WARNING: MAY CAUSE JOB SATISFACTION

AGES 21+

TOOLs REQUIRED:
- Creativity
- Problem solving
- An enquiring mind
- Imagination

www.iop.org/buildingbrains
As an engineer you will be used to building ideas and solutions but have you ever considered building something even more amazing? Share the wealth of knowledge that you have acquired by teaching physics and you’ll witness the best development ever, the building of brains.

Sound complicated? Not for you, because you will already possess almost all of the tools required for the job, including creativity, practical problem solving, an enquiring mind and imagination. More engineers teaching physics can only be a great thing. You will help reduce the shortage of physics teacher while offering pupils a practical perspective to physics. By demonstrating that physics is one of the foundations of engineering, you will inspire future engineers too.

We are sure that your physics teacher played a vital part in getting you where you are today. Now it is your chance to pass on your physics passion to nurture a new generation.
Teaching physics isn’t a one-sided deal, however. You will be rewarded in so many ways. From the moment you start training there are generous tax-free bursaries, scholarships and training salaries available (depending on your chosen training route). And, once you’re qualified, you’ll receive a competitive salary that can be additionally boosted as your career develops.

You will develop strong leadership and management skills from the moment you set foot into the classroom and these, along with many other skills, will be strengthened as your teaching progresses.

Teaching offers excellent career progression opportunities, whether through management and leadership roles, pastoral or special needs duties, or being part of the Excellent Teacher Scheme.

You will also receive a generous pension scheme and could be eligible, in some regions, for the key worker living initiative. Many teachers also benefit from the opportunity to work flexibly, including on a part-time basis.
Whether you want to train to teach on a full-time or part-time basis, want to work towards a Masters qualification or be employed by a school straight away, there is a training course to suit you. To ensure that you have plenty of practical experience in school, all initial teacher training (ITT) routes will spend at least half of the training time in schools.

**Physics or physics with maths?**
Before choosing how to train you now have a choice of what subject combinations you would like to specialise in. As well as the traditional physics ITT courses, which also equip you to teach some biology and chemistry, you can now opt to become a physics with maths teacher. As an engineer, this may be your preferred choice, enabling you to play to your strengths in both subjects.

**University-based training**
A university-based training course is the most popular training route, which combines academic study and school placements over one year of full-time training. Part-time and other flexible options are also available. These are available nationwide and include training in at least two schools and attending seminars and tutorials at your chosen university with other trainees. Most offer Masters-level credits for you to pursue further qualifications if desired.
School-based training
If you would prefer to be based at a school you can choose several ways to train. The first option is the **School Direct Training Programme**, where you will be selected by a specific school who will work in partnership with a university ITT provider that will deliver a bespoke training programme for you.

If you have three or more years of work experience, regardless of whether it’s from an educational setting or not, you also have the option of the **School Direct (Salaried)** training route. Rather than receiving a training bursary you will be employed by the school that trains you, with the expectation that you will continue working at that school once qualified.

The third, school-based training option is the **School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)** programme, where your training will be delivered by a group of neighbouring schools. This allows you to gain experience in a variety of school settings.

If you’re a new graduate or will be graduating soon and are looking for something a little different, check out Teach First. This is a two-year, leadership-development programme where you will teach in a challenging school, after which time other educational opportunities will be open to you as a Teach First ambassador.

Enhance your knowledge
If you think that your physics knowledge could do with a boost, there are Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses available nationwide. These take place before your training and are designed to refresh your school-level physics to give you the confidence to enter the classroom. You’ll get paid a tax-free bursary to attend.
IOP Teacher Training Scholarships

To make becoming a teacher even more rewarding, we award tax-free scholarships to the most outstanding individuals entering teacher training. Worth £20,000, scholars will also receive a package of benefits including membership and early career mentoring. Each year there are 100 scholarships to award, available to eligible participants embarking on PGCE and School Direct ITT in England. To be an IOP scholar you will need to have outstanding knowledge of school-level physics and the potential to become an inspirational physics teacher. Applications are made directly to the IOP and should be made in parallel to your teacher-training application.

Bursaries

As physics teachers are in short supply the training bursaries available to support you while you train have never been so attractive. Awarded by the Department for Education, bursaries are linked to degree classification, with up to £20,000 available for eligible applicants training through all non-salaried training routes. If you are awarded a scholarship this will be instead of a bursary, you will not receive both.
We know that teaching has it all but don’t just take our word for it. Take a look at what these engineers, who now teach, have to say:

“Physicists and engineers like to solve problems and find novel ways to get things to work and improve them. Teaching physics allowed me to do that on a daily basis rather than a long-term basis.”

“It’s a job where I can still explore the areas that I find fascinating and where every day is challenging and different.”

“What I love about teaching is the variety, challenges and the fast pace of what you are doing; working with teenagers is never dull! Practical lessons are fun too.”

“As a teacher, you need to be innovative with your time and resources and plan things carefully to have success. An engineering background is very beneficial: it enables you to be results-oriented, able to work to deadlines and to get results.”

“I increasingly found that a desk job, even if it involved designing essential new equipment, was not for me. I wanted a more diverse and hands-on work environment. I would much rather be getting my hands dirty!”
Follow these steps to create your new career:

Find out more information:
www.iop.org/buildingbrains
www.education.gov.uk/teachphysics
www.teachfirst.org.uk

Visit a school:
Observing a few physics lessons will help you decide if teaching is for you. We can help you to arrange a visit through our School Experience Programme. www.iop.org/sep

Decide on your subject specialism and training route:
Work out which options you would prefer and are most suitable for your needs.

Make an application:
For university-based courses, apply to the Graduate Teacher Training Registry www.gttr.ac.uk. For school-based training, apply through www.education.gov.uk/teachschooldirect and directly to Teach First.

Apply for an IOP Teacher Training Scholarship:
A series of application rounds are held each year. Go to www.iop.org/scholarships for deadlines and to apply.

Sign up as an IOP Student Teacher Affiliate member:
Receive free, on-going support during your training and beyond. If you would like to ask us for more information, just e-mail us at teach@iop.org.