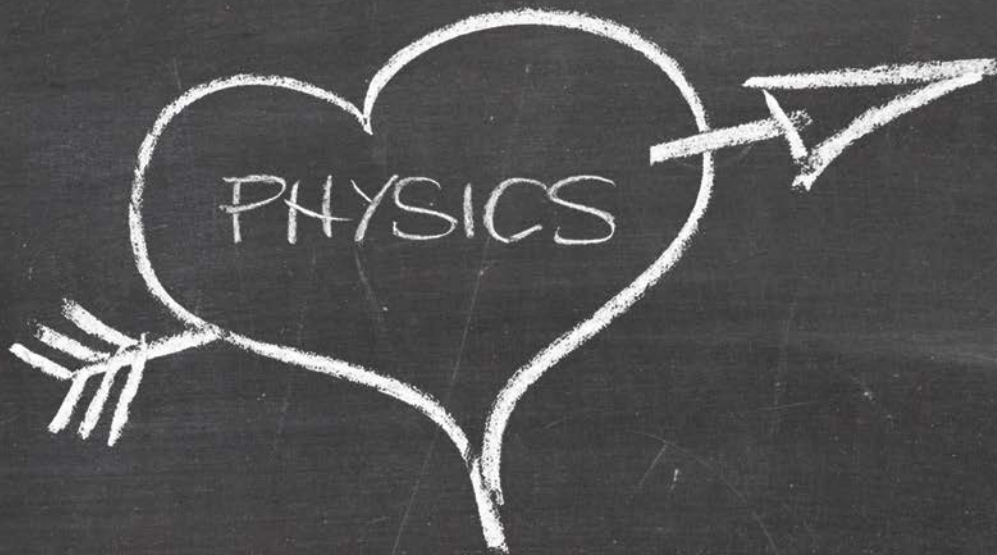


LOVE  
PHYSICS?



Pass on the passion. *Teach.*



$$E=mc^2$$

## foreword



Space exploration, advances in medicine and the effects of climate change are just some of the reasons why physicists are increasingly essential to society.

Specialist physics teachers are vital to help shape the minds of the next generation, who will be the ones facing these new challenges and opportunities.

A passion for physics is ignited in the classroom through good physics teaching. There has been an encouraging upturn in the number of young people choosing to study physics at A-level in recent years – but there is still a lot of work to do to address the shortage of specialist physics teachers.

With this in mind, we encourage you to consider a rewarding career in teaching.

Read through this guide to find out about training routes, funding and applying. If you need further advice, please contact us using the details found on the back of this brochure.

We wish you the best of luck for the exciting future that lies ahead.

**Prof. Roy Sambles**

*President of the Institute of Physics*



# Teaching physics is doing physics



Imagine a job where you are able to use your physics knowledge every day, in an inspiring and thought-provoking way. Or one where you play a crucial role in shaping the next generation of physicists.

Teaching takes you back to where it all started – where you first discovered your passion for physics. We guarantee that you will make new discoveries and develop a deeper understanding of physics that you never thought possible, simply by expressing and communicating the subject in new ways.

## Career opportunities

Once you are a qualified teacher, your career options remain varied. As a physics teacher you could move up to gain responsibility for the physics department, become a head of year, or focus on special needs or pastoral care.

There are also many opportunities beyond the classroom, from coaching a sports team to running an astronomy club.

## Starting salaries

Starting salaries for teachers match what you would receive in many other professions, and in some cases can even be higher. You can expect to start as a newly qualified teacher in England on a minimum of £22,244 a year<sup>1</sup>.

Schools have been given more freedom over how they pay their teachers, linking teachers' pay more closely to their performance, with scope for higher rewards and more rapid progression for the most successful teachers.

<sup>1</sup> [getintoteaching.education.gov.uk](http://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk), September 2015



# Step 1: Choose a suitable training route

Whether you are just starting out, or looking for a new career, there is a training course for you. You can study full- or part-time and can start as an undergraduate or a graduate. An Initial Teacher Education (ITE) accredited course will lead to “qualified teacher status” (QTS), which enables you to teach in state-funded schools.

## Undergraduate route

If you don't have a degree, you can:

- start a degree course that also gives you QTS; this takes four years, full-time. In the end, you'll receive a BEd or BSc with QTS<sup>2</sup>; or
- start a non-teaching degree and then enrol on a postgraduate ITE course.



## Postgraduate route

### University-led training

University-led ITE typically takes one year of full-time study and leads to a PGCE<sup>3</sup> qualification. It is based at a Higher Education Institution (HEI) and includes around 24 weeks of placements in schools. The course mainly focuses on developing your teaching skills and understanding of the theory of education.

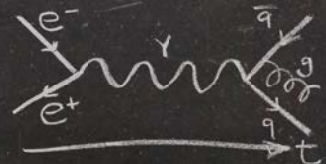
### School-led training

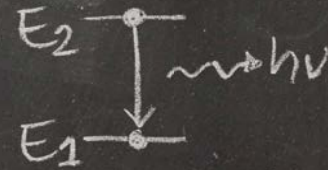
Through school-led ITE you will learn “on the job” in a school or within a group of schools.

Read on to find out more.

<sup>2</sup> Bachelor of Education or Bachelor of Science with Qualified Teacher Status

<sup>3</sup> Postgraduate Certificate in Education or Professional Graduate Certificate in Education





## School Direct

Training will take place in a school that will deliver specific training tailored to your requirements and the school's needs. There is an expectation that you will be offered a job once you are qualified. School Direct ITE leads to QTS and often a PGCE qualification, depending on the school.

## School Direct (salaried)

School Direct (salaried) is for graduates with three or more years of work experience<sup>4</sup> who want to move into the classroom. You will be paid a salary as an unqualified teacher, trained "on the job" and will be employed by the school once qualified.

## SCITT<sup>5</sup>

The SCITT route provides practical, hands-on teacher training delivered by experienced, practising teachers based in their own school or at a school in their network.

## Other routes

### Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses<sup>6</sup>

If your degree didn't include sufficient physics to enrol on an ITE course straight away, you can take a Subject Knowledge Enhancement course to bring your physics up to scratch. You will need some experience of physics though, usually to A-level standard. These courses vary in length, depending on your needs, and are offered by many HEIs. Talk to your prospective provider for more information.

## Teach first

This charity recruits high-calibre individuals and matches them with schools in challenging circumstances where they teach for a minimum of two years. Trainees join a Leadership Development Programme.

Find out more at [www.teachfirst.org.uk](http://www.teachfirst.org.uk).

<sup>4</sup> Schools can decide to accept applications from candidates with less work experience in hard-to-fill subjects such as physics

<sup>5</sup> School-centred initial teacher training

<sup>6</sup> Only available in England



## Step 2: Choose a training programme

Once you have chosen your preferred training route, you'll need to select a training programme. Not all providers offer these programmes so visit [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and click on teacher training to find out which providers offer your preferred training programme.

### Physics with Science

This is the most common training programme, which enables you to focus mainly on teaching physics, but also combines some biology and chemistry content.

### Physics with Mathematics

The biology and chemistry content that would be included in a Physics with Science programme is replaced with maths.

## Step 3: Get some school experience

Whichever training route you opt for, your ITE provider will expect you to have some recent school experience. This not only shows them that you are familiar with the current school environment, but should also help you confirm that you are making the right career decision.

Our School Experience Programme can put you in touch with schools in your area that are willing to offer short-term observational experience. Register at [www.iop.org/sep](http://www.iop.org/sep).

You can also arrange a school experience placement through Get into Teaching. To find out more, visit [getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/getting-school-experience](http://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/getting-school-experience).

## Step 4: Explore your funding options

Fees for ITE programmes are approximately £9,000 per year. However, if you are a UK or EU resident and choose a postgraduate ITE programme leading to QTS, you may be eligible for a tax-free bursary of up to £30,000.

IOP Teacher Training Scholarships worth £30,000 are also available. These are exceptional awards available to outstanding applicants. For full details, visit [www.iop.org/scholarships](http://www.iop.org/scholarships).

## Step 5: Apply

Applications for university-led and school-led teacher training in England and Wales are submitted through UCAS Teacher Training. Applications to study Teacher Education in Scotland are made through the UCAS Undergraduate scheme.

There are two application windows – Apply 1 and Apply 2. In Apply 1, you can select up to three programme choices when you make your application. If you're unsuccessful at this stage, you can move to Apply 2, where you make one choice at a time that will be considered by providers sequentially. Visit [www.ucas.com/teacher-training](http://www.ucas.com/teacher-training) for more information.

Even though physics teachers are in demand, it still pays to apply early. We urge applicants to take advantage of the UCAS combined application system, and, if applying for school-led training, to consider applying for the university-led route as well.

## Further help

### IOP support

Our free Student Teacher Affiliation programme will support you during your training and beyond. You will receive resources, advice on practical work plus newsletters and events designed especially for new teachers.

You could also receive light-touch mentoring from experienced practitioners during your training and early years in the classroom as part of our Stimulating Physics Network (SPN) programme.

To find out more, visit [www.iop.org/education/itp](http://www.iop.org/education/itp).

### Premier Plus

We recommend that you register with Get into Teaching, which offers a "Premier Plus" service. This includes one-to-one advice on becoming a teacher and support with submitting your application. For full details, visit [getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/premier-plus](http://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/premier-plus).

# Contact us



Still have unanswered questions about physics teacher training? Get in touch.

E-mail [teach@iop.org](mailto:teach@iop.org)

Tel 020 7470 4959

Web [www.iop.org/teach](http://www.iop.org/teach)

Twitter [@PhysicsNews](https://twitter.com/PhysicsNews)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/instituteofphysics](https://www.facebook.com/instituteofphysics)

# Useful links

The government's teacher training website  
[getintoteaching.education.gov.uk](http://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk)

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) for teacher training  
[www.ucas.com/teacher-training](http://www.ucas.com/teacher-training)

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Registered charity number: 293851

Charity registered in Scotland: SC040092

This information is correct at the time of print and applies to England. For teaching advice for Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland, refer to the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland, the General Teaching Council for Wales and the General Teaching Council for Scotland.

