

Career Tracks Teaching

Where to start
What qualifications do you need
Career routes
Relevant training
How can NEC help

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Your future, your goals

Gain qualifications, start a career, change direction. Whatever your goal we'll help you achieve it.

At the National Extension College (NEC) we've been providing distance learning to help young people and adults learn to change their future for over 55 years. During that time, we've seen, on many occasions, how someone's life can be transformed by taking the right course at the right time.

Each year thousands of students, like you, from around the world, access our quality courses and expert tutor support to develop their knowledge and skills, and achieve their goals.

Some of our students need qualifications to go on to further or higher education. Some plan to take professional courses in areas such as teaching or healthcare and just need that essential GCSE or A level to make it happen.

Whatever your reason for studying, we look forward to welcoming you to NEC as a student.

This guide will give you an overview of how to embark on a career in teaching, what qualifications you will need, and how NEC can help.

For more information on the courses we offer, visit our website **www.nec.ac.uk**.

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, and how NEC can help you.

Teaching as a career

Do you remember a teacher from school who made a real difference to your life or inspired you to become a teacher? 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) school teaching.

If you want to make a difference to the lives of children and young people, teaching is a great career to choose. 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 is 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 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 community
- ▶ to gain a range of skills and experience that are transferable to other careers
- ▶ to gain a qualification that can be used abroad.

**Sounds like you?
Read on.**



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

How much do teachers earn?

Teaching offers a competitive starting salary and plenty of opportunities to progress your career. Some schools are able to develop their own pay policies in order to attract and retain inspiring teachers, meaning that what you earn is linked to your performance as a teacher, not to how long you have been teaching.

Teachers' pay ranges are revised annually. You can find the most up-to-date figures on the **Get into Teaching** website.

What qualifications, qualities and skills 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 4/grade C** or above, or the Welsh equivalent. For primary school teaching you'll also need a **science GCSE at grade 4/grade C** or above.
3. Time gaining **experience 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. You could arrange to gain experience in a local school directly. Alternatively you can register with the Department for Education (DfE) **Get School Experience service** which can help you to find a school in your area where you can gain some experience.
4. To meet the government's required level of literacy and numeracy skills.
5. A **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check** to verify that you don't have a criminal record that would prevent you working with children and young people.

Find out more about the entry requirements for teacher training in England and Wales on the **UCAS** website. You should also contact the university, school or college where you plan to apply for your teacher training to check their entry requirements.

Job prospects

Teaching offers good employment prospects and job security. Good teachers are always in demand.

There is no such thing as a 'typical day at work' if you are a teacher. No two days are the same, but every day you will get the chance to use your skills to inspire the students you teach. You need to start job hunting at the end of the preceding calendar year to start work in September when the new school year begins, applying for jobs from January onwards. Ninety-four percent of newly qualified teachers find employment within six months of qualifying.

Once you get into teaching, you'll have the opportunity to progress your career and to climb the career ladder.



Routes into teaching in England

How you get into your career in teaching will depend on your personal circumstances and on the subject and age group that you plan to teach. To teach as a qualified teacher in England you will need to have Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Routes into teaching include both university-led and school-led training courses.

Make sure teaching is the right job for you

If you can, spend time observing and helping out with lessons in a local school before you apply to do a teacher training course. You'll be able to use the experience you gain for the experience to show how it has motivated you to study to become a teacher.

The **Get into Teaching website** provides lots of information if you are thinking of a career as a teacher and can help you to choose the right teacher training course for you.

University-led training

Undergraduate degree courses

Degrees with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)	Degrees with opt-in Qualified Teacher status (QTS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Duration: three to four years full-time study. If you have undergraduate credits from previous studies you may be able to complete the course in two years.▶ Qualification: QTS (Qualified Teacher Status).▶ Start your first teaching job straight after graduation.▶ Includes time in the classroom learning practical skills from experienced teachers.▶ Primary or secondary school teaching.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Duration: The same as your original degree course duration.▶ Qualifications: a degree in your chosen subject and QTS (Qualified Teacher Status)▶ A new route to qualifying as a secondary school teacher.▶ Available in certain subjects at selected universities.▶ Incorporate teacher training part-way through your degree course.▶ School placements are incorporated within your degree course.

Future Teaching Scholars

If you are planning on studying maths or physics at university, you could train to be a teacher through the **Future Teaching Scholars** programme and undertake employment-based teacher training after you graduate.

Troops to Teachers

For exceptional former service personnel, **Troops to Teachers** offers a route to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) for veterans who have left service within the previous five years (England only).



School-led training

Postgraduate teacher training courses

Earn a salary whilst receiving on-the-job training to become a teacher. The course you should choose will depend on your subject and degree class. Teacher training courses offer:

- ▶ Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)
- ▶ a minimum of 24 weeks' school experience
- ▶ training to meet the **Teachers' Standards**
- ▶ expert academic practice and guidance
- ▶ Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

The Department for Education (DfE) has a tool to help you **find a postgraduate teacher training course**.

Salaried teacher training

Postgraduate teaching apprenticeship	School Direct	Teach First
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Duration: 12 months▶ Qualification: Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)▶ A combination of classroom teaching, practical learning and off-the-job training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Duration: 12 months▶ Qualification: Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)▶ Train to be a qualified teacher whilst learning from experienced teachers.▶ Trainees are recruited and employed by schools directly as an unqualified teacher.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Duration: Two years▶ Qualifications: Postgraduate Diploma in Education and Leadership and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)▶ Outstanding graduates or anyone looking to change career may be able to join this programme.

Other routes

Assessment only route to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

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.

The **Teacher Training Adviser Service** can help you to apply for teacher training.

Primary or secondary school

As a secondary school teacher you'll use your skills and knowledge of a subject to inspire your students with the same passion and enthusiasm for that subject as you have.

As a primary school teacher you'll have the opportunity to make a big impact on some of the most crucial years of a child's development and get to teach a wide range of subjects to your class. If you want to teach in a primary school you could also choose to specialise in maths or PE.

Teacher training across the UK

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, there are two main routes into teacher training: a four year BEd (Bachelor of Education degree) or a one year Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) if you have already completed a degree course. More information is available on the [Northern Ireland government website](#).

Scotland

All **Scottish Initial Teacher Training** is university led. Teacher education programmes include a four year undergraduate programme and a one year Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). More information is available on the [Scottish government's website](#).

Wales

Currently the **Welsh Graduate Teacher Programme**, which lasts for 12 months, is very similar to the school-led programmes in England.

From September 2020 this is being replaced by a **new Employment Based Scheme** which will take two years to complete and allow you to receive a salary to teach in a school as an unqualified teacher whilst you work towards a PGCE and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

Now Teach

Now Teach aims to attract experienced professionals from the private and public sectors who want to use their leadership skills in schools. You'll be supported through your training as you transition from the office to the classroom. If you are considering changing career to become a teacher, visit the [Now Teach website](#) to find out more.

Case Study

Becoming a teacher was Naila's best move

When she decided to train to be a teacher, Naila 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. She 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.*'



Find out more

Training to teach

- ▶ **Get into Teaching** offers advice on everything to do with teacher training in England and provides one-to-one support to help you find and access the right course for you.
- ▶ **UCAS** provides interactive tools to help you decide which teaching route to choose, comprehensive information on training courses, funding, and guidance on how to apply for a place on a training course.

Teaching unions and professional bodies

- ▶ **National Education Union** and the **NASUWT** the Teachers' Union campaign on behalf of teachers in areas such as pay and working conditions. Members have access to a range of benefits.
- ▶ The **Chartered College of Teaching** supports teachers to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

The essentials

GCSE Maths

Maths is an essential skill, that we use everyday, in all areas of our lives. From adding up a weekly shop, to working out how to decorate a room – maths enables us to find patterns and structure, and opens up a wide range of opportunities.

Our **GCSE Maths** online course is written by experts in the field. Well-structured materials covering topics – such as fractions, decimals and trigonometry – will enable you to gain confidence in basic mathematical skills, before progressing to more challenging areas.

GCSE English Language

Gaining a GCSE in English language is vital for future career progression and a minimum requirement for many further education courses. However, it's not just a 'means to an end', this course will help you develop your reading and writing skills, and enable you to communicate and express your ideas more effectively.

Studying **GCSE English Language** online is a flexible way to gain key skills, that you'll use in all aspects of your life. Supported by a personal tutor, you'll explore the use of words in different contexts and gain a deeper understanding of the power and influence of the spoken and written word.

About the school sector

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

Case Study

IGCSE Combined Science opens the door to primary teaching

An A in **IGCSE Combined Science** puts Stella well on her way to becoming a teacher. When she received her exam result, she wrote to her NEC tutor, *'This result is totally unexpected. 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'*.

Understanding Mentoring and Coaching

Learn the key skills and mechanics of mentoring and coaching with our Understanding Mentoring and Coaching courses.

Understanding Mentoring and Coaching

In this endorsed version of the course, you can expect to learn the key skills of mentoring and coaching, exploring theoretical approaches and methods of "active listening".

The course takes approximately 15 hours with four Progress Checks along the way. This qualification is endorsed by TQUK.

If you are looking to become a teacher or develop your career in a related field, this course will help you further your career and hone your skills.



TQUK Level 3 Award in Coaching and Mentoring

If you're keen to gain a broad introduction to mentoring and coaching, this accredited version of the course will be perfect for you. By choosing online distance learning, you'll have the flexibility to fit study around your lifestyle, learning at your own pace as you work through a series of engaging topics.

This course is ideal if you:

- ▶ Are keen to gain a broad foundation in the key ideas and applications of mentoring and coaching.
- ▶ Want to learn more about the theories behind mentoring and coaching.
- ▶ Would like to discover how mentoring and coaching can enhance your career.
- ▶ Are interested in building your observational, analytical and listening skills, to improve your employability.

The course takes approximately 32 hours with additional time for three assignments.

How NEC can help you fulfil your ambition to work in teaching

Essential GCSE qualifications

You'll need English language or English Literature and maths to be allocated a place on a teacher training course. If you want to teach in a primary school, you will also need a science GCSE.

Click below for information about studying these essential GCSE qualifications with NEC:

GCSE Maths

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

IGCSE Biology

IGCSE Chemistry

IGCSE Physics

IGCSE Combined Science

IGCSE Double Science

Qualifications gaps at A level

If you're planning to teach in a secondary school, you will need an A level in the subject you plan to teach. We offer a range of arts and humanities, physical sciences, social sciences and business subjects at A level.

NEC's full range of A levels.

Distance learning is flexible

Learning to fit your lifestyle:

- ▶ Download and print the course materials and study wherever you are.
- ▶ Read an ebook on your daily commute.
- ▶ Watch a video or listen to a recording on your mobile phone or tablet.

Course fees

NEC course fees cover:

- ▶ all course materials
- ▶ tuition by a personal tutor who is a subject specialist
- ▶ online diagnostic exercises and assessments
- ▶ quizzes, videos, ebooks, and webinars.

Whatever subject you want to study, you can sample our course materials before you sign up. When you've made your choice, you can enrol at any time and start studying when it suits you.

Visit www.nec.ac.uk to find out more.

About NEC courses

- ▶ NEC courses are designed by teachers, examiners and distance learning experts, so you can be certain that they cover the curriculum and are designed for independent study.
- ▶ NEC courses are delivered online through **learn@nec** our online learning platform, so you can study at a time and place to suit you and be part of a national community of people studying with us.
- ▶ As an NEC student, you will have a personal tutor who is a qualified subject expert to support you in your studies, giving you feedback on assignments and preparing you for your exams.



Disclaimer: the information in this Career Tracks was up-to-date when it was published in January 2020. If you are thinking of a career as a teacher, you are advised to make direct contact with the organisations cited here or call our Course Advice Team on 0800 389 2839.

Career Tracks

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.

