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Ready to apply?

Teaching 

Every Lesson Shapes a Life.



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What will we cover today

- School experience
- Training providers
- Application
 - Personal statement
 - Work and school experience statements
 - References
- Interview

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School experience

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Getting some classroom experience can help you to decide whether teaching is right for you - it will also strengthen your application.

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Arranging school experience

The Get School
Experience Service

Contact schools
directly

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What to look for in the classroom

Keep a reflective diary with you. Write about your observations. This information will be useful for your personal statement.

- What are 'learning objectives' or 'learning outcomes'?
- How does the teacher use voice and non-verbal forms of communication? How effective are these?
- Is learning taking place, how do you know, how does the teacher know?
- What is the role of any other staff that assists the teacher and students in the classroom?
- Do you think there is a relationship between management of behaviour and the lesson plan?



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Training providers

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Researching training options and providers

All teacher training courses -

- Include plenty of classroom experience in at least two schools – a minimum of 24 weeks of school experience.
- Offer training to meet the Teachers' Standards, which will include classroom management and making your subject accessible to your pupils
- Provide expert academic and practical guidance from mentors and tutors who are there to help you succeed.
- In addition to qualified teacher status (QTS) most courses will also offer a post graduate certificate in education (PGCE).



Questions to ask training providers

- How do they arrange the academic work alongside practical teaching practice?
- Who would your mentor be and how often would you meet with them?
- What schools would you have access to for teaching practice? How many would you do your teaching practice in, and how long would each placement be?
- How many places do they have to offer, and how many others would you be studying alongside?
- Would you be awarded a PGCE in addition to QTS?
- How many days of school experience do they expect you to have prior to application?
- What are the start and finish dates of the course?



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Application

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Application

UCAS Teacher
Training

Apply for teacher
training

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Personal statement

Once you have completed some school observations, you will be ready to start drafting your personal statement.

This is one of the most important sections of the application. Space on the form is limited so use it wisely!

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What to consider

Your personal statement should convey energy, enthusiasm and a passion for teaching.

- Explain your reasons for wanting to teach – and, more specifically, why you'll enjoy teaching your chosen subject and/or age group.
- What qualities do you have that will work well in the classroom – communication, organisation and creativity are all important skills.
- What have you learnt during any school experience placements and how this has influenced your application?
- Explain how previous studies and work experience relate to your chosen subject or age group.



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Your work and school experience

Add as many examples of relevant school and work experience as you like.

Include work placements, lesson observations and paid and unpaid work.

Include examples of working with children eg volunteering at children's clubs and sporting activities.

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Getting your references ready

You will need to provide two references to complete your application.

Choose individuals who know you well enough to highlight your potential as a teacher.

To avoid delays contact your referees in advance and ask if they can reply to the request as promptly as possible.

You can't submit your application until two references are attached to it.

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Interview

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Preparing for an interview

- Research the school or university thoroughly.
- Research the latest developments in education and teaching.
- Familiarise yourself with the curriculum and content related to your subject.
- Think carefully about your reasons for applying for the course and your interest in becoming a teacher.
- Think about how you can apply transferable skills from any previous employment to teaching.
- Reflect on your time in school and what you have learnt from the experience.
- If the interview is taking place remotely, make sure you test the equipment that you need to use.



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What to expect at an interview

Interview formats vary. They can include some, or all, of the following:

A group task
or
discussion.

An individual
interview,
which could
be one-to-
one or with a
panel.

A short
presentation.

A written task
which could
involve a
literacy test
and/or
subject-
based test.

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Further information and advice

Search “get into teaching” to visit our website or call us on 0800 389 2500 to speak to the Teaching Line.

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Get into teaching with support and advice from the Department for Education.

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Free support from an experienced teacher

One-to-one tailored advice

Help arranging school experience

Get one step closer to the classroom with support from our expert teaching advisers.

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