

Thinking Ahead?

Teaching in the Further Education and Skills Sector

**Learner
Services**

Produced by
Manchester Adult Education Service
Information and Guidance Team
Updated: 2018

What does a Teacher in the Further Education and Skills Sector do?

The Further Education and Skills Sector, previously known as the Lifelong Learning Sector, can include teaching learners from age 14 and upwards. Teachers in this sector are likely to teach in one of the following three areas:

- Vocational training – such as BTEC or NVQ's in subjects such as plumbing, hairdressing, childcare
- Academic teaching – such as GCSE's or A levels
- Basic Skills – Literacy, Numeracy or ESOL – English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Leisure and hobby courses – such as photography, drawing and painting

Where do they work?

Teachers in this sector could work in a variety of settings such as:

- Further Education (FE) Colleges
- 6th Form colleges
- Adult and Community Learning providers
- Work based learning – this is offered in the workplace either directly through themselves or external training companies.
- Offender learning – this takes place in prisons or young offender institutes.
- Voluntary and charitable organisations

What skills and personal qualities do they need?

See: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/further-education-teacher>

How do I get into teaching in the Further Education and Skills Sector?

It is no longer a *legal* requirement to have a specific teaching qualification in order to teach in the Post 16 sector, however, employers are likely to want you to meet the two conditions outlined below.

1. Firstly, you will need a qualification in the subject you wish to teach. For academic subjects this will typically be at degree level. For those wishing to teach on vocational or professional courses you would normally be qualified to at least level 3 in your specialist area and have significant industrial or professional experience.

2. Secondly, you will need to have, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification. For most teachers in this sector, the required qualification is a Diploma in Education and Training.

If you wish to teach or train in publicly funded work-based learning, adult and community education, the charitable and voluntary sector or the prison service, the same qualifications are likely to apply.

3. You are also likely to need at least a level 2 in English, Maths and sometimes ICT. Some teacher training providers may want you to have English and Maths qualifications at GCSE grade 4 – 9 (C or above) level.

Teaching qualifications in the FE sector:

- **Level 3 Award in Education and Training** – is an introductory, knowledge based certificate. No minimum teaching practice is required.
- **Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training**
- **Level 5 Diploma in Education and training** – this is the recognised full teaching qualification for the sector. You can go straight into this without having completed the other levels. If you complete a Level 5 or above qualification in education and training, you can apply to the Society for Education and Training (SET) for Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status. QTLS status is equal to qualified teacher status (QTS), which primary and secondary school teachers hold.
- **PGCE - Post Graduate Certificate in post- compulsory education.** This is a popular route for those who already hold a degree in the subject they wish to teach. It meets the requirements of the level 5 Diploma, in addition to other units up to level 7.
- **Cert Ed - Certificate in Education** - This is a popular route for those who don't already have a degree and also meets the requirements of the Level 5 Diploma.
- **PCET Post Compulsory Education and Training qualification** – Some course providers give their level 5 teaching qualifications this name in order to distinguish it from the PGCE required to teach in Schools, which this is not.

Teaching basic skills; English (literacy), Maths (numeracy) and English to Speakers of Other languages (ESOL) or learners with disabilities - There are specialist pathways available if you wish to teach these subjects. They can be integrated as part of a level 5 teaching Diploma, or taken as a separate stand-alone diploma in addition to the teaching Diploma.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language – this is sometimes known as 'TEFL' or 'EFL' Teaching English as Foreign language differs to teaching ESOL or English to Speakers of Other Languages. ESOL teachers tend to teach learners who need English for everyday life as they are living in the UK long term. Teachers of English as a foreign language tend to teach English abroad or in private/commercial UK language or summer schools where learners tend to pay fees for their study and need English for a specific purpose such as business or entrance to University.

The two main recognised qualifications for teaching English as a foreign Language are;

- **CELTA (Cambridge Certificate)**
www.cambridgeenglish.org/teaching-english/teaching-qualifications/celta/
- **TESOL (Trinity College Certificate)**
www.trinitycollege.com

Course providers set their own entry requirements but they often ask applicants to have a degree plus a high level of English for entry onto these courses

Where can I study?

The majority of colleges and Universities in Greater Manchester offer one or many levels of qualifications for teaching in the further education and skills sector.

An up to date list of current providers and the qualifications they offer can be obtained from FE advice on 0300 303 1877, or ask your advisor for a copy.

Funding

Financial support for course fees and maintenance costs in the form of higher education student loans may be available for those on Level 4 and 5 qualifications.

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

Bursaries may also be available to graduates who wish to teach English and Maths in Further Education:

<https://www.feadvice.org.uk/want-work-sector-i-want-be-teacher-fe/incentives-new-teachers>

If you are applying for the level 3 Award in Education and Training, you may be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan - <https://www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan/overview>

What are the job prospects? – Labour Market Information

Education is a large sector; it has shrunk in the UK, North West and in Greater Manchester between 2003-2013. Between 2013 and 2023, the Education sector is expected to decline by an estimated 4,000 jobs in Greater Manchester. There will however be a large number of opportunities in the sector due to its size. Source: <http://careerpoint-gm.co.uk>

In Further Education there are an increasing number of part time posts and fixed term contracts. It is worth checking the recruitment sections on the websites of colleges and other providers such as local authorities. Teaching agencies are also used by a number of employers often to fill short term or part time appointments. Useful job websites for the sector are:

www.tes.co.uk/jobs

www.fejobs.com

www.fecareers.co.uk

www.educationunlimited.co.uk

www.teachfe.com

www.jobs.ac.uk

www.aocjobs.com/jobs/lecturer

Other sources of information

- FE Advice - Tel: 0300 303 1877 - www.feadvice.org.uk
- The Society for Education and Training - <https://set.et-foundation.co.uk>

Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES) Learner Advisors can give advice on careers, education, training and support with job search. Make an appointment at your local centre:

<http://www.manchester.gov.uk/adulted>

National Careers Service: Careers advice, job search, CV's and skills assessment.

Freephone: 0800 100 900 <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

You are advised to check material facts as although every effort has been made to ensure that information given is up to date we are aware that information is subject to change. The website links are used to provide further information and are not intended to signify that MAES endorses such websites and their content.