Arts Education

The main things you should know...

- No matter what kind of art education you are interested in, work experience with the age group you’d like to teach is vital.
- Whilst some art teaching jobs (e.g. those in schools) tend to be full time and relatively stable, other teaching roles, can be sporadic and you may be employed as a freelancer.
- In addition to your artistic qualifications it is likely that you will also need to obtain a formal teaching qualification.
- Some people choose to combine their arts teaching with other activities (artistic or not) to create a portfolio career.
- Teaching is not something to do because you don’t know what else to do with your degree. It is a serious and challenging profession which is becoming increasingly competitive to enter and you need to be able to prove your commitment via undertaking work experience.

What are your options?
Where art is taught? The obvious answer is within schools and colleges, however there are other opportunities. Art is recognised as a way to engage people in positive pursuits and so it is often used in community development and for therapeutic purposes. Here are some suggestions:

- Teaching in Schools
- Teaching in Further Education
- Teaching in Higher Education
- Support work in schools and colleges
- Education in art galleries and centres
- Community arts
- Art therapy

The rest of the handout covers each suggestion in turn.

Teaching in schools
To become a qualified teacher you will need to undertake training leading to QTS (qualified teacher status). For graduates, there are 4 main routes: a PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education), SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training), Schools Direct and Teach First.

1) PGCE
This is a course (1 year full time) delivered by universities which teaches you the theory and skills you’d need to teach in schools. During the course you’d be based at a university in a class with other PGCE students and you’d also undertake several placements in local schools. For secondary teaching you choose a subject to specialise in (for creative graduates this is usually Art and Design or Design and Technology); for primary teaching you do not choose a specialist subject and you’d be expected to teach all areas of the curriculum.

Entry requirements for the PGCE are strict. They include:
- GCSEs (C+) in English and Maths (and also science for primary)
- A 2.1 or first class degree. In the White Paper ‘The Importance of Teaching’ the education minister, Gove, announced that anyone starting a PGCE in September 2012 will need to have these qualifications in order to gain funding from the Department for Education.
- Relevant work experience. This includes classroom experience with the age group you want to teach. Other, non-classroom based experience also counts. There is no set amount of classroom experience that you should obtain, but the more the better and ideally with a variety of schools and at a range of levels.
- You will need to pass a literacy and numeracy test by the start of your course. These are pitched at GCSE level. You will need to book to do your test at a regional test centre, ideally well before any interviews as your results may be taken into account when providers are deciding whether to interview you. For details about what you’ll be tested on and to book your test go to www.education.gov.uk/teachskilltests you can also book via the helpline which is 0845 4508867.

To apply, you will need to visit the GTTR (Graduate Teacher Training Registry) website at
Here you can view PGCE courses that you may be interested in (for primary you have two choices and for secondary you have four). You will then need to apply via the online form on the GTTR. For primary the deadline is the 1st Dec, for secondary there is no official deadline, however courses are extremely popular and it is recommended that you apply early in the academic year (ie before Dec) for a start the following Sept.

In your application and interview you will need to show that you have reflected upon your classroom based work experience with young people, other work experience and your studies and that you have.

- Enthusiasm and ability in your subject area and a knowledge of how your degree relates to the National Curriculum.
- An understanding of what the teaching role involves and evidence of having made a well-informed, realistic decision that teaching is right for you.
- Evidence that you possess the skills needed for teaching.

More information is in our guide ‘Personal Statements for PGCE Applications.’

**Tuition fees** for the PGCE at The University of Wolverhampton are currently £8,500 (from September 2012 onwards). Check our online postgraduate prospectus for details at [www.wlv.ac.uk](http://www.wlv.ac.uk). Fees at other universities vary but will not exceed £9k (for home students).

**Funding** for the PGCE is available via Student Finance England. You can apply for:

- A tuition fee loan
- A student loan for maintenance
- A maintenance grant (which is means tested)

For courses starting 2013, bursaries are available for certain subjects and for those with a 1st or 2:1.

The amount of funding changes every year. For more information visit: [http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching](http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching)

**3) SCITT**

This is a work based route. You would be based in a school, working as an unqualified teacher, learning on the job.

A SCITT programme takes 1 year full time. It results in QTS and sometimes a PGCE.

Schools and colleges offering SCITT work together in a consortium, with one school as the lead provider. The lead provider handles applications made to the consortium.

**Entry requirements**

These are the same as for the PGCE. See previous section.

**How to apply**

Many SCITT programmes use the GTTR system. (See the previous section on how to apply for PGCEs).

A few stand outside of the GTTR system and you will need to apply for them directly. On the Teaching Agency website there is a list of all the consortiums offering SCITT programmes with details of who to contact. See [http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching > school based training > SCITT](http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching > school based training > SCITT).

**Finances and funding**

You would have to pay tuition fees and would be able to receive funding from Student Finance, exactly as for the PGCE. See the information about PGCE finances and funding for details.

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**Finances and funding**

You would have to pay tuition fees and would be able to receive funding from Student Finance, exactly as for the PGCE. See the information about PGCE finances and funding for details.

**3) Schools Direct**

This replaces the GTP as of 2012/2013. It takes place over a year and you would be based at a school, learning on the job.

There are two Schools Direct schemes:

- The Schools Direct Training Programme
- The School Direct Training Programme (salaried)

For the salaried programme you would be paid an unqualified teacher’s wage (roughly £18k). For the unsalaried programme you would pay tuition fees and be eligible for funding from student finance (exactly as for PGCE funding).

**Entry requirements** are the same as those needed for the PGCE. As for the PGCE, you will need to pass a literacy and numeracy test before starting Schools Direct. See entry requirements for PGCEs for more details.

An extra requirement for the salaried scheme, is that you have ‘3 or more years’ careers experience,’ for example if you have past experience in another field and you are changing to teaching or if you have been working in a school (eg as a teaching assistant) for 3 years.

**How to apply**

1. Visit the Schools’ Direct pages on [http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching](http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching)
2. Register with the Teaching Agency. You will receive a registration number.
3. The Teaching Agency will keep you informed regarding what to do next. Vacancies are likely to be available around October via the Teaching Agency.

4. Apply for vacancies at the schools you are interested in. There is no central admission form so you will be applying using the forms that schools themselves supply.

5. Schools will interview you and make a decision about whether to hire you.

6. The school will be training you with the support of a university that they are in partnership with.

**Finances and funding**

For the salaried programme you would be paid an unqualified teacher’s wage (roughly £18k). The Teaching Agency pays a large proportion of this and a smaller proportion comes from the school’s own budget.

For the unsalaried programme you will pay tuition fees and will be able to apply for funding from Student Finance, exactly as for the PGCE. See the information about PGCE finances and funding for details.

You may be also eligible for an extra grant if 25% of the school pupils in the school you’re going to be working in receive free school meals. The school and its partner university will tell you if you are able to apply for this funding.

4) Teach First

Teach First is a paid 2 year programme which aims to tackle social-economic disadvantage by training teachers who will become leaders in the future.

The programme includes:

- A summer training school
- Your first year of teacher training. You would be working in a school, learning on the job. At the end of this year you receive QTS.
- A summer project with one of Teach First’s partners. These are typically large, private sector companies.
- Your second year of teaching. At the end of this you receive a MA in Educational Leadership.

Teach First recruits on a rolling basis. For details of entry requirements and to apply see: [http://graduates.teachfirst.org.uk/](http://graduates.teachfirst.org.uk/)

**More information about teaching in schools**

- [www.prospects.ac.uk/primary_school_teacher.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/primary_school_teacher.htm)
- [www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching](http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching)

**Teaching in Further Education**

(further education colleges, sixth form colleges and adult education centres).

**Qualifications:** In previous years you did not need to have a teaching qualification to teach in Further Education, however this sector is becoming increasingly regulated and it is expected that you will either already possess teaching qualifications before appointment, or that you will undertake these alongside your teaching job.

For roles in this sector you will need to undertake teacher training resulting in QTLS (Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills). This means undertaking either:

- A PGCE Secondary
- A PGCE PCE (Post Compulsory Education) and sometimes called the Cert Ed (Certificate in Education)
- The PTLLS/ CTLLS/ DTLLS route (preparing/certificate/diploma to teach in the lifelong learning sector)

**Teaching in FE differs greatly from school based teaching.** You may be teaching multiple age groups from teenagers, right through to the elderly. You may be teaching a variety of qualifications including GCSEs, A Levels, BTECs, NVQs, foundation degrees or City and Guilds qualifications or classes of a purely recreational nature. Many FE teachers are on temporary contracts and are employed to teach classes spread sporadically across the week; it is likely that your hours may not add up to a full time post. Use the ALPS WM website to see what is being taught locally to get a sense of demand for your subject to predict the amount of work available. [http://www.alps-wm.ac.uk/](http://www.alps-wm.ac.uk/)

For PGCE PCEs, entry requirements and funding are the same as for the PGCE Secondary (see previous section on PGCEs in schools).

Some PGCE PCEs courses use the GTTR system (see previous section on applying for PGCEs), however in some cases (including The University of Wolverhampton), you apply directly to the institution.

Search for courses via the Talent website.
The PTLLS/ CTLLS/ DTLLS route are a series of qualifications that you undertake at a local FE college, usually on a part time basis.

- The PTLLS course teaches you the basics of teaching in FE and teaching hours are not required.
- CTLLS is for those who are already working in education, but who are not undertaking the whole teaching role; for example perhaps they deliver classes but do not design them.
- DTLLS is for those who are already working in education, undertaking the full teaching role.

The ALPS WM website is a quick way of searching for these courses locally http://www.alps-wm.ac.uk/.

Also search for courses via the Talent website. http://www.talent.ac.uk/courses.asp

This may be an appropriate route if you already possess industry experience and can demonstrate a detailed knowledge of your subject area. View vacancies to assess whether you possess the entry requirements necessary to apply for jobs without undertaking teaching qualifications before working as a teacher.

Jobs may be advertised
- On college websites
- In the local press
- Work-based learning providers usually advertise vacancies in the relevant professional or trade journals.
- In the ‘FE Focus’ section of The Times Educational Supplement. This is published on Fridays and via http://www.tes.co.uk
- The Tuesday edition of The Guardian, also http://jobs.guardian.co.uk/
- The Thursday edition of The Independent.
- http://www.fejobs.com
- http://www.fecareers.co.uk
- http://www.teachfe.com
- The Jobcentre Plus

For further information about routes into FE teaching see:
- www.talent.ac.uk
- www.prospects.ac.uk/further_education_lecturer.htm

Teaching in Higher Education (Universities)
To teach in universities, you will generally need an academic qualification higher than the level that the students are that you wish to teach (for example if you wish to teach undergraduates you would need a Masters qualification). However, competition for roles within HE are extremely strong. The following will improve your chances:

- Further academic qualifications (masters and doctorate qualifications).
- Industry experience of the subject you wish to teach.
- Connections and a positive reputation in the creative industries.
- A teaching qualification.
- Experience of working with university students (for example by assisting on university courses).
- Publication in scholarly journals and publications.
- Attendance and presentations at HE conferences and events.

More information
- www.jobs.ac.uk is the main site on which university jobs are advertised. Check individual vacancies to get a sense of the requirements needed for specific roles and the level of demand for teachers of your subject.
- Visit the HEA which contains a wealth of information about HE teaching. http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/
- See the profile for HE teaching on Prospects www.prospects.ac.uk/higher_education_lecturer.htm

Support roles in schools and colleges
Support roles could include working as a Classroom Assistant or as a Learning Mentor. You may also assist, or run afterschool clubs or take part in community initiatives that the school is involved in. If you have never worked in the education sector before it is likely that you begin on a voluntary basis before you can compete with others for paid work. Many Classroom Assistants and Support Workers now undertake vocational training such as NVQs and whilst these are not an essential requirement, they can improve your chances of securing employment. See www.prospects.ac.uk/learning_mentor.htm

Jobs are advertised:
- Via the Careers and Employment Centre see www.wlv.ac.uk/careers (select jobs and events).
- In the local press (the Express and Star, Black Country Mail)
- On local council websites.
- On schools and college websites.
- In Job Centres.
- http://www.lgjobs.com/

**Technician roles in schools, colleges and universities**
This could involve: maintain and organising resources, equipment and machinery; supporting school and college art exhibitions and displays; preparing equipment and materials for classes; assisting the teacher in the classroom and ensuring that health and safety standards are maintained.

The type of materials and resources you work with will depend on the art discipline being taught in the school, college or university. This may include paint and drawing, ceramics, textiles, wood or metal work, digital media. You may specialise in just one area or several, depending on the needs of the school.

Jobs are advertised:
- Via the Careers and Employment Centre see www.wlv.ac.uk/careers (select jobs and events).
- In the local press (the Express and Star, Black Country Mail)
- On local council websites.
- On schools, college and university websites.
- In Job Centres.
  - http://www.lgjobs.com/
  - http://www.fejobs.com (for college jobs)
  - www.jobs.ac.uk (for university jobs)

**Community arts**
Working in community arts could see you undertake a wide variety of activities, working for a range of organisations, initiatives or projects.

Opportunities may exist within:
- Community arts festivals and events
- Local schools and colleges
- Community centres
- Youth clubs
- Charities
- Projects run by local councils
- Galleries and museums
- Residential homes
- Primary care trusts
- Independent creative community production companies such as Imagineer www.imagineerproductions.co.uk

Community projects usually aim to use art to tackle a social problem by using art to educate, entertain, inspire or provide therapeutic interventions to a designated group.

Many community art practitioners work on temporary and freelance contracts, meaning that they are self-employed. For tips about the main things you need to know about and a list of organisations that can help, see our handout: Starting a Creative Business.

**What you could do**
With projects such as these you could be employed (in a paid or voluntary capacity) to
- Give arts/ crafts demonstrations
- Deliver art workshops
- Help organise community exhibitions/ festivals
- Run longer training programmes

Your involvement could be short term, for example contributing to a one off event, or long term.

**Establishing your career**
This is a competitive field and it is vital that you build up relevant experience, which will almost certainly mean undertaking voluntary work. It may also be an advantage to undertake further training and education.

The first step is to find out what is taking place locally and see what you can get involved with. Useful websites include:
- The Creative Employability Studio, see www.facebook.com/creativeemployabilitystudio
- www.wlv.ac.uk/activevol arranges voluntary work for University of Wolverhampton students
- Turning point advertises opportunities for community artists in the West Midlands. http://tpwm.squarespace.com/
- http://www.telfordculturezone.com/
www.communityartworkshop.org Community Arts Workshop offers access to space and equipment for community artists.

www.workshopnetwork.co.uk Workshop Network is an agency which promotes freelance workshop artists. It claims to have an extensive range of contacts all over the country, and for a fee, arranges a minimum of 12 full days work a year for each artist.

http://www.voluntaryarts.org/ advertises voluntary roles in community arts.

Also see the Community Arts prospects profile which lists relevant postgraduate courses and organisations providing short training workshops.
http://www.prospects.ac.uk/community_arts_worker.htm

Education in art centres and galleries
Many art galleries and centres employ staff who liaise with local schools and learning providers, plan visits, design and deliver teaching sessions, show visitors around and give guided tours. For example, Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery has a team of teachers and schools support officers who work with pupils when they visit Museum sites. They teach across the age range, from 4 years - 18 years. All teaching sessions are closely linked to the curriculum and to the needs of schools. See http://www.schoolsliaison.org.uk/.

You may be employed by the arts organisation in a permanent role, on short term projects, as a freelancer or on a voluntary basis. Every arts centre is different, so investigate what’s happening locally to see how you can get involved. Some roles may require you to have worked as a qualified teacher and for others it is likely that you will need to build up significant voluntary experience before applying for paid work.

Local centres and galleries include:
• Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery www.bmag.org.uk
• Wolverhampton Art Gallery http://www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/
• IKON Gallery www.ikon-gallery.co.uk
• MAC (Midland Arts Centre) www.macarts.co.uk
• The New Art Gallery Walsall www.artatwalsall.org.uk
• The Public www.thepublic.com

• Vivid www.vivid.org.uk
• Solihull Gallery www.solihull.gov.uk/gallery www.redraggallery.co.uk lists galleries by region.

For further information visit Engage http://www.engage.org, an initiative which supports all those working in gallery arts education. On the site you can search for galleries that offer services to schools and young people by region.

Also see the prospects profile: Museum Education Officer http://www.prospects.ac.uk/museum_education_officer.htm which contains information about entry requirements and job hunt sites.

Art therapy
Art therapy practitioners use art as a therapeutic tool to encourage the self-expression and development of vulnerable people. These may include physically or mentally disabled clients and those who have experienced trauma.

In this line of work you may work for:
• The NHS
• Private health centres
• Charities
• Social services
• Community centres

You may be directly employed, or work on a freelance basis.

To work as a registered art therapist, you will need to undertake further training and work experience. See:
• The British Association of Art Therapists for more information http://www.baat.org/atprn.html
• The prospects profile for Art Therapists at www.prospects.ac.uk/art_therapist.htm

Getting work experience
A number of places advertise opportunities for creative students and graduates. You will also need to think laterally about the organisations you can contact to organise your own experience. Here are some suggestions:

• Visit The Creative Employability Studio on the ground floor of MK which advertise a wide range of opportunities for School of Art and Design students. Opportunities are advertised via www.facebook.com/creativeemployability
• Visit Active Volunteers which advertises voluntary opportunities for students of The
University of Wolverhampton, including opportunities with young people in arts centres [www.wlv.ac.uk/activevol](http://www.wlv.ac.uk/activevol)

- Contact local schools and colleges to arrange work experience. Arrange experience in a variety of schools and with different age groups to show you have made an informed choice about the age group you want to teach.
- Visit local council websites and look up the teams responsible for arts education/community development to find out what's happening and to see how you can get involved.
- Find out what's going on in community arts using the links provided to see how you can get involved.
- Google independent organisations which arrange arts events and contact them speculatively for work experience.

**Other useful information sources**

National Society for Education in Art and Design [www.nsead.org/home/index.aspx](http://www.nsead.org/home/index.aspx)