

Careers in Secondary Education

Dovetail
& Slate

Considering a career in teaching?

Whether you're starting from scratch or already have a degree, there are clear pathways to becoming a qualified teacher in England.

Explore different training routes, funding options and what to expect as you begin your journey into a rewarding teaching career.



Why teach in a Secondary School?

Secondary education is a critical phase in a student's academic journey, and as a secondary school teacher, you'll have the opportunity to inspire future generations by influencing and guiding students during their formative years, helping them discover their passions and develop essential skills.

What qualifications do you need?

To teach in most Primary or Secondary Schools in England you will need QTS (Qualified Teacher Status). Here are things to consider when working towards achieving your QTS:



Gain experience

Before you start your teacher training it's always advised that you get some experience in an education environment. To really see what it's like and get a taste for the opportunity.



Minimum GCSE requirements

You'll need Grade C in English and Maths at GCSE level, you can retake these if required.



Undergraduate routes

If you don't have a degree, you can do undergraduate teacher training or a TDA (Teacher Degree Apprenticeship). These usually take up to 4 years.



Postgraduate routes

If you have a degree you can apply to do a postgraduate teaching qualification like a PGCE. These can be full time for part time lasting anywhere between 9 months and 24 months to suit your availability. These courses will be a mixture of application and theory, taking place in at least 2 different schools.

What funding could be available to you?

There are lots of course options and providers to choose from, you can usually apply the year prior to your course starting but some do fill up quickly, so don't wait to get your application completed.

✓ You can apply for tuition fee and maintenance loans, even if you already have an existing student loan. This won't always be applicable for non-UK applicants.

✓ There are £30k tax-free allowances available to support you while you're training if you choose to teach certain subjects. This money does not have to be paid back.

✓ If you do not have the right to study or work in the UK, you will need a visa. Your visa will need to be sponsored by a course provider.

Starting your teaching career

→ Once qualified you'll be known as an Early Career Teacher (ECT), previously known as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT).

→ For the initial 2 years as an early career teacher, you'll receive a package of support and training to help you develop your teaching skills. This will involve a mentor to support you in your development, able to coach you on teaching skills, tech, behaviour management and more.

How others like you made the jump into Secondary Teaching

"As a newly qualified teacher, Dovetail & Slate made the process of securing my first permanent teaching position incredibly easy and stress-free.

They brought a personal touch that made all the difference, and I can't thank or recommend Dovetail & Slate enough!"

Erin | Teacher

Ready to get started?

At Dovetail & Slate, we help people like you start their careers in education.

Using our nationwide network of education providers, we'll connect you with the perfect role, no matter where you are in your career.

Let us take the stress out of job hunting and help you find a fulfilling career in education!



Visit our Resource Hub!

Our Resource Hub offers FREE downloadable tools like CV templates, interview tips and key information about working in education to help you feel confident and prepared.

www.dovetailslate.co.uk/resource-hub

Quick links

For more information on getting into teaching, we recommend visiting the [Get Into Teaching](#) website.

If you're a qualified teacher from outside the UK, visit gov.uk to learn about the routes to QTS.



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