

Prior Pursglove College Careers Service



**Maximise your chances of success in...
Teaching**

Job role - what it involves

Teachers are responsible for pupils' learning within a classroom/learning environment. What your job as a teacher consists of very much depends on the age-range you wish to teach. To simplify, there are 4 type of teachers: Nursery/Primary Teacher (3-11yrs), Secondary teacher (11-16 or 11-18yrs), Further Education Teacher (16-19 yrs only) and finally, Higher Education Lecturer (19 yrs+). For the purposes of this leaflet, we will focus on Primary and Secondary.

Relevant websites to use for researching the job role

Teaching Agency: getintoteaching.education.gov.uk

Times Educational Supplement: www.tes.co.uk

UCAS Teacher Training: www.ucas.com/ucas-teacher-training

Qualifications needed/routes in

You can train to become a Teacher in THREE ways. Either:

2 year fast-track degree followed by a 1 year PGCE. Only 5 uni's offer this—Leeds Beckett is the closest, requiring BCC 104 pts

3 or 4 year "B.Ed": teacher training degree, training to be a teacher from the age of 18, straight after A Levels.

degree in a curriculum or related subject (such as Childhood studies or Education Studies), followed by ONE of these: PGCE, SCITT, Schools Direct Programme, or Teach First place.

Note: There are very few B.Ed's in secondary education left in existence. So, usually Secondary teachers need a curriculum subject followed by ONE of: PGCE/SCITT/Schools Direct/Teach First place.

BA/B.Ed Primary Education:

Check that the course has QTS (Qualified Teacher Status). You will need to choose an age range to teach. Your choices are: **3 - 8years, 5 - 11years, 7 - 11years**. You can search for courses using www.ucas.com, the closest are: Cumbria, Durham, Leeds Trinity, Leeds Met, Northumbria, Sunderland and York St John. Grades range from CCC/96 points to AAB/136 points. For students wanting a curriculum subject followed by a PGCE, you can search for PGCE's using www.ucas.com/ucas-teacher-training. Competition, particularly for Primary PGCE's, is fierce.

BA/B.Ed Secondary Education: Very few available. Check it has QTS (Qualified Teacher Status). Or use www.ucas.com/ucas-teacher-training to search for Secondary PGCE's.

Work Experience

If you want to apply for a teacher training degree (B.Ed) , you **MUST** have completed work experience before applying. Universities want to see commitment to working with children. Some universities have said they want **20 days experience**—usually at least half of this (10 days) to be done in a school, the remainder could be done elsewhere— e.g. After School Clubs, Rainbows, Brownies, nurseries, or sports clubs. For secondary teaching, 3/4 days school-based experience will suffice. Students often like to go back to their old primary/secondary school, which is fine too.

When on placement, you should be recording, in a diary, the following:

- Different teaching methods and styles
- How work is presented to students of different abilities
- Discipline methods – what works well, what could be improved
- Record keeping/paperwork done by teachers
- Liaison with any other professional—social workers, teaching assistants, Educational Psychologists, behaviour support workers etc.
- How does the teacher evaluate? Her lesson, her pupils, own teaching?

Some of this should be reflected upon within your personal statement and at interview be able to discuss your observations.

Competition per place and how to better your application

Teaching, especially Primary Teaching, is notoriously competitive. For example, at Northumbria and Durham, there are around 8 applicants per place and at Sunderland and Hull there are 7. Its lower at Cumbria with 5.

To stand the best chance, make sure you:

- Do plenty of work experience and reflect well on this in your personal statement
- Ensure there are no spelling or grammatical errors in your statement—a good level of English is looked for
- Have knowledge of difficulties as well as the joys of the teaching profession
- Be aware of the publication “Every Child matters”
- Know what is happening in the media regarding education—issues and problems, new initiatives etc.
- Read either the Guardian’s education supplement or the Daily Mail’s Education World paper. And use the TDA website.
- Prepare thoroughly for your interview—see section below.

Interview structure and interview preparation

It is a requirement that teaching applicants are interviewed. Preparation is essential because they are tough. Interviews do vary between institutions, but the following usually applies for all teaching degree interviews:

- Always involves either a full or half day
- Written tests (always Maths and English, sometimes Science and IT)
- Presentation (at Durham and Sunderland this is about 5mins but you cannot use powerpoint etc.)
- Group Discussion or Activity: discussing as a group a current issue in education (Northumbria) or working as a group to put together a presentation (Sunderland and York St John.)

The PPC Careers department have a detailed presentation “Preparing for your University Primary Teaching interview”, —ask for a copy.

Typical Interview Questions –

Why do you want to be a teacher?

Why did you choose this age range?

Discuss an educational issue that has been in the news recently?

What do you think of the National Curriculum?

Tell us about the experiences you have had with this age group which you believe have prepared you for teaching?

How would you deal with prejudices in the classroom?

Tell us about a teacher you admire and why?

Professional Skills Tests

You will be required to pass the professional skills tests in numeracy and literacy BEFORE you start the course. Once you have submitted your application form, you will be eligible to book your skills tests via the Department of Education website. You will need to register online in order to book your tests, find out how on the www.education.gov.uk

Careers have a book about the Numeracy Skills Test available to borrow.

Finance

Students doing an initial teacher training degree (B.Ed) or those doing a PGCE will need to pay tuition fees (£9,250 per year). You are able to take out a Tuition Fee Loan to cover this cost.

For those choosing a PGCE/SCITT route, there are Training Bursaries. However, the amount you get does depend upon what subject you wish to specialise in and how well you did at degree level (those with less than a 2:1 won't get any bursary at all). See the TDA website for more detailed information.

Related Careers

Children's nurse, Play Therapist, Teaching Assistant, Child minder, Nursery Nurse, Learning Mentor, Communication Support Worker, Educational Psychologist, Education Technician, Youth Worker, Education Welfare Office, Portage home visitor.



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