

# Pathways TO Teaching



Introduction

Getting into teaching isn’t always straight forward, the sector uses terms and acronyms that can seem very unfriendly and unfamiliar to those working outside of the sector. This pocketbook, which has been produced by the Initial Teacher Education team at South Essex College, is an attempt to demystify the sector. It includes information on different types of qualifications that are available, what each are suitable for and attempts to explain the requirements of the sector in friendly language.

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## Understanding Teaching Qualifications

Let's begin with the most 'well known' teaching qualification, the PGCE. This qualification will probably be familiar to those even outside of the sector, but unfortunately not all PGCEs are the same and it is not always made clear what 'type' of teacher training qualification it is.

**Levels:** Targeted to different areas of the education sector and can be at different levels. Before we go any further, it is worth clarify what the different 'levels' mean. All full teacher training qualifications are either Level-5, Level-6 or Level-7. The levels indicated the amount of challenge and expectation for academic or critical thinking within the programme:

**Level 5:** This is the same level as a HND (Higher National Diploma) or the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a degree. This will typically mean that there should be a strong link between what researchers, theorists and experts recommend and how you view your teaching practice, but these perspectives can be taken at face value.

**Level 6:** This is the same level as the final year of an Honours Degree. Here the level of critique increases so what theorists, experts or researchers suggest is no longer taken at face value and flaws in their research are explored.

**Level 7:** This is the same level as a Masters qualification. Here the level of critique increases further where a wider range of perspectives are used to contrast with one another and there is an acceptance that there really isn't any 'nice simple answers' when you look at anything deeply enough.

**Qualifications by Level:** There are teaching qualifications at levels 5, 6 & 7, and most confusingly, two of the have the same letters in the acronym:

Level	Acronym	Full Title	Overview
7	PGCE	Post-Graduate Certificate in Education	These courses often include modules with Masters credits. Typically the 1 <sup>st</sup> half is at Level 6 and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half is Level 7. It is this 2 <sup>nd</sup> half which can carry credits towards a Masters in education. There is also a PGDE where most or all of the credits are at Level 7.
6	PgCE	Professional-Graduate Certificate in Education	This is the same as the PGCE, but without the Level 7 modules, this means that the level of academic challenge stays the same throughout the programme.
5	CertEd	Certificate in Education	Typically, the CertEd is on a Higher Education framework and is similar to a Level 5 version of the PgCE.
5	DETs	Diploma in Education & Training	The Level 5 Diploma is based on a vocational framework where a series of 'competencies' must be demonstrated in order to pass. Unlike the above qualifications which are awarded by a University, this is typically awarded by Pearson or City & Guilds.

If you search online you may also find qualifications titled PGC-HE or similar. These are accepted as full qualifications for some Universities, but are half the size (60 credits) of the above qualifications and are not recognised as a full teacher training qualification across the rest of the education sector. These are often only available to staff within the organisation that are running the programme.

## Types of Teaching Qualification

It might seem that a teaching qualification is simply a qualification to teach, but any of these courses is targeted to a particular 'part' of the education sector, i.e.:

- Primary, for ages 4-11
- Secondary, for ages 12-16
- Further / Adult Education, for ages 16+. This is also sometimes referred to as *PCET*, meaning Post-Compulsory Education & Training.

So before choosing your teaching training course, you should look at both the *level* of the course and then the *type* of teacher training qualification it is. So for example, if you were to see the following course: PgCE (PCET), this would mean it is a Level 6 teaching qualification, on a higher education framework for people who want to teach students who are 16 and over.

## Teacher Training for Schools vs Colleges

Most teacher training routes includes two components:

- Academic Component, this is where you explore and research theories and principles relating to education.
- Practice Component, this is where you apply these principles into practice and have what you do as a teacher in the classroom assessed.

In schools-based teacher training the Academic Component is often referred to as the PGCE whereas the practice component is referred to as QTS (qualified teacher status). As a result, the PGCE is 60 credits in size. In a PCET PgCE, these two aspects are combined together, so instead of 60 Credits + Practice Credits, it is packaged as 120 Credits of Academic and Practice combined.

Schools-based teacher training programmes are often referred to as SCITTs, meaning Schools-based Initial Teacher Training. All of their courses will include a QTS component, which is a requirement of the secondary and primary sector.

**QTS:** To work in a secondary state school, you are required to have a qualification which includes QTS: Qualified Teacher Status. This is achieved as part of a teacher training qualification specific to the sector. Academies and Free schools are not legally required to apply this regulation, though it is common practice for Academies and Free schools to do the same as state-maintained schools, but this remains at their discretion.

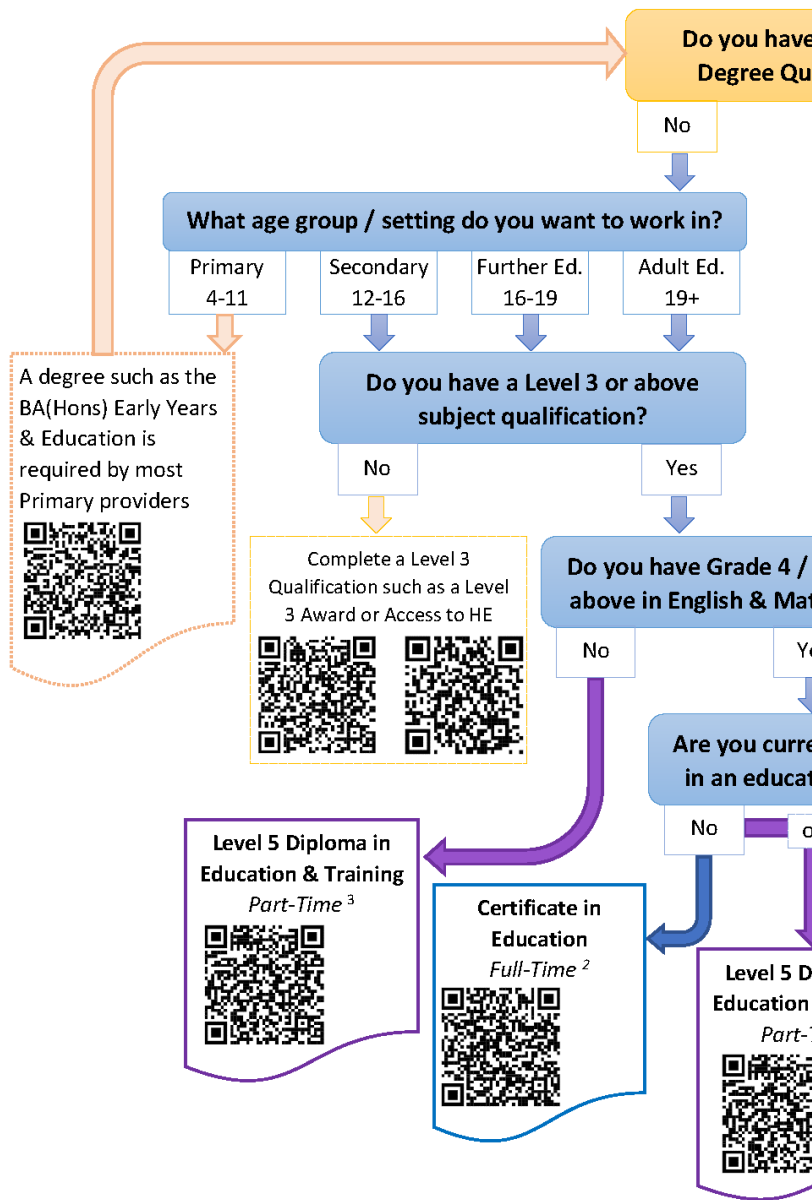
QTS is only available during the completion of a schools-based teacher training programme. It can be completed as *assessment-only* for an unqualified teacher who has been working in a school for 2 or more years or who is qualified but without QTS.

**QTLS:** If you were to complete a teacher training qualification focussed on post-16 students, then you can complete a *professional formation* known as QTLS: Qualified Teacher Learning & Skills. Since 2014, QTLS is a legal equivalent of QTS, so if you were to have QTLS you would be qualified to work in both colleges and state schools.

While QTS is undertaken as part of the teacher training course, QTLS can only be undertaken afterwards and is only awarded by the Society for Education & Training. However, after completion there is no requirement for an ECT (Early Career Teacher) year. The Early Careers Framework has replaced the NQT (newly qualified teacher) framework as of 2022.



# Map of Pathways





All routes to teaching require a criminal background (DBS) check

1. Not currently available through South Essex College
2. You would be required to attain a voluntary placement in a setting of your choice teaching learners over the age of 14
3. You would be expected to develop your English & Maths skills during the programme. To achieve QTLS you are required to have achieved a Grade 4/C Maths & English qualification or equivalent

an Honours  
qualification?

Yes

What age group / setting do you want to work in?

Primary  
4-11

Secondary  
12-16

Further Ed.  
16-19

Adult Ed.  
19+

Primary  
SCITT or  
Primary  
PGCE <sup>1</sup>

Secondary  
SCITT or  
Secondary  
PGCE <sup>1</sup>

Do you have Grade 4 / C or  
above in English & Maths?

No

Yes

C or  
Maths?

es

Currently working  
in an education setting?

Yes

Diploma in  
& Training  
Part-Time <sup>2</sup>



Certificate in  
Education  
Part-Time



Are you currently working  
in an education setting?

No <sup>2</sup>

Yes

PgCE  
Full-Time



PgCE  
Part-Time



## Comparison of Teacher Training Qualifications

	Primary PGCE	Secondary PGCE	PgCE (PCET)	CertEd or DETs (PCET)
<b>Subject:</b>	General to the primary sector aligned to the national curriculum	Subject-Specific, so for example a PGCE in Physics	Generic, functions like a <i>bolt-on</i> to qualifications past, present and future	
<b>Typical Entry:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GCSE Grade 4 (C) in English, Maths &amp; Science*</li> <li>Honours Degree in any subject, typically 2:2 or above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honours Degree in Subject Specialism</li> <li>GCSE Grade 4 (C) in English &amp; Maths*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honours Degree in Subject Specialism</li> <li>GCSE Grade 4 (C) in English &amp; Maths</li> <li>Placement or employment in the education sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject Qualification at Level 3 or above</li> <li>Competence in English &amp; Maths**</li> <li>Placement or employment in the education sector</li> </ul>
<b>Placement</b>	Placement allocated by provider	Placement allocated by provider	Part-Time (In-service): Employed in the sector Full-Time (Pre-Service): Voluntary placement	Employment or voluntary placement in the sector
<b>Weighting</b>	60 Credit PGCE + QTS		120 Credits, pathway to QTLS	
<b>Target Applicant</b>	Individuals with a degree who want to work in the primary sector	Individuals with a degree who want to work in the secondary sector	Individuals with a degree who wish to work in the further education sector. QTLS allows conversion to schools sector.	Individuals without a degree who wish to work in the further education sector. QTLS allows conversion to schools sector.

\* or equivalent

\*\*CertEd requires English & Maths at Grade 4 (C) or equivalent

## Teacher Training Interactive Route Finder

We recognise that the teacher education system can be complicated and difficult to navigate. That's why our teacher training team have created an interactive tool which will ask you a few questions based on your background, circumstances and intentions and will then produce a recommendation based on the information you have provided.

This can be accessed by using the following QR Code:



<https://forms.gle/qvcPQufV4zi3NzHR9>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Which is the best route to get into teaching for me?**

This depends entirely on your background, qualifications and the age group and sector you want to teach in. Use the Interactive Route Finder available via the link or QR code on the previous page

### **I work in a school, but don't have a degree. Can I get QTS?**

Currently, all routes for QTS require the candidate to have a degree. However, you can gain QTLS, which is legally equivalent to QTS, by completing a Certificate in Education or Level 5 Diploma in Education & Training and then undertaking professional formation. This will require that you are teaching students aged 14 and over.

### **Do I need a degree to work as a teacher in Further Education?**

Not necessarily. This will depend on the subject and level you are planning to teach and your level of experience in the industry. The general guideline is you should be qualified to at least the level or above the level you are teaching. So if you are teaching on a Level 2 qualification, which is equivalent to GCSE level, then you should at least have a Level 3, which is the equivalent of an A-Level.

### **Why do some schools require QTS and others don't?**

A state-maintained school requires all teachers to have QTS. However, Academies and Free Schools set their own policy. As most academies used to be state-maintained schools, they often continue their previous policy of requiring QTS even though this is not a legal requirement. QTLS is a legal equivalent of QTS, so the same would apply for both QTS and QTLS.

### **Why are some providers on the governments website and some are not?**

Providers which map to QTS and provide a teacher registration number are listed on the governments' website. Other providers are not required to do so.

**I don't know whether I want to be a teacher or not, what should I do?**

Being a teacher requires a passion for both your subject and for making learning happen. It requires dedication and compassion. If you are unsure of whether this profession is right for you, you can:

- a) Contact a school or college and ask if you can 'shadow' a member of staff for a day or two. This is where you follow them around and see what the job is really like
- b) Undertake a Level 3 Award in Education & Training, this is a short 10-week course which introduces you to the education sector.

**If I don't have QTS, how do I get a TRN (Teacher's Registration Number):**

A TRN is allocated at the point of completion of QTS, but it can also be obtained by registration with the Teacher's Pension group.

**How are these courses funded?**

Some courses are fully funded, some are eligible for adult learner loans whilst others are eligible for student loans through student finance England, but this will depend on the programme.

**I have used up my student loan's allowance, how can I get financial help for teacher training?**

Unless you have already undertaken a teacher training qualification, you would be eligible for additional student finance for teacher training. Teacher training finance is in addition to your standard student finance. If you are studying full time you are likely to be eligible for maintenance loans as well.

## Glossary: Jargon Buster

Term	What It Stands For	What It Means
<b>CertEd</b>	Certificate in Education	This is a full teacher training qualification at Level 5 and does not require a degree. This typically functions as a Level 5 <i>version</i> of a PgCE
<b>ECT / ECF</b>	Early Career Teacher / Early Career Framework	This is the replacement for NQT (see below), only this last for 2 years rather than 1.
<b>DETs</b>	Level 5 Diploma In Education & Training	A teacher training qualification that does not require a degree
<b>FE</b>	Further Education	This refers to education and training available after the age of 16
<b>HE</b>	Higher Education	This refers to education at Level 4 and above, the most well-known examples are University education such as Degrees.
<b>NQT</b>	Newly Qualified Teacher	After completing schools-based teacher training your first year of practice is termed as your NQT and is required in order to complete your professional formation in the secondary sector. This has since been replace by the Early Career Framework.
<b>PCET</b>	Post Compulsory Education & Training	Though technically no longer ‘post-compulsory’, this is the term used for education after the age of 16

<b>Term</b>	<b>What It Stands For</b>	<b>What It Means</b>
<b>PgCE</b>	Professional Graduate Certificate in Education & Training	This is a full teacher training qualification which requires a degree where all credits are at Level 6.
<b>PGCE</b>	Post-Graduate Certificate in Education & Training	This is a full teacher training qualification which requires a degree. Typically with some credits at Level 6 and others at Level 7.
<b>PTLLS</b>	Preparation Training for the Life Long Learning Sector	This is a short format qualification at Level 3 which has since been replaced with the Level 3 Award in Education & Training.
<b>QTLS</b>	Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills	This is a legal equivalent of QTS and is professional formation on completion of a post-compulsory teacher training programme.
<b>QTS</b>	Qualified Teacher Status	This a requirement to teach in state-maintained schools and is part of a teaching qualification.
<b>SCITT</b>	Schools-Based Initial Teacher Training	A teacher training programme facilitated by a school or group of schools
<b>TRN</b>	Teacher's Registration Number	All school teachers are registered on the government website. This is the number for that registration which is gained by completion of QTS or registration with the Teacher's Pension scheme.

# Teacher Education at South Essex College

## Level 3 Award in Education and Training

This short, ten week introductory course to teaching gives you an insight into the roles and responsibilities of being a teacher or trainer, covers planning and delivery of inclusive teaching/training sessions and how to assess and give constructive and developmental feedback

## Level 5 Award in Education and Training

This part-time course (one evening a week, over two years) allows you to continue to work while you study. Your teaching practice hours can be in a paid or voluntary position. To assist you in developing your core skills you may be eligible to study your Level 2 qualification for free in English or Maths should you not already hold them.

## Level 5 Certificate in Education

The Certificate in Education (Further Education and Skills Sector) is a Level 5 teaching qualification which has a teaching/training practice requirement. This programme is a recognised full teacher training qualification, eligible for QTLS application on completion and is taught alongside the PgCE programmes.

## Level 6 Professional Graduate Certificate in Education

We offer both “Pre-Service” (full-time) and “In-Service” (part-time) pathways for our Professional graduate Certificate in Education. Further and higher education institutions require teachers with specialist subject knowledge who can teach people who want to explore a wide variety of subject areas, including those not traditionally offered in school settings. The overriding focus of our PgCE is to produce and graduate great teachers who inspire, motivate and support the next generation of learners.

