Article: Teaching

Summary

This article covers the following jobs:

- Art and Design Teacher
- Design and Technology Teacher
- Early Years Teacher
- English Language Teacher
- Further Education Lecturer
- Geography Teacher
- Higher Education Lecturer
- History Teacher
- Maths Teacher
- Modern Foreign Languages Teacher
- Music Teacher
- Physical Education Teacher
- Primary Teacher
- Science Teacher
- Secondary Teacher
- Special Educational Needs Teacher
- Teacher of English as a Foreign Language.

The job descriptions are only a brief summary. You should find out more about the jobs that interest you.

Primary

Primary school teachers teach a broad range of subjects to children usually aged between 5 and 11. They usually teach a 'mixed ability' class, which involves a variety of teaching methods to enable the children to learn at different speeds.

Other activities include preparing lessons, completing paperwork, marking work, writing reports and going to parents’ evenings.

To become a primary teacher, you usually need to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) through initial teacher training (ITT). There are several ITT routes. You could take a primary education degree, or a degree in primary education that is combined with QTS. Another entry route is through a PGCE, following a degree that is relevant to the primary National Curriculum.

There are also employment-based postgraduate training routes.

Special Educational Needs Teacher

Special educational needs (SEN) teachers work with pupils who need extra support in their learning. For example, they work with pupils with sensory impairments, physical and learning disabilities, and challenging behaviour.

They help pupils to develop self-confidence and be as independent as possible.

Teaching approaches include using specialist equipment, such as computers and special desks, giving more one-to-one support, and using Braille or sign language.

To enter this career, you first need to qualify as a teacher. You can then take specialist training.

Early Years Teacher

Early years teachers work with children aged three to five in nurseries, or children aged five to seven in primary schools. They educate children through play and activities that develop reading, writing and number skills.

Secondary
To become a secondary teacher, you usually need to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) through initial teacher training (ITT). There are several ITT routes.

There are a small number of BEd degrees (all lead to QTS), and BA/BSc degrees that lead to QTS, in a limited range of subjects.

Most people take a PGCE, following a degree that's related to the subject they want to teach. You might also be able to enter teaching through postgraduate employment-based training, such as the School Direct Training Programme.

**Geography Teacher**

Geography teachers develop students' ability to understand our planet's landscapes, people and environments.

They plan and lead varied, interesting lessons. Teaching methods include group and project work, discussions and debates, and interactive whiteboard work. They introduce students to resources such as maps, satellite images and Geographical Information Systems.

Geography teachers mark work, write student reports, and go to meetings and parents' evenings. They also lead students on field trips.

**Modern Foreign Languages Teacher**

All pupils up to the age of 14 have to study a modern foreign language. They are also an option at GCSE and AS or A level. You can go on to study languages in higher education.

Most foreign language teachers work in secondary schools. They teach a wide range of languages, of which the main ones are French, German and Spanish. Others include Arabic, Italian, Russian, Mandarin, Urdu and Bengali.

Teachers help students to communicate in the foreign language, as well as to discover more about the countries where the language is spoken.

Teaching methods include group work, role plays, discussions, audio-visual materials, interactive whiteboard work, online language games and internet research.

Language teachers have to plan lessons, mark work, create materials, write reports, go to meetings and give feedback.

To enter, you'll need a degree that leads to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), or to follow a relevant degree with postgraduate training leading to QTS.

**Secondary Teacher**

Secondary teachers work with students aged between 11 and 19. They usually teach one subject, or a number of related subjects such as English and drama. Classes might be of mixed or similar ability, depending on the school and the year group.

Secondary teachers need to be able to maintain discipline in the classroom. They also prepare and plan lessons, mark work and give feedback, complete paperwork, write reports and go to meetings and parents' evenings.

**Special Educational Needs Teacher**

Special educational needs (SEN) teachers work with pupils who need extra support in their learning. For example, they work with pupils with sensory impairments, physical and learning disabilities, and challenging behaviour.

They help pupils to develop self-confidence and be as independent as possible.

Teaching approaches include using specialist equipment, such as computers and special desks, giving more one-to-one support, and using Braille or sign language.

To enter this career, you first need to qualify as a teacher. You can then take specialist training.

**Physical Education Teacher**

Physical Education (PE) teachers instruct young people in physical activities and sport. They organise and supervise
groups, coach in various sports and skills, and motivate young people to improve their performance.

At GCSE and above, PE teachers cover topics in sports and exercise science, including diet and nutrition, anatomy, physiology, preventing sports injuries, and looking at ways to encourage people to exercise.

PE teachers often need to supervise sporting activities during lunchtimes or after school. Some schools expect PE teachers to teach another subject as well.

**Art and Design Teacher**

Art and design teachers help students to develop skills in a wide range of areas, including drawing, painting, sculpture, graphics, textile design and photography.

They encourage students to use their skills and imagination to get across ideas, feelings and meanings. They teach students about the uses of art and design in history, and in different cultures around the world.

Art and design teachers also lead trips to places such as art galleries and museums, fashion shows and photography exhibitions.

**Design and Technology Teacher**

Design and technology teachers use a variety of techniques to teach students how to design and produce objects that have a practical use.

They help students to look at practical problems, think about possible solutions and select the best one. Design and technology covers areas such as graphics, food, textiles, resistant materials (such as wood, plastics and metals) and systems and control (which includes electronics, computer control and mechanical systems).

**English Teacher**

English teachers help students to understand, use and respond to written and spoken language.

They teach students about the language features of many different types of writing. These include novels, plays, poetry, travel websites, adverts and newspaper articles.

English teachers also help students to communicate well, using the right language for each situation (so, not using slang in interviews, for example). They enable students to learn skills in analysing spoken language, for example, political speeches.

**Maths Teacher**

Maths teachers help students to develop skills and confidence in the subject. They encourage students to see the importance of maths to everyday, real-life problems such as managing money and understanding fuel bills.

Pupils learn about topics such as counting, measuring, sequences, fractions, decimals, ratio, statistics, probability, algebra and geometry.

Teaching methods include group and project work, and using calculators, interactive whiteboards, software and the internet.

Maths teachers also have to plan lessons, mark work, write reports, go to meetings and give feedback.

**Science Teacher**

Science is one of the statutory subjects in the National Curriculum at Key Stage 4, meaning all pupils study it up to the age of 16. It covers biology, chemistry and physics, but students might be able to study these as separate subjects, depending on their school.

Science teachers teach pupils about how science is relevant to their everyday lives and the natural world around them. They study scientific theories, and topics such as global warming, genetic modification, radioactive substances, how to keep healthy and how drugs affect the body.

Teaching methods include group and project work, doing experiments, and using interactive whiteboards, audio-visual materials and the internet, as well as more traditional teaching sessions.
**History Teacher**

History teachers inspire their students with a love of the subject and an understanding of its importance.

They don't just teach 'what happened'. Instead, they help students to ask questions about the past, examine sources and form their own opinions.

History teachers plan varied and interesting lessons. They use resources such as film, posters, photos, websites and eye-witness accounts. Teaching could also involve visits to places of historical interest such as museums, castles and battlefields.

History teachers have to plan lessons, mark work, write reports, go to meetings and give feedback.

**Music Teacher**

Music teachers give music lessons to people of all ages and abilities, in a wide variety of settings.

Music teachers who work in a school teach music as part of the National Curriculum. They teach the history and theory of music to a group of students or class, as well as teach them to play a musical instrument.

Music teachers also have other duties common to teaching, such as going to meetings, keeping registers and writing reports. They might also supervise students on trips, such as to the theatre, as well as get involved with running a school choir, band or orchestra.

**Further education**

Teachers of further education (FE) courses can work in private colleges, adult education centres and FE colleges. They might teach full-time, part-time, evening or short courses.

**Further Education Lecturer**

Further education (FE) lecturers teach academic or work-related subjects to students, usually over the age of 16.

The work involves:

- planning and designing courses
- giving lectures
- assessing and reporting on the progress of each student
- setting and marking tests.

To become an FE lecturer, you'll need to be qualified in teaching in the lifelong learning sector.

**Higher education**

Teachers of higher education (HE) courses work in universities and colleges of HE.

HE courses include undergraduate qualifications such as degrees, foundation degrees and higher national qualifications, and postgraduate qualifications including MAs, MScs, MPhils and PhDs.

**Higher Education Lecturer**

Higher education (HE) lecturers teach one or more related subjects on advanced courses leading to undergraduate and/or postgraduate qualifications.

HE lecturers teach through lectures, seminars and tutorials. They set and mark coursework and exams. HE lecturers are also expected to carry out research in their subject area.

Most HE lecturers have a postgraduate qualification, usually a PhD.

**Other teaching areas**

**Teacher of English as a foreign language (TEFL)**

Teachers of English as a foreign language (TEFL) teach English to learners both in the UK and other countries.
The work ranges from teaching people on short 'conversational' classes to helping people learn the English they need to live and work in the UK.

English is the main or only language the teacher and learners use in the classroom.

Teaching methods include:

- pair and group work
- role plays
- interactive whiteboards and online language games
- audio-visual resources such as recorded conversations, songs and films.

To enter this job, you'll usually need to complete a recognised qualification that includes teaching practice and written work.

**Further Information**

**Contacts**

- **Association for Physical Education (afPE)**
  Tel: 01905 855584
  Email: enquiries@afpe.org.uk
  Website: [www.afpe.org.uk](http://www.afpe.org.uk)

- **UCAS Teacher Training**
  Website: [www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/teacher-training](http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/teacher-training)

- **Teach First**
  Website: [www.teachfirst.org.uk](http://www.teachfirst.org.uk)

- **Department of Education Northern Ireland**
  Northern Ireland Enquiries
  Email: DE.DEWebMail@education-ni.gov.uk
  Website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk)

- **The Education and Library Boards**
  Irish enquiries
  Email: info.belb@belb.co.uk
  Website: [www.belb.org.uk](http://www.belb.org.uk)

- **North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB)**
  Irish enquiries
  Website: [www.neelb.org.uk](http://www.neelb.org.uk)

- **South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB)**
  Irish enquiries
  Email: info@seelb.org.uk
  Website: [www.seelb.org.uk](http://www.seelb.org.uk)

- **Southern Education and Library Board (SELB)**
  Irish enquiries
  Email: selb.hq@selb.org
  Website: [www.selb.org](http://www.selb.org)

- **Western Education and Library Board (WELB)**
  Irish enquiries
  Email: info@welbni.org
  Website: [www.welbni.org](http://www.welbni.org)

- **St. Mary's University College**
  Irish enquiries
Related Careers

- History Teacher
- Geography Teacher
- Modern Foreign Languages Teacher
- Teaching Assistant
- Music Teacher
- English Teacher
- Maths Teacher
- Science Teacher
- Special Educational Needs Teacher
- Art and Design Teacher
- Design and Technology Teacher
- Early Years Teacher
- Physical Education Teacher
- Primary Teacher
- Secondary Teacher
- Further Education (FE) Lecturer
- Higher Education (HE) Lecturer
- Teacher of English as a Foreign Language
- Teacher
- Headteacher