

# Applying for Initial Teacher Training (ITT)

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## 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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/outreach-programmes/us-in-schools)

**National Curriculum** [www.gov.uk/national-curriculum](http://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum)

**Department for Education** [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

**Times Educational Supplement** [www.tes.com](http://www.tes.com)

**Guardian Education** [www.theguardian.com/education](http://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.