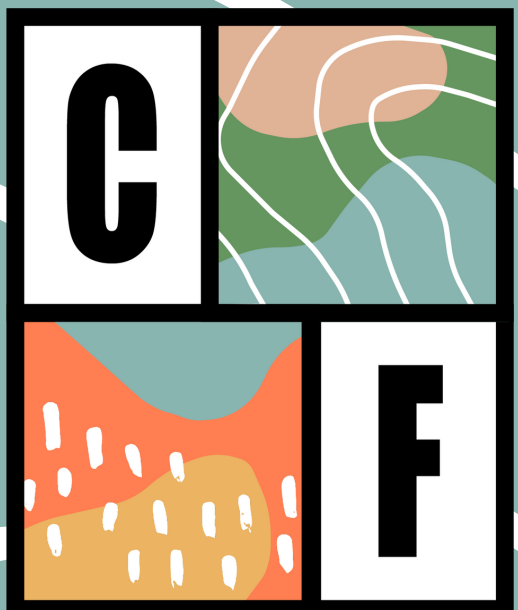




TEACHING



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There are few jobs more important than teaching. Sharing your knowledge and talents with the next generation, in a way that allows them to learn and enjoy themselves, is a priceless skill that's in demand all over the world.

It's a big job. It's not just passing on what you've learnt to students. You'll be a highly skilled communicator and carer, who's able to teach in many styles and techniques depending on the class you have at the time.

It calls for you to be at the top of your game at all times, offering your students the best teaching, whether it's Monday morning or Friday afternoon. With thousands of teachers training every year, it's also a competitive job market, but one that will see you employed for life.



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How to become a Teacher:

You'll need a degree to become a qualified teacher, but you'll only need to meet some very general entry requirements when it comes to A-level/Scottish Higher subjects and grades. Many teaching and education degrees call for 5 GCSEs/Nationals including English, Maths and Science along with A-levels/Scottish Highers. If you're aiming to teach at secondary level, you may need to do the A-level that relates to what the specialism will be.

Having a background in the humanities or social sciences will lend itself best to the 'art' of teaching, whether that be literature, history or psychology. You'll learn the analytical and critical thinking skills from these subjects, as well as the all-important knacks for writing and presenting well.

Soft skills are extremely important as well. You'll want to display empathy, communication, comfort in working under pressure, accuracy, care and kindness, flexibility, and everything you'd expect from a great teacher.

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How to become a Teacher:

A-Levels: Entry requirements range from BCC to BBB, with most universities and colleges looking for something in the middle, most commonly BBC. Be sure to check university websites and prospectuses to get a full look at what grades they need

Scottish Highers: Entry requirements for Highers (the most common qualification) range from CCCCC to AAABB, with universities or colleges most frequently looking for something like BBCC. Occasionally, universities ask for Advanced Highers to supplement Highers. If they are requested, universities will usually look for AAB.

Vocational courses – Other Level 3/Level 6 qualifications (e.g. Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma, or an SCQF Level 6) may be accepted as an alternative to A-levels/Highers by some providers. It's essential that you check alternative entry requirements with universities or colleges.

Why University?

The obvious answer to this question is that you need to study teaching or education to attain QTS (Qualified Teacher Status), which is a UK requirement to teach in schools. You can also study a PGCE to achieve this, but they are often taken after a degree in another subject.

The most direct route into teaching is with a teaching degree.

During your degree, you'll develop people skills that will help you build relationships with your students, their parents, and your colleagues. As a teacher, you'll also learn how to deal with sensitive issues, how to share your knowledge in a way that suits different learning styles, and how to think on-the-spot.

Of course, you'll also get an immense amount of pleasure from being a teacher. You're being directly entrusted with the learning and development of children, meaning that you have the opportunity to make a huge impact for good.

Finally, teachers are always going to be in demand, both in the UK and around the world. You'll be mastering one of those rare professions which has both high job satisfaction and high job security.

Will you need experience?

It will certainly help you get on to a competitive course, but you don't need to have helped out in a local school to apply. Universities look for applicants who will make good teachers, and this includes those who have never done it before.

Specialist areas of teaching:

The most common careers that teaching graduates choose are:

Primary School Teacher
Secondary School Teacher

Other careers that you may wish to consider taking can include:

Lecturing
Private Tutor
Education Administrator
Business Trainer

What Is Studying To Be A Teacher Like?

Your first year will be mostly theory, and you'll study a lot of the same modules as your fellow students. These will introduce you to the profession of teaching, as well as the values and culture of education.

Your second year is when you'll choose to start specialising in certain modules (like primary school, or special needs teaching), and you'll start to go on placement.

Placement is a hugely important part of your teaching degree.

You'll spend time with a local school, shadowing qualified teachers, and leading classrooms to develop your experience and individual style.

Studying a teaching degree will probably involve:

Writing reports and essays

Attending lectures and seminars

Hearing from guest teachers

Placements in local schools

Projects, presentations, and group work