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**Routes to becoming   
a qualified teacher  
  
  
Achieving Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) is essential in becoming a   
qualified teacher. You need QTS to teach in primary, secondary and   
special schools in England.** **This guide outlines what training you need.  
In addition to having a degree, you must have GCSE English and Mathematics at grade 4 (C) or above, or an approved equivalent. To apply for a primary programme, you must also have GCSE Science at grade 4 (C) or above, or an approved equivalent. Level 2 Functional Skills is not an equivalent for entry into teaching.**

Please note that this is a guide - different training providers may have specific criteria for each route.

**I have a degree but no experience in teaching**

**I don’t have a degree**

**I have a degree and   
I’m an experienced unqualified teacher**

**1. University degree**

**3. Postgraduate   
teacher training**

**2. Undergraduate apprenticeship**

**4. Postgraduate   
apprenticeship**

**5. Assessment-only**

**QTS = Qualified Teacher**

**Please see overleaf for more information on each section**

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| **1. University degree** |
| **Bachelor’s degree**   * The most common route if you are wishing to teach a subject in secondary schools. * Typically, a three-year university course. * Level 3 qualifications would be required. * Tuition fees apply – These vary per university (approximately £9,250 per year). * Funding support is available through Student Finance. * With a Bachelor’s degree, you would then need to complete a one-year postgraduate course to achieve QTS. |
| **Bachelor’s degree with QTS**   * A common route if you are wishing to teach in primary schools. * Typically, a three or four-year university course that includes QTS. * Level 3 qualifications would be required. * Tuition fees apply – These vary per university (approximately £9,250 per year). * Funding support is available through Student Finance. * You might also be eligible for bursaries and scholarships (subject-dependant). |

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| **2. Undergraduate apprenticeship** |
| **Teacher Degree Apprenticeships (TDAs)**   * A new route to becoming a qualified teacher. * A 4-year full-time programme that involves working in a school and earning  a salary, whilst working towards getting a Bachelor’s degree with QTS. * Level 3 qualifications would be required. * Fully-funded - No tuition fees and you will also receive a salary. * You will spend approximately 40% of your time studying for a degree  with a university. |

**Please see overleaf for information on postgraduate options**

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| **3. Postgraduate teacher training** |
| **Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) including QTS**   * A one-year programme delivered by a university, a School Centred Initial  Teacher Training provider (SCITT) or a School Direct partnership. * Tuition fees apply – these are approximately £9,250. * Funding support is available through Student Finance. * Bursaries and scholarships are available for certain secondary subjects.   **University**   * Lecture-based postgraduate course which includes at least two school placements.   **School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)**   * A school-based course with regular training delivered by a SCITT. * The PGCE qualification is delivered by a partner university.   **School Direct**   * A school-based course with regular training delivered by a partner university  or School Centred Initial Teacher (SCITT) provider. * Salaried places available where you are paid as an unqualified teacher with the school paying the tuition fees. Most programmes lead to a PGCE qualification (there may be an additional cost to you for this). * Fee-funded places available. Course fees are usually around £9,250 but funding support is available via Student Finance. For certain subjects, bursaries and scholarships are available up to £31,000. The PGCE qualification is delivered  by a partner university. |

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| **4. Postgraduate apprenticeship** |
| **PGTA (Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship)**   * A relatively new route to becoming a qualified teacher. * A full-time employment-based programme that involves working in a school,  whilst earning a salary. * Fully-funded - No tuition fees and you will also receive a salary. * Most programmes lead to a PGCE qualification (there may be an additional  cost to you for this). |

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| **5. Assessment-only** |
| **Assessment-only route to QTS**   * 3 month fast-track route for experienced unqualified teachers that have  sole responsibility for teaching, assessment and planning. * You must be able to prove you meet the Teachers’ Standards without  needing additional training. * You will complete a series of assessments over 12 weeks. * Fees are usually between £1,500 - £4,000 (may be covered through your school). |

**For more information, please visit:**

* **getintoteaching.education.gov.uk**
* **starteachingschoolhubs.org/programmes/train-to-teach**

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