

Careers in the Learning & Skills Sector – Further Education (16+) Teaching

Careers & Employability Service

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**Manchester
Metropolitan
University**

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Introduction

Please note that the bursary, grant and loan information given in this handout is correct for courses starting in Sept 2011, this may be subject to change for following years. Bursary information is usually announced in March – next update due March 2012

What is the Learning and Skills Sector?

This term covers the teaching of post-compulsory aged students – i.e. from 16 year olds – up to any age! Rather than just being called Further Education (FE), the sector is now referred to as “The Learning and Skills Sector”. This reflects the subjects taught and where the teaching takes place. For example teachers could be working in colleges or sixth form centres but equally, in adult education centres, prisons, work based learning, community settings and even on vocational courses linked to schools.

For further information and advice about training to work in this sector contact the Lifelong Learning UK information team on **0300 303 1877**. You could also check their website www.lluk.org – Click on “Information and Advice Service” from their homepage for careers and financial information about training to teach in this sector. They now have clearly defined information on teaching in FE, including their detailed handouts which can now be accessed on the site on topics such as the qualifications required. Another new development is the introduction of forums and live web chats for those interested in this area of work and those already in the profession – see the “Interact” section of the Information and Advice Service section of their site.

Developments in the sector

Significant developments include the growth of the vocational curriculum for 14 – 19 year olds, and colleges developing partnerships with local schools. For example some pupils will now be studying vocational courses at college for a couple of days per week, rather than the traditional national curriculum related subjects.

Government targets to increase skill levels in all adults to a minimum of level 2 have seen a rapid growth in Basic Skills teaching.

There is a qualifications framework leading to the status of Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS). This is partly an attempt to gain equal status with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in the secondary and primary sector. Currently gaining QTLS does not allow you to teach in schools. However, the government wish to change this and have stated that they will be seeking to amend the law to allow those with QTLS to teach in schools – further announcements to be made shortly.

Qualifications for new entrants to the profession

The following is based on information from Lifelong Learning UK:

The teaching qualifications are:

Qualifications for a Full Teacher

The full teaching qualification is called the **Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector [usually just DTLLS]** but is often also called a PGCE or Cert Ed by universities. It can be done full time (usually before you have a teaching job), which usually takes one year and is based at a university, or part time over two years [usually ½ day or an evening a week attendance] at either a university, college or other training provider. The part-time route is often undertaken by those already working in this sector. There is a requirement for 150 hours teaching over the course.

If you wish to start a full-time course, you should make a direct approach to a course provider to obtain guidance and information on pre-entry requirements. (See the list at the end of this handout). Most providers accept direct applications, though a few use the Graduate Teacher Training Registry to deal with applicants www.gttr.ac.uk.

Qualifications for an Associate Teacher

An Associate Teacher teaches sessions but does not do all the things usually associated with college teachers. They are sometimes called trainers. A new Associate Teacher is required to gain a teaching qualification called the **CTLLS – the Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector** – and work towards the professional status of *ATLS* (Associate Teacher Learning and Skills) . The CTLLS is usually a one year part time course, often a half day or evening per week. There is a requirement for 30 hours of teaching over the course.

Introductory Course

There is an introductory award called **Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS)** covering the basics of teaching in the sector, which is 30 hours long. It may be a useful introduction to the work if you are unsure about whether it is for you. Your local FE college may offer this qualification.

For a full regional list of providers contact the LLUK advice line on **0300 303 1877** or email: lluk.advice@lsls.org.uk A searchable database is also available on www.talent.ac.uk

For which subject areas does recruitment take place?

To get an idea of the subject areas where most of the teaching vacancies are you only need to look at the Times Ed on a Friday and to consider which subjects attract the training bursary. Currently recruitment is stronger in Construction, Basic Skills (Numeracy, Literacy and ESOL), Hospitality, Travel and Tourism/Leisure, Health and Social Care and Art and Design.

It is emphasised that for all vocational subjects relevant industrial experience is required (not necessarily classroom experience) and for Basic Skills demonstrating relevance of degree is important. For Art & Design, students need to look at the subject in a broad capacity, not just their own specialism.

Whilst courses will always consider candidates offering subjects like Law, Sociology, Psychology, History etc there would be a strong argument for these individuals to try to get a place on a PGCE (Secondary) and then apply for job in colleges, community education, schools etc. As mentioned above, although you can teach in college with a school PGCE, at the moment you cannot teach pupils under the age of 16 in a secondary school with a Post-Compulsory PGCE.

Job Prospects

The shortage areas outlined above are where most of the jobs are. Flexibility when taking your first job is essential. The message is “be prepared to accept a part time post in the first instance”. You are likely to find that you start your teaching career on a temporary contract.

Funding

Course fees

All courses can charge the variable tuition fees (up to £3,375). You must check the latest costs with each course provider e.g. the University of Bolton were

charging less than the maximum. Fees do not need to be paid up front and can be added to student loans. There is a variety of other assistance available.

Training bursary (England)

You **may** be eligible for a training bursary up to a maximum of £5,000 *only* if you attend an endorsed **pre-service** course and train to teach a designated shortage subject which are:

Subjects

Maths

Maths (general) Applied Maths

Pure Maths Statistics

Maths and Mechanics Maths and Statistics

Skills for Life – Numeracy and Literacy (i.e. those doing DTLLS plus subject specific Numeracy or Literacy qualifications)

Science

Applied Science

Biology

Chemistry

Ecology

Conservation

Human Biology

Physics

Electronics

Geology

Earth Science

Science (general)

Sports Science

Environmental Science/Environmental Studies

Engineering (includes eligible Technology subjects)

Auto electricians

Car maintenance

Design and development engineering

Design and Technology

Electrical / electronics engineering

Electroplating

Engineering studies

Engineering Technicians

Motor Mechanics and auto engineers

Mechanical engineering

Metal plate engineering and technicians

Production and process engineering

Welding and fabrication

Motor Sport (mechanisation)

Motor vehicle studies

Refrigeration engineering

Resistant Materials Technology

Tool making and fitting

Vehicle bodybuilding and airing

Vehicle and spray painting

Tyre, exhaust and windscreen fitting

Information and Communications Technology

Computer Aided Design (CAD) Computer engineers

Computer studies IT operations

Each institution will have an annual allocation of bursaries to distribute to applicants. The institution will be able to advise you on its allocations. A pro-rata payment is available for part-time, pre-service students. These bursaries are not an entitlement, the number available is limited.

Maintenance grant

A fully means-tested, non-repayable, maintenance grant is available. In 2011/12 the maximum grant for full-time, pre-service trainees is £2,906. (For part time students -maximum of £1,230).

Loans

These are available from the Student Loans Company to cover fees and living costs. The value of these loans varies according to the student's circumstances including entitlement to the maintenance grant.

Golden Hello

This scheme has now ended.

List of courses

The course providers listed here offer courses leading to the status of Qualified Teacher in the Learning sector (QTLS).

See also www.talent.ac.uk for a searchable national database of courses.

Local courses

Manchester Metropolitan University (Cheshire)

Professional Development Centre
Crewe Green Road, Crewe
Cheshire, CW1 5DU
Tel: 0161 247 5582
E-mail: cpd.crewe@mmu.ac.uk
www.mmu.ac.uk

(Please note that there are also a range of part-time courses offered by F.E colleges in the North West which are affiliated to MMU)

Wigan and Leigh College (in partnership with the University of Central Lancashire)

Wigan and Leigh College
PO Box 53, Parsons Walk
Wigan WN1 1RS
Tel: 01942 761111
www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk

University of Bolton

The Education Office
Faculty of Arts, Science & Education
Chadwick Street
Bolton, BL2 1JW
Tel: 01204 903314/903200
E-mail: enquiries@bolton.ac.uk
www.bolton.ac.uk

Trafford College (in partnership with Edgehill University)

Trafford College,
 Talbot Road, Stretford,
 Manchester, M32 0XH
 Tel: 0161 886 7070
www.trafford.ac.uk

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has identified the following institutions as likely to offer bursaries in 2011/2012. Information provided by www.lluk.org.

Universities	
Anglia Ruskin University	University of West of England, Bristol
Birmingham City University	University of Wolverhampton
University of Bolton	
University of Brighton	
Canterbury Christ Church University	
University of Central Lancashire	
University of Derby	
University of East London	
Edge Hill University	
University of Essex	Colleges
University of Greenwich	Blackburn College
University of Huddersfield	Blackpool and The Fylde College
Institute of Education, London	Bradford College
Middlesex University	Carlisle College
Manchester Metropolitan University	Doncaster College
Nottingham Trent University	Havering College of F& HE
Oxford Brookes University	Herefordshire College of Technology
University of Plymouth	Hull College
University Campus Suffolk	Newcastle College
Sheffield Hallam University	St Helen's College
University of Sunderland	Wigan and Leigh College
University of Teesside	