TEACH PHYSICS

THE ENGINEER’S ASSEMBLY KIT
FOR BUILDING BRAINS

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

AGES 21+

WARNING: MAY CAUSE JOB SATISFACTION

www.iop.org/teach

IOP Institute of Physics
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 will 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 teachers 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). Starting salaries for teachers can match what you would receive in many other professions. 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 in 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, or through pastoral or special-needs duties.

You will also receive a generous pension scheme. Many teachers additionally 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 Master’s 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 education (ITE) 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 ITE 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-led training**
A university-led 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 Master’s-level credits for you to pursue further qualifications if desired.
School-led 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 ITE provider that will deliver a bespoke training programme for you.

If you have a few 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, which provides practical, hands-on teacher training delivered by experienced, practising teachers based in their own school or at a school in their network.

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 £25,000, scholars will also receive a package of benefits including IOP membership and early career mentoring. This year there are 150 scholarships to award, available to eligible participants embarking on university-led or school-led (non-salaried) ITE in England in the 2015/16 academic year. 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 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 £25,000 available tax-free 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.

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“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!”
INSTRUCTION KIT
Follow these steps to create your new career

Find out more information
www.iop.org/teach
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-led and school-led training, apply via UCAS Teacher Training. Visit www.ucas.com and click on teacher training.

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, ongoing support during your training and beyond. If you would like to ask us for more information, just e-mail us at teach@iop.org.