

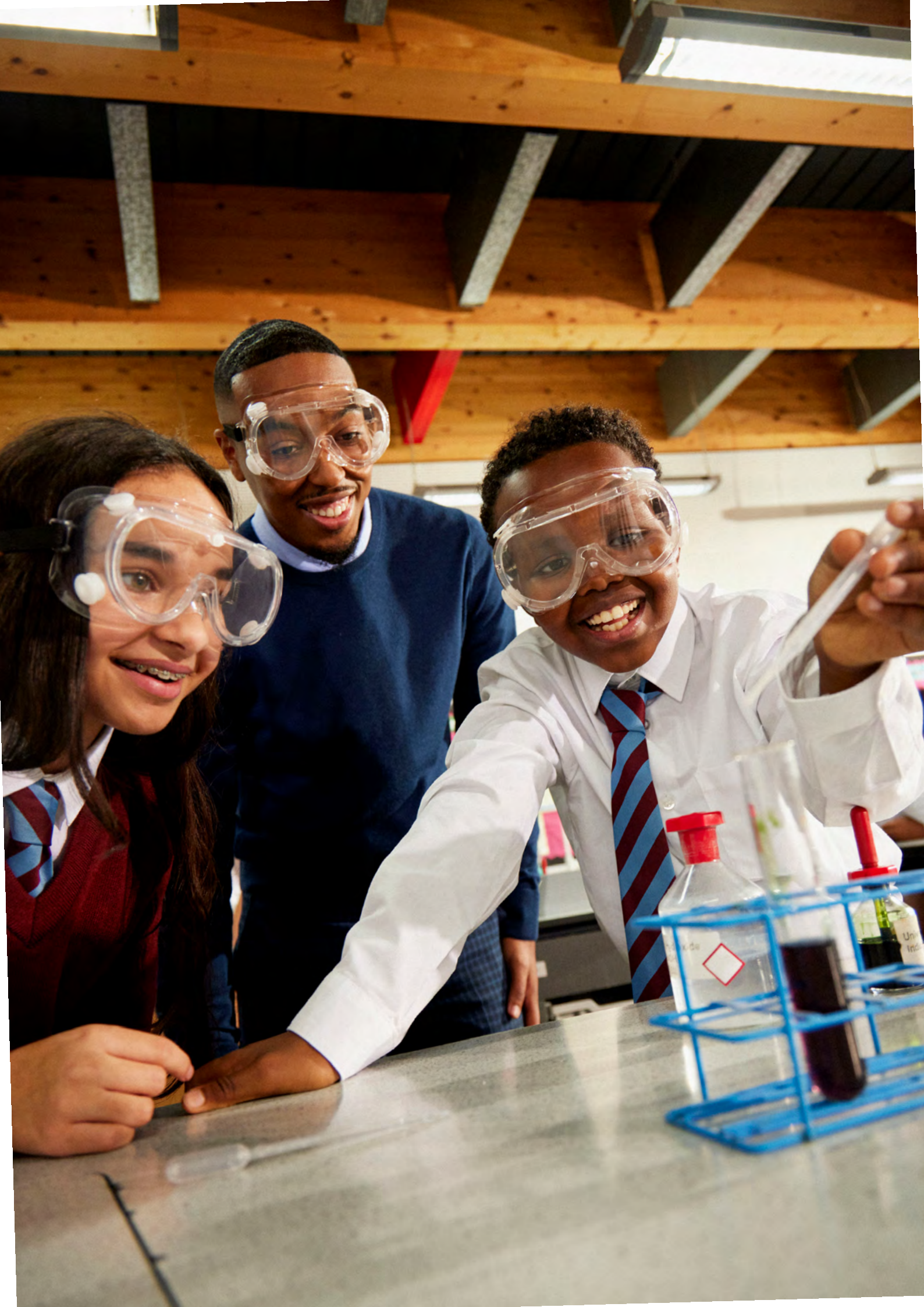
**As they grow,
you grow.**



Department
for Education

Teaching

Every Lesson Shapes a Life



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Rewards of being a teacher

There's no career quite like teaching. From sharing your passion for a subject, to having a job where every day is different, there's lots of reasons why people choose to become teachers.

Make a difference

From day one as a teacher, you'll be empowered to make decisions and have an impact. Every lesson you teach or conversation you have in a school corridor has the potential to inspire your pupils, shape their future, and the world around them.

Your impact will not be limited to your pupils. You'll have opportunities to make a difference to your school, colleagues and the local community.

"I chose teaching because I was inspired by some amazing teachers as a child, but I didn't always see myself represented. I wanted to help inspire, teach children new things, be that representation and help my community."

Shaniqua, primary school teacher

Explore your creativity

As a teacher, you'll have the freedom and trust to use your knowledge, passion and creativity to teach curriculums in your own way. From themed learning days and engaging activities to creative wall displays, you can bring your personality and passion to the classroom from the very first day. In addition to planning and teaching a range of engaging lessons, you can also indulge in your own personal hobbies and interests by getting involved in after-school clubs, trips and sport.

Use skills from your degree or previous careers

Teaching provides you with a great environment to use the skills and knowledge you've developed during a degree or a previous career. You'll share your passion with your pupils and continue to learn as you teach.

Benefits of changing careers to teaching

Many teachers have worked in other careers before stepping into the classroom. Transferring your existing skills to teaching can be incredibly rewarding.

You'll be in demand as someone who has real-world professional and industry experience, as well as the important skills that are needed to be a teacher.

"I chose teaching to bring my banking industry experience into the classroom, demonstrating how maths is applied in real-world scenarios. I enjoy inspiring students by connecting abstract concepts to practical applications, making learning both engaging and relevant."

Mark, maths teacher

The skills and experiences you bring from previous careers are invaluable in the classroom. From communication and public speaking, to problem solving and people management, your pupils will learn more from you than you might think.

As a teacher, you can watch pupils progress as they learn and make an impact from your very first lesson.

"I feel like I've found the piece that was missing in my life for so long. As challenging as teaching can be some days, I still wouldn't go back to my previous career. The job satisfaction is second to none!"

Jodie, primary school teacher

Practical benefits of teaching

There are many other practical benefits too, including:

- a competitive salary starting at £32,916 (or higher in London)
- a secure pension, including an employer contribution of 28.6%
- more holiday days than people in many other professions. In school, full-time teachers work 195 days per year. In comparison, you'd work 227 days per year (on average) if you worked full time in an office
- opportunities for career progression

Teachers' salaries

When you choose to become a teacher, you join a profession that offers a competitive starting salary with plenty of opportunity for progression. This means you'll not only be making a difference; you'll be rewarded for your contributions with excellent opportunities to climb the career ladder.

If you're a primary or secondary teacher in England, your salary will depend on the type of school you work in, where the school is and the pay range you're on.

The pay ranges below apply to maintained schools (schools funded by local authorities).

Non-maintained schools (for example, academies, independent schools and private schools) can set their own pay, but tend to follow these pay ranges.

Figures apply from 1 September 2025.

Primary and secondary teacher salary

If you have qualified teacher status (QTS), you'll get a minimum starting salary of £32,916 (or higher in London) as a primary or secondary school teacher in England.

Your salary will be reviewed every year, with most teachers moving up the pay range annually. Your salary progression will depend on your school's performance management arrangements.

A typical teacher could earn at least £45,352 (or higher in London) after 5 years.

Area	Minimum	Maximum
England (excluding London)	£32,916	£51,048
London fringe	£34,398	£52,490
Outer London	£37,870	£56,154
Inner London	£40,317	£62,496

Additional payments

You may also receive additional payments on top of your regular salary for taking on extra responsibilities.

This could be a one-off payment for working on a specific project, for example, creating a timetable.

Or it might be an extra responsibility attached to your job role, for example, being a head of department.

Depending on your responsibilities, you could earn up to an extra £17,216 per year. Your school will determine how much you receive.

Career progression

Leading practitioner salary

Some schools also have a leading practitioner pay range for teachers with exemplary teaching skills, who lead the improvement of teaching in their school.

What it involves will depend on your school, but could include:

- coaching and mentoring other teachers, including trainees and early career teachers
- undertaking a national professional qualification (NPQ)
- supporting your school with plans to reduce workload

Area	Minimum	Maximum
England (excluding London)	£52,026	£79,092
London fringe	£53,460	£80,528
Outer London	£56,154	£83,223
Inner London	£61,858	£88,930

Headteacher salary

You could also go into a leadership position, such as a headteacher.

A headteacher is the most senior person in a school. They are ultimately responsible for all teachers and pupils.

Their role is wide ranging, but commonly involves leading and motivating teachers and making sure all pupils get a good education.

Area	Minimum	Maximum
England (excluding London)	£58,569	£143,796
London fringe	£60,001	£145,218
Outer London	£62,677	£147,866
Inner London	£68,361	£153,490



A career for the future

Great employment prospects, job security and satisfaction are just some of the benefits of pursuing a career in teaching.

In teaching, there are lots of opportunities for progression and self-development. You can progress your career at your own pace and tailor your journey to your interests and goals.

“ I started out as a regular classroom teacher, but over the years, I’ve grown and taken on different roles. I became head of year to understand how to support students beyond academics, and later, I moved into a leadership role in teaching maths.”

Gloria, maths lead practitioner

Early Career Teacher

Once you’ve completed your training and started your first teaching job, for the first 2 years, you’ll be known as an early career teacher (ECT).

During your 2-year induction, you’ll receive a package of training and support designed to help you build the skills and knowledge you need to feel confident and empowered in your classroom.

You’ll get a mentor to support you, boost your confidence and help you develop key skills, including behaviour management and ways to adapt your teaching. This support builds on your initial teacher training (ITT).

Your mentor will:

- provide one-to-one support and feedback
- arrange mentoring and coaching around specific subject areas

In your first year of teaching, you’ll have a 10% timetable reduction. In your second year of teaching, you’ll have a 5% timetable reduction. This means a reduced teaching schedule to give you time away from the classroom to focus on your personal learning and development.

This is in addition to the time allocated for planning, preparation and assessment (PPA), which all teachers receive.

Leadership

Being a school leader encompasses several different roles, from taking charge of a year group or a particular key stage, all the way up to becoming a deputy or headteacher. If you do go on to reach this level of seniority, you will be responsible for setting high standards and ensuring continuous improvement throughout your school.

Focus on your subject

Are you passionate about a particular subject? You may want to consider becoming a head of department or a leading practitioner. You will still need to spend time in the classroom, but you’ll have some additional responsibilities too, such as training new teachers and acting as a leading authority on your subject.

Pastoral care

If you’re particularly interested in ensuring the welfare of students throughout their education, a pastoral role might be for you. It’s a position that can range from guiding tutor groups through school to becoming a head of year. You may also want to take on the role of being a mentor for young people with special educational needs (SEN).





Eligibility for teacher training



Although different training providers may have specific recruitment criteria, there are some basic eligibility requirements you must meet to become a qualified teacher in England.

Qualifications

To train to teach in primary and secondary schools in England, you need:

- GCSEs at grade 4 (C) or above in English and maths (and science if you want to teach primary)
- a bachelor's degree in any subject

Different training providers may also have specific criteria. For example, some may ask that you have a bachelor's degree class 2:2 or above.

Some training providers may consider candidates with pending GCSEs. If you do not have the required GCSEs, they may also ask you to sit an equivalency test or provide other evidence to demonstrate your ability.

If you don't already have an undergraduate degree, you can train to be a teacher as part of your bachelor's degree and get QTS. Or you may be eligible to apply for a new teacher degree apprenticeship (TDA).

What can you teach?

Your bachelor's degree can be in any subject to teach primary or secondary. For secondary courses, your provider will also want to make sure you have a good knowledge of the subject you're applying to teach.

This could be through having a bachelor's degree in the subject, or having:

- an A level in the subject
- a bachelor's degree related to but not in the subject for example, you have a bachelor's degree in engineering, but you'd like to teach physics
- an unrelated bachelor's degree but relevant professional experience

You can also train to teach primary with a specialist subject, for example primary with maths, so you can develop your knowledge of that particular subject.

Note: Applications that include this information are 28% more likely to be successful

Or you can train to teach two subjects at secondary, for example maths with physics, so you can develop the skills needed to teach an additional subject.

Overseas qualifications

If you obtained all or part of your qualifications outside of the UK, the easiest way to check your qualifications meet the required standard in England is to get a statement of comparability from the UK European Network of Information Centres (UK ENIC).

This is a certificate that proves your school and university qualifications are the same standard as UK GCSEs and a UK bachelor's degree.

When you apply for teacher training, you'll be asked to submit details of your statement of comparability.

Note: Applications that include this information are 28% more likely to be successful.

A statement of comparability costs £69.60. It takes 15 working days to complete your order from the date ENIC receives your qualification documents and payment.

For support and guidance on your qualifications, call us on 0800 389 2500.

Worried you don't know enough about your chosen subject?

If your training provider thinks you need to improve your subject knowledge, then they may decide that you'll benefit from a subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) course.

SKE courses are usually online, but some of them can also be classroom-based or a mixture of both online and in-person.

Course lengths usually range from 8 to 28 weeks and involve 25 hours of study a week. Your provider will decide on the length of your course based on your knowledge gap.

You can study a part-time course, and complete it over a longer period, or complete it in a shorter timeframe with compressed hours.

You could also be eligible to receive a SKE participant bursary. For the academic year 2025/26, the participant bursary funding is £175 a week.

Most candidates complete a SKE course before starting their teacher training year. However, it is sometimes possible to complete a SKE course alongside your Initial Teacher Training (ITT) course, but you will not be eligible for a SKE bursary if you complete your ITT course in parallel.

For further details, speak to your ITT provider or visit the Get Into Teaching website.

Visas for non-UK trainee teachers

If you are applying for teacher training as a non-UK citizen, you will need a visa or immigration status that allows you to study or work in England.

If you do not already have a visa or immigration status that permits you to study or work in England, you will need to apply for a student visa or skilled worker visa.

You can find more information here:

Visas for non-UK trainee teachers





School experience

Getting some school experience under your belt will enable you to really see what teaching is all about and help you decide if it is right for you. Placements usually last between one and two days, but some can last for up to three weeks.

School experience enables you to:

- gain practical insights into daily school life
- observe lessons and other teacher responsibilities
- discover which setting you'd like to teach in (primary or secondary)
- build a relationship with a school you might like to work in

The easiest way to find school experience is through the Get school experience service.

The Get school experience service helps match people who are interested in teaching with hundreds of schools offering in-school and virtual experience.

You can use the service to:

- search for experience opportunities within your area
- find out about different schools and the experience they offer
- request school experience

Please note - you don't need to have school experience to apply for a teacher training course. However, spending time in school and shadowing teachers is really useful for helping you decide if teaching is for you.

If you're struggling to find a suitable experience opportunity via the Get school experience service, you can always try:

- approaching schools yourself
- asking your university
- volunteering

Asking your university

If you're a student considering going into teaching, find out if there are any relevant schemes that are being led by your university. Depending on your degree, there may be an option to complete a module that includes classroom experience at a local school.

Volunteering

Volunteering is great for gaining valuable experience of working with children. Many of these opportunities take place during evenings or weekends, and are therefore easier to fit in around your existing commitments.

Please note - some schools and volunteering organisations may ask you to take a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Watch pre-recorded lessons

Many school and training provider websites feature helpful information, such as 'day in the life of' videos and recorded lessons. If you head over to the Oak National Academy's website, you can watch numerous teachers' lessons. The site also contains a wealth of wider useful resources for teachers, visit: **thenational.academy/teachers**

Get school experience







Choose your course

The right teacher training course for you

Teaching provides you with all of the opportunities, training, support and rewards you need to build a stimulating and successful career that shapes young lives.

Through teacher training, you can gain qualified teacher status (QTS) or QTS with a postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE).

You need QTS to teach in most primary and secondary schools in England, but you do not need a PGCE to teach.

Postgraduate teacher training courses led by universities and schools are available across England. Whichever course you select, your training will largely be the same.

All teacher training courses offer:

- qualified teacher status (QTS) – you need this to be able to teach as a qualified teacher in England
- plenty of classroom experience – a minimum of 24 weeks across at least 2 schools
- training to meet the QTS standards - including how to plan and teach well-structured lessons, manage behaviour effectively and how to make your subject accessible to all pupils
- expert academic and practical guidance from mentors and tutors - who are there every step of the way to help you succeed

“ My first placement was at an academy with an experienced year 3 teacher. She took me under her wing and taught me all the basics on how to conduct myself in the classroom along with how to best motivate and nurture the children to promote positive behaviour responses and enhance the classroom culture.”

Aaron, trainee teacher

Finding teacher training courses

Teacher training courses might be provided by a:

- university (sometimes referred to as university-led training)
- school or group of schools (sometimes referred to as school-led training or an apprenticeship)

You can find out more about individual course providers by using the Find teacher training service. You can filter the search results by location, training provider and subject. You will also find details about how to contact individual training providers, so that you can discuss their courses with them before you apply.

Once you've identified the best teacher training courses for you, you will need to apply for them via the Apply for teacher training service. You can have up to 4 active applications for teacher training courses.

Tip: Make sure you use all 4 application slots to increase your chance of success.

Find teacher training courses





3D shapes that narrow to a common vertex, creating a point.

Volume of pyramid or cone = $\frac{1}{3}$ area of base \times height



Spheres

A sphere is a round shape. Every point on its surface is equidistant from its center.

Volume of

$V = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$
 $= \frac{4}{3} \times \pi \times r^3$
 $= \frac{4}{3} \times \pi \times 5^3$



GRAPH PAPER

GLUE



Financial support for teacher training

The level of financial support you receive depends on the subject you choose and the teacher training route you decide to take.

Funding your training

There are three types of funding available for teacher training. Depending on your circumstances, you may be entitled to receive all three:

1. tax-free bursary or scholarship
2. tuition fee loan and maintenance loan
3. extra financial support – if you're a parent, have an adult dependant or a disability

Alternatively, you could earn a salary while you train.

Tax-free bursaries and scholarships

Bursaries

Bursaries are tax-free payments you receive if you're training to teach certain subjects. If you're eligible for a bursary, you'll receive it automatically.

Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded by organisations with a passion for their subject area. They combine tax-free payments with extra benefits, such as subject-specific support, mentoring and networking opportunities. If you are eligible, you can apply directly to the scholarship provider.

You must be eligible for student finance to receive a bursary or scholarship.

If you receive either a bursary or a scholarship, you do not need to pay it back.

You cannot receive both a bursary and a scholarship.

You cannot receive a bursary or a scholarship if you're on a salaried teacher training course.

Funding options are revised annually.

Find out more about bursaries and scholarships





Available postgraduate bursaries and scholarships for academic year 2026/2027:

Subject	Bursary	Scholarships
Biology	£5,000	
Chemistry	£29,000	£31,000
Computing	£29,000	£31,000
Design & Technology	£20,000	
Geography	£5,000	
Languages (French, German and Spanish only)	£20,000	£22,000
Languages (all other languages, including ancient languages)	£20,000	
Maths	£29,000	
Physics	£29,000	£31,000

**Funding your
teacher training**





Tuition fee loans and maintenance loans in England

If you choose a course that has tuition fees, you may be eligible for a student loan to cover the cost or to help with your living costs.

You can apply for a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan, even if you already have a student loan, and regardless of whether you get a teaching bursary or scholarship. And you only have to make loan repayments once you are earning.

Course fees can cost up to £9,535 per year. If you are not a UK citizen, the fees may be higher - contact your teacher training provider for the full cost details.

If you choose a teacher training course that has a salary, you're not eligible for any student finance.

If you live in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, you can apply for this support via your country's student finance body (Student Finance Wales, Student Awards Agency Scotland or Student Finance NI).

Tuition fee loans in England

You can apply for a tuition fee loan to cover the cost of your postgraduate teacher training course. If you're eligible for a tuition fee loan, the amount you borrow is paid directly to your course provider.

Tuition fees loans are not means tested. This means you do not need to provide evidence of your income or anyone else's to be eligible to receive a loan.

Maintenance loans in England

You may be eligible for a maintenance loan of up to £13,762 to help cover your living costs. The amount that's awarded depends on your household income.

A minimum loan is available to all trainees, regardless of their household income.

Use the student finance calculator below to find out how much funding you might get.

Extra financial support

You can use the student finance calculator to estimate extra funding that may be available. For instance, Parents' Learning Allowance, Childcare Grants, Adult Dependants' Grants or Child Tax Credits.

Student finance calculator



Loan repayments

Your loan repayments are based on how much you earn, not how much you have borrowed.

If you start an undergraduate or postgraduate course after 1 August 2023, you are only required to make repayments when you earn over £25,000.

Salaried teacher training

There are some teacher training courses that come with a salary.

This means you will not have to pay tuition fees. You will receive an unqualified teacher's salary while you train – the exact amount varies, depending on the school you work in. You will be taxed on your income.

The main salaried courses include Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeships (PGTA), School Direct salaried and teacher training delivered by Teach First.

These courses are in high demand, so it's important to apply as soon as you can if you're eligible.

If you study a salaried course, you will not be eligible to receive a bursary, scholarship or student finance.

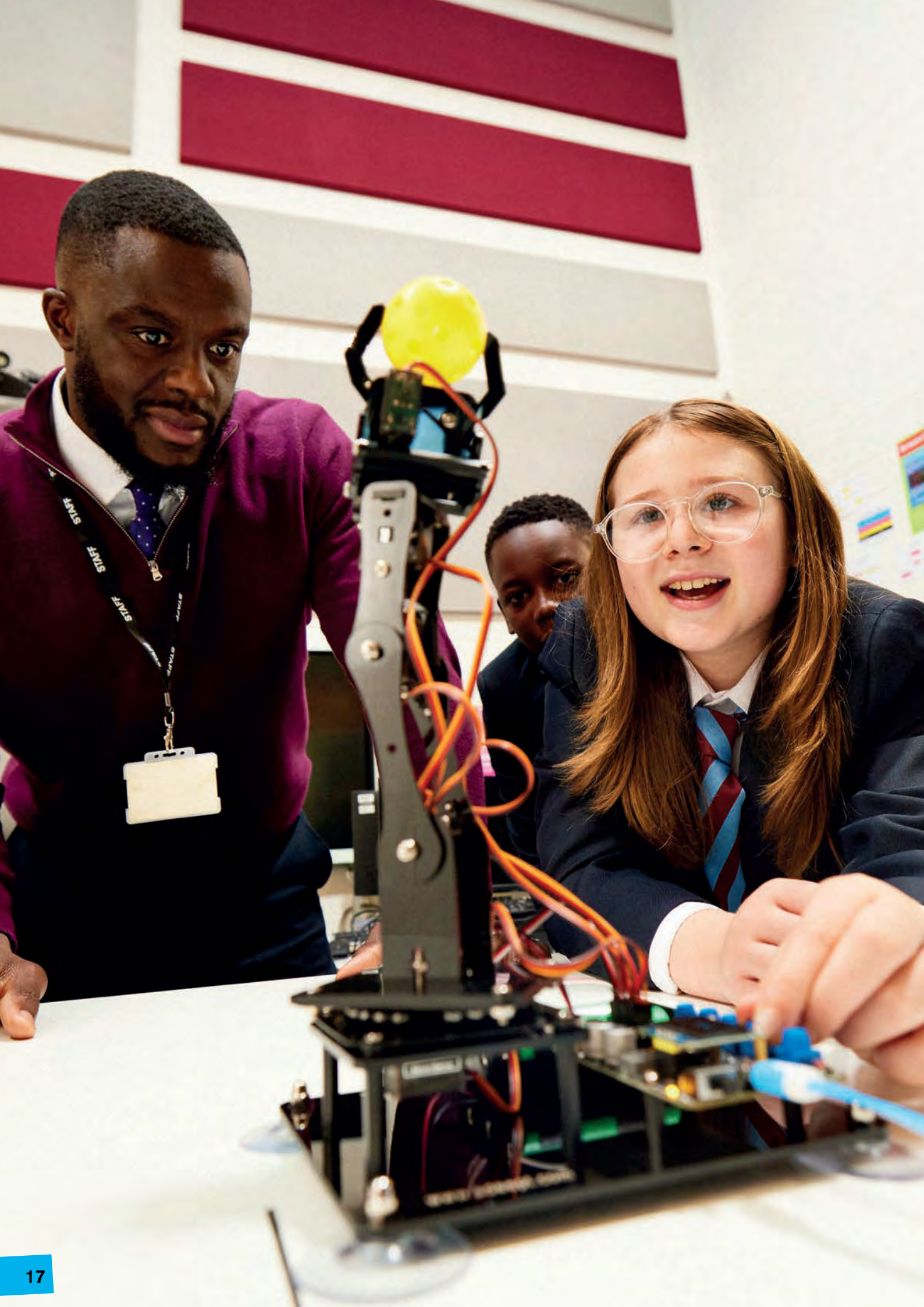
Support for trainees from overseas

If you are a non-UK citizen, you can find out more about the fees and financial support available below:

Non-UK citizens









Get advice and support

Teacher training advisers provide you with free, one-to-one support, whether you are just thinking about teaching or are ready to apply. They have years of teaching experience and are on hand to answer all your questions about life in the classroom, as well as the steps it takes to get there.

How does it work?

You will be matched with your own dedicated adviser, who will support you throughout your journey into teacher training.

How often you talk to them is entirely up to you - it could be every week or every now and again when you need some one-to-one support. You can contact them via phone, text or email.

How can your adviser help you?

If teaching is just an idea:

Your adviser can talk to you about what teaching is really like and help you decide if it's right for you.

They can:

- talk through your questions and any doubts you may have
- help you find school experience
- explain the steps to becoming a teacher

If you're ready to apply?

Your adviser can talk you through the application process, step-by-step.

They can support you with

- writing your personal statement
- understanding your different training options
- preparing for interviews

Am I eligible to receive support from an adviser?

To receive support from an adviser, you need to have or be in your final year studying towards a bachelor's degree. You'll need to have or be predicted to achieve a 2:2 or higher (or an equivalent).

If you got your qualifications outside the UK, you can call us on 0800 389 2500 to check if you're eligible.

Not a final year student or graduate?

You can also receive free dedicated support if you are an undergraduate student not in your final year. Our explore teaching advisers are here to help you find out what being a teacher is really like, explore teaching as a career option, build your confidence and transferable skills and help you understand the steps to becoming a teacher.

Our advisers may also run events at your university or have connections with your university careers service.

Find out more and sign up for support





How to apply

When to apply

You can apply for teacher training through GOV.UK. Courses typically open for applications in October, ready to start the following September (some courses may start at other points during the year).

Teacher training providers allocate places as people apply throughout the year, which means some courses can fill up quickly.

The application form

You can apply for up to 4 teacher training courses at a time, with a maximum of 15 in a single recruitment cycle.

You will need to provide details about:

- your qualifications - GCSEs, A Levels and degree (or equivalents)
- work history or unpaid experience
- why you want to teach
- why you're suited to teach a particular subject or age group

If you have a disability or health condition, you can ask for support during the application process and while you are completing your training.

You will be asked to declare any potential safeguarding issues, such as criminal convictions and whether you have started a teacher training course before. Your chosen training provider will be able to advise you on whether or not any issues will affect your application.

“ My best advice for a successful application is to be reflective in your personal statement and interview, think about why you want to teach, about the sort of classroom you envisage yourself in (and why) and talk about it! ”

Giorgio, biology teacher

Get help with your application

If you are interested in becoming a teacher in England, our teacher training advisers are on hand to provide you with free one-to-one support.

They can:

- answer all your questions about teaching
- help you find school experience
- guide you through the application process

Find out more on page 18.

“ Having a teacher training adviser was really beneficial when editing my personal statement and preparing for interviews. My top tips for the application process would be to get an adviser, and to think about what transferrable skills you have when writing your personal statement and answering interview questions. ”

Felix, former teacher trainee

Apply for teacher training





Personal statement

Your personal statement forms part of your application. It provides you with a valuable opportunity to make yourself memorable with teacher training providers and show them why you will make a great teacher.

Personal statements should be no shorter than 500 words and no longer than 1,000 words and can contain information, including:

- your reasons for wanting to train to be a teacher
- why you want to teach the subject or specialism you are applying for
- the skills, experience and personal characteristics you have that would make you a great teacher

Make sure you include relevant experience of working or volunteering with children and young people and any transferable skills or strengths that would support you in the classroom.

Teacher training providers want to see your passion and that you understand the bigger picture of teaching.

Tip: Make sure your statement doesn't contain any spelling or grammatical errors.

References

When you apply for teacher training, you will need to give the names and email addresses of 2 people who can provide you with a reference. They will only be contacted through the service when you accept an offer for a training course placement.

There are 4 different types of references you can provide:

1. academic (for example, from your university tutor)
2. professional (for example, from your manager)
3. school experience (for example, from the headteacher of the school you've been working in)
4. character (for example, from a mentor or someone you know from volunteering)

Note: Make sure you provide a professional email address, not a personal email address for each reference. **You cannot provide references from family members, friends, partners or ex-partners.**

Find out more about references





After the application

Interview

The key to any successful interview is proper preparation - and your application for teacher training is no exception. The way different schools and universities structure their interviews and assessments varies.

When you are invited for an interview, take the time to properly read through all of the details, so that you know exactly what to expect. Most interviews take place over a full day, although some can take as little as an hour, and include some, if not all, of the following:

- a review of personal documentation - including exam certificates
- a group task or discussion - e.g. discussion about current educational issues
- a short presentation – the topic may be shared with you before your interview
- an individual interview - that could be one-to-one or with a panel
- a written task or tasks – that could involve a literacy test and/or subject-based test

Prepare what you need to know

It's a good idea to check the provider's website to understand more about them and what appeals to you. You can refer to this information at your interview.

Take some time to find out about the teachers' standards and the national curriculum.

Consider some possible safeguarding scenarios and how you might address them. Make sure you've read the statutory guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding children.

It's essential you can provide compelling reasons for why you have all of the right qualities for teaching.

For example:

- having an assured, committed reason for wanting to get into teaching - and a clear understanding of how you can make a difference as a teacher
- knowing what you can bring to the course you're applying for - both in terms of your subject knowledge and the ethos of the school(s) or university leading your training
- being able to explain what you've learnt from any school experience you may have had
- showing you can apply transferable skills - from any previous employment to teaching
- understanding current policies and practices - in education and teaching in general

You may have already given these areas a lot of thought when crafting your written application. That's a good start, but don't be complacent and think that simply reciting your application will carry you through. As is the case with any interview, you'll be expected to demonstrate good personal, intellectual and communication skills - in fact, as a potential teacher, it's vital.

Think positive

The most important thing is to try to relax and be yourself. With some planning, and preparation, you'll be in a strong position to answer questions confidently and show you can handle a classroom.



Get Into Teaching
website



Apply for
teacher training



Get an adviser



Find teacher
training courses



Funding your
teacher training



Get school
experience

For further advice and support please contact the team on:
0800 389 2500 or visit getintoteaching.education.gov.uk

