through the course and prepare for the exam. If you want to teach at primary level and don't have a science GCSE at grade C or above, NEC can help with that too. We offer IGCSEs (International GCSEs) in biology, chemistry, combined science and physics.

Plugging qualifications gaps at A level: to teach a subject at secondary level, you need to have an A level as a minimum. That means, for example, that if you did a history degree many years ago but really want to teach chemistry, you can apply for a training place as a graduate and offer chemistry A level for your preferred subject specialism. We offer a full range of arts and humanities, physical sciences, social sciences and business subjects at A level, as well as English and maths.

Visit www.nec.ac.uk to request free sample course materials for all our GCSEs, IGCSEs and A levels.

About the school sector

In England, state primary and secondary schools can be community schools, Academies, foundation schools, free schools or voluntary aided schools. The devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are responsible for primary and secondary education.

In numbers:

- 93% – the approximate percentage of children in the UK who attend a school in the state sector
- c. 24,300 – the number of state schools in England, including nursery schools, state-funded primary schools, special schools and pupil referral units
- c. 8.2 million – the number of pupils in England attending school
- c.456,900 – the number of full-time equivalent teaching posts in state schools in England



Studying with NEC

Our learning resources are produced and selected by course developers who include teachers, examiners and distance learning experts. NEC courses are delivered online and each student has a personal tutor to support them in their studies. Students sit GCSE, IGCSE and A level exams in May or June. You can enrol with NEC at any time, and sample our course materials online before you sign up. Course fees cover tuition and all course materials, including online diagnostic exercises, assessments, quizzes, videos and e-books. You can download and print the resources, read an e-book on your daily commute and watch a video on your mobile phone or tablet. Our A level, IGCSE and GCSE students consistently achieve results as good as or higher than the national average.

FIND OUT MORE

Training to teach

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

For detailed information on eligibility for a scholarship to train as a secondary teacher in physics, maths, chemistry, computing, languages or geography.

www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training

Interactive tools from UCAS to help you decide which teaching route to choose, comprehensive information on training courses, funding your training and guidance on how to apply for a place on a training course.

Chartered College of Teaching

A new organisation, run by teachers for teachers, to connect the teaching profession and support teachers in achieving the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

Teaching unions

Teaching unions campaign on behalf of teachers in areas such as pay and working conditions. Members have access to a range of benefits including opportunities for professional development and training. The two largest unions are the National Union of Teachers <https://www.teachers.org.uk/> and the NASUWT <https://www.nasuw.org.uk/>. From 1 September 2017, the two unions become the National Education Union.

School inspection reports

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

Download the most recent Ofsted inspection reports for state-funded schools in England.

<https://education.gov.scot/what-we-do/inspection-and-review>

Download the most recent inspection reports for state-funded schools in Scotland.

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/inspection>

Download the most recent inspection reports for state-funded schools in Wales.

<https://www.etini.gov.uk/>

Download the most recent inspection reports for state-funded schools in Wales.

www.isi.net

Download the most recent Independent Schools Inspectorate reports for independent schools that are members of the Associations that make up the Independent Schools Council.

What next?

- Call the Department for Education's Get into Teaching line on 0800 389 2500. Advisers will give you information about training tailored to your circumstances, and guide you through the application process.
- Attend a free event for people interested in teaching. The Department for Education lists events across the UK. You will be able to meet representatives of Teach First, School Direct and universities offering teacher training, and talk to teachers working in schools in your area.

Disclaimer: the information in this Career Tracks was up-to-date when it was published at www.nec.ac.uk. If you are thinking of a career in teaching, you are advised to make direct contact with the organisations cited here, or call our Advice Team on 0800 389 2839.

NEC's Career Tracks provide an insight into the most popular career choices made by our students. As well as information on the qualifications you need for your chosen career, entry routes and training, NEC Career Tracks look at the personal qualities you will need and list websites where you can find out more.

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