Teaching in the Further Education and Skills Sector
What is the Further Education (FE) & Skills Sector?

This term covers the teaching of students from 16 year olds up to any age!

If you choose to teach in this sector you could find yourself working in a wide variety of different settings—for example, there are currently several hundred FE and sixth form colleges in the UK. In addition, there are opportunities in work-based training providers (often overseeing the training of apprentices), adult and community learning centres, specialist colleges, prisons and young offenders institutes.

For further information and advice about training to work in this sector contact the FE Advice team on 0300 303 1877. (Lines are open Mon-Fri 09.00-13.00 and 14.00-17.00. Calls are charged at local rates).

You could also contact them via email: feadvice@etfoundation.co.uk or check their website www.feadvice.org.uk for careers and financial information about training to teach in this sector.

Initiatives aimed at training graduates to teach FE

Some colleges may run their own funded schemes aimed at training recent graduates to become teachers and paying them to do so, in particular to address the need for more trained Maths and Science teachers – some may also cover other subjects. There is no central database of these, keep an eye open for colleges local to you for such schemes popping up! Some have also been advertised on www.prospects.ac.uk

The Set for Teaching Success FE Teacher training programme aims to recruit and train 50 Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) graduates and/or those with significant and relevant industry experience from across England into paid teacher training positions. Find out more here: http://www.et-foundation.co.uk/supporting/support-teacher-recruitment/set-teaching-success/

FE teaching qualifications

All regulation has been removed and it is up to individual colleges heads which qualifications they might ask for. Some colleges put all new teachers through their own in-house 30-week training programme, others insist on teaching qualifications prior to starting. However, it is still possible to enter FE teaching with no teaching qualification and start on a course once you’ve started in the job, depending on your subject.

Remember, if you are thinking of teaching a National Curriculum subject, a secondary PGCE would also be worth considering as these qualifications will be valid in colleges too.

On the next page is an overview of the main courses available at different levels. To find out more see:

www.feadvice.org.uk/i-want-work-fe-skills-sector/i-want-be-teacher-fe-skills/teaching-qualifications-fe-skills-sector

The area of qualifications is confusing because the same level of qualification can have different names e.g. The Diploma in Education and Training, PGCE, PGDE and PCET are all at Level 5. The last 3 options often also contain credits at level 6.
Full Teacher qualification

**Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training:** Training for a full teaching role which includes educational theory and a minimum of 100 hours of teaching practice. These are often general teaching courses and you pick up your specialist subject area e.g. Sociology, Media, via the teaching hours practice. However, some courses include specialist training pathways at this level eg in literacy, English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) or Special Educational Needs/teaching disabled learners. This is the level of course often taken by graduates before looking for teaching jobs in college.

**Other levels of course include:**

**Associate Teacher**

**Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training:** Develops practical teaching skills and includes a minimum of 30 hours of teaching practice. You might take this course if you are working at an independent training centre, or a role where you are not devising your own lessons.

**Introductory Course**

**Level 3 Award in Education and Training:** A short introductory course including peer-to-peer teaching practice, which you can take without the need to have a placement or be employed as a teacher.

**Funding**

**Course fees and financial support**

All Level 5/6 courses can charge the variable tuition fees. You must check the latest costs with each course provider e.g. the University of Bolton for 2019 start are charging £9,250 for their full-time course, some college-based courses may be considerably less. Fees for this level of course do not need to be paid up-front and can be added to student loans. For level 5 and above courses you should still be able to access Student finance to help fund your study.

Contact the Student Loan company for further information: 0845 300 50 90.

Also, see: [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance)

**Training bursary (England)**

**For 2018:**

Bursaries are only available for those trainees taking a pre-service (level 5 or above) teaching qualification for either Maths or English.

For up-to-date info go to: [www.feadvice.org.uk/next-steps/funding-information-and-incentives](http://www.feadvice.org.uk/next-steps/funding-information-and-incentives)

The bursaries are available to home or EU trainees on eligible post-graduate routes.
Bursaries for 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITT Specialism</th>
<th>Degree Class</th>
<th>Degree Class</th>
<th>Degree Class</th>
<th>Degree Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
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<td>£25,000</td>
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<td>No bursary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>£15,000</td>
<td>£15,000</td>
<td>No bursary</td>
<td>No bursary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bursaries for Sept 2019 start are likely to be announced in Spring 2019.

Entry Requirements

English

To teach English trainees should have an English Language degree, or a humanities degree with a significant English language or linguistics component.

Maths

To teach Maths, trainees should usually have a Maths degree, a Maths joint degree or a degree where the Maths element is significant, such as physics or engineering.

Funded Maths Subject Knowledge Enhancement Courses (SKEs) are available - Specifically to support those programmes which enable trainees to teach Maths to GCSE and level 3 but lack some of the basic knowledge needed. They are negotiated locally between the college and the applicant and tailored to the individual. (These often last 6-8 weeks and the student is paid £200 a week)

See: [www.feadvice.org.uk/next-steps/funding-information-and-incentives](http://www.feadvice.org.uk/next-steps/funding-information-and-incentives)

For most other Level 5 courses you will need a relevant degree for the subject you want to teach and you will need to show motivation by having gained some work shadowing/work experience observing relevant lessons at college level.

Finding Courses & Applications

Unfortunately, there is no central website with a complete list of FE courses. The best way to get a full list of courses is to get in touch with FE Advice line – contact info given at the top of this handout – and they will send you out a list.

For the majority of courses, candidates still apply direct to individual colleges on the college application forms. Courses are mainly offered by universities or colleges.
Some local courses for graduates

Aquinas Sixth Form College (validated by the Uni of Bolton)
www.aquinas.ac.uk/courses/pgce-14

Ashton Sixth Form College (validated by Staffordshire University)
www.asfc.ac.uk/university-courses

University of Bolton
https://courses.bolton.ac.uk/?s=pgce

Bolton College
www.boltoncollege.ac.uk/courses/pgce-teaching

Bury College
http://www.burycollegeunicentre.co.uk/

Edge Hill University
www.edgehill.ac.uk/courses/further-education-and-training-pgce

Liverpool Hope University
www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/postgraduatemanager/furtherandpostcompulsoryeducationpgde

Oldham University Campus
www.uco.oldham.ac.uk/courses/teacher-training-pgde-pre-service

Salford City College
www.salfordcc.ac.uk/courses/he/education-early-years

Stockport College
www.stockport.ac.uk/departments/education/?type=higher-education

Wigan and Leigh College (in partnership with the University of Central Lancashire)
www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/courses/teacher-education

Getting a Job in FE

Flexibility when taking your first job is essential. The message is “be prepared to accept a part time post or temporary contract in the first instance.” In vocational areas, such as engineering, or media, many people get their first job in FE on the strength of their previous work experience or qualifications and start on teacher training part-time, after they are already teaching in the sector. For other subjects, e.g. English, it would be much more usual to take a teaching qualification first.

To get an idea of the subject areas where teaching vacancies occur have a look at the following websites specialising in advertising college and post-16 roles:

www.fejobs.com          www.aocjobs.com/jobs/lecturer          www.tes.co.uk
www.fecareers.co.uk     https://www.protocol.co.uk/en        www.fenews.co.uk
The three largest subject areas taught across the FE sector are: (1) Arts, media and publishing; (2) Health, public services and care; and (3) Engineering and manufacturing technologies.

**Further Pathways to FE pilot scheme**

[www.et-foundation.co.uk/supporting/support-teacher-recruitment/pathways-fe-teaching](http://www.et-foundation.co.uk/supporting/support-teacher-recruitment/pathways-fe-teaching)

This was a new government funded programme which came out in 2018 aimed at attracting final year graduates or post graduates to take a paid 40 hour work placement within a Further Education setting in England. (£300 for a week’s placement). Check above website for latest info or ask your careers adviser.

**Can I also get a job in a school with the post-16 qualification?**

Yes, academies and free schools can employ any staff with any qualification. For schools under the control of the local authority, once fully qualified to level 5 an FE teacher can apply for QTLS which is now recognised in law as being equivalent to QTS. This type of move tends to be most common with vocational areas mainly found in FE plus Psychology and Business Studies.

There is nothing to stop a school head-teacher employing someone with QTLS at his/her own prerogative. For a full explanation of the professional formation process see: [https://set.et-foundation.co.uk/professionalism/qtls/professional-formation](https://set.et-foundation.co.uk/professionalism/qtls/professional-formation)

**Can trained school teachers move into FE work?**

Yes, QTS holders are regarded as fully qualified, so they can move straight across. They need to demonstrate familiarity with the curriculum and that they can deliver to the relevant age group. Frequently, primary school teachers move into basic skills/ESOL teaching roles.

**Further Resources:**

- **FE Advice Line:** [www.feadvice.org.uk](http://www.feadvice.org.uk)
- **Society for Education and Training** (the professional body that oversees FE teachers) [https://set.et-foundation.co.uk](https://set.et-foundation.co.uk)
- **Report about the nature of the workforce in FE** [www.et-foundation.co.uk/research/workforce-data](http://www.et-foundation.co.uk/research/workforce-data)

**Careers & Employability Service Support**

The Careers & Employability Service offers a range of support to Manchester Met students and graduates:

- **Detailed careers guides:** Access our full range of careers guides on our website.
- **Careers Consultant Appointments:** Book a 30 minute appointment to discuss preparation for upcoming teacher training interviews or review your performance with a Careers & Employability Consultant.

For more information visit [www.mmu.ac.uk/careers](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/careers)