

Applying for Initial Teacher Training (ITT)

Top tips for applications

1. Research the role and keep up to date with current issues in education

- Find out what teaching is all about by exploring the Get into Teaching website and other sites below.
- Familiarise yourself with the National Curriculum and how your degree relates to this.
- Contact local primary and secondary schools and ask to shadow one or two teachers. (Local authorities should have a list of schools on their website).
- Decide what age group you'd like to teach and why.
- Read up on the latest issues in education and talk to people in the profession.

2. Get relevant experience

- Develop a good track record of school-based experience e.g. shadowing teachers, supporting students, mentoring, and other work with young people, e.g. youth clubs, summer camps, volunteering.
- NB: some ITT providers set high minimum requirements for recent school-based work experience.

3. Think about your knowledge, skills and experience

- Consider the skills and experiences that you have to offer that will make you a good teacher.
- Reflect on other work experiences, interests, awards, etc. that show your achievements.
- Make sure you meet the minimum academic requirements for teacher training laid down by the Department for Education.

4. Organise your references

- Your primary referee would usually be an academic (commonly your personal tutor).
- Contact them to ask permission, and give them an overview of your achievements and activities.
- See the UCAS Teacher Training website for information on how the reference process works.

5. Draft your application

- Become familiar with the application form on the UCAS Teacher Training website.
- Build your application gradually – draft, review, re-draft, second opinion, revise and so on.
- Apply early - from June (2017) for Teach First (2018), from the end of October for popular PGCE / PGDE courses, SCITTs and School Direct places.

Your Personal Statement

Be clear, concise and coherent. In a relatively short piece of text, you need to cover the following: why you want to teach and why that age range:

- why you want to teach, and why that age group; why you think you'll enjoy it – avoid obvious clichés
- motivation and enthusiasm for your subject and for working with young people
- relevance of your degree and/or previous studies
- reflection on your school experience and any other experiences you feel relevant
- knowledge of teaching as a profession; observation of and insight into the teaching process
- knowledge of management and professional standards
- awareness of current educational issues, e.g. diversity and inclusion
- additional skills and interests you have to offer



Applying for different ITT routes

PGCE /SCITT / School Direct / School Direct (Salaried): apply via UCAS Teacher Training

Teach First: apply direct at <http://graduates.teachfirst.org.uk/>

Teacher Training Interviews

As a starting point, the Get into Teaching website has some useful tips for approaching interviews. Also refer to the Careers Service resources 'Preparing for teacher training interviews'.

Useful Websites

Get into Teaching getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/ Teaching Advice Line 0800 389 2500

Comprehensive source of information including routes into teaching, finance etc.

- *Explore my options* - information on different routes into teaching, age ranges, subjects
- *How to apply* – application form and interview help, skills tests
- *Funding and salaries* – information on financial support for training e.g. scholarships and bursaries
- *School Experience* – advice on how to get school experience.

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

Database of PGCE / PGDE, SCITT and School Direct providers and online application form for these routes.

Prospects www.prospects.ac.uk/education

Careers advice, occupational profiles, case studies, information on teacher training routes, work experience in schools, etc.

Target Jobs – Teaching and Education <https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education>

Advice on applying for teacher training and preparing for teaching training interviews.

Careers Service www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/infotree/occinfo.php?ref=Education

Links to useful websites and publications including 'Routes into teaching' and 'Education alternatives' for those who wish to work in education outside of mainstream teaching

US in Schools mentoring - mentoring in local schools organised by the University of Sheffield

www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/outreach-programmes/us-in-schools

National Curriculum www.gov.uk/national-curriculum

Department for Education www.education.gov.uk

Times Educational Supplement www.tes.com

Guardian Education www.theguardian.com/education

Careers Service support

Careers Service events: See the events tab on Career Connect, available via MUSE, for details about events such as:

- Teach First and other teaching-related activities and on-campus presentations
- Fairs where the teaching profession may be represented
- Teaching and teacher-training related talks delivered by the Careers Service

Individual advice: book an appointment through Career Connect to discuss your career plans, classroom experience, ITT application, draft personal statement, interview preparation etc.