Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (Lifelong Learning) - In-Service

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Subject	Level	Study Mode	Duration	Start Date
Teacher Training	Level 6	Part-Time	2 years	September 2026

The Course

Are you already working as a teacher or trainer at a recognised training or educational establishment within the Further Education and Skills sector (former post-14 sector) and looking to progress your career? This qualification will help you on your way. Reasons to study 1. Progress your career: you could be eligible to gain Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status. 2. Develop the essential skills needed to play a full part in teaching and curriculum development. If youre already working as a teacher or trainer at a recognised training or educational establishment within the Further Education and Skills sector (former post-14 sector) and looking to progress your career, then this course may be ideal for you. This course is awarded by the University of Huddersfield and delivered at University Centre Bishop Burton on an evening from 6pm-9pm.

Course Aims

- To provide initial teacher education for the Further Education and Skills sector, which develops excellent practical skills underpinned by an understanding of the theoretical basis for practice. To challenge and support you become an autonomous, self-regulating professional with a comprehensive, critical understanding of developments in the sector. To develop your knowledge and understanding as required to plan, implement, assess and evaluate learning in own specialist area. To develop your practical skills in supporting and enabling learning, plus interpersonal skills associated with your intended or actual work role. To take an inclusive approach to teaching and learning, addressing issues of social justice. To show commitment to, and critical understanding of, professional values, knowledge and skills.

What You Will Study

Year 1

- Research Informed Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- Becoming a Subject Specialist Teacher

Year 2

- CORE MODULE
- Being a Subject Specialist Teacher
- OPTION MODULES
- You will select one of the following modules. Option modules will only run if there are sufficient numbers, otherwise an alternative option module will be offered:
- Curriculum and Context
- English as an Additional Language (EAL): Curriculum and Context
- SEND: Curriculum and Context
- EDI and Social Justice: Curriculum and Context

Entry Requirements

The course is particularly suitable if you have work experience and/or qualifications in industry, including land based, business, hair and beauty, health and social care, public services, sport or construction, engineering and many other vocational areas.

You should normally be in employment as a teacher or trainer at a recognised training or educational establishment for a minimum of 250 hours (at least 125 hours in any one year). Voluntary teaching/training may be acceptable in some circumstances.

Entry requirements for this course are:

- UK first degree (normally 2:2 or above) or equivalent related to your specialist area if studying the Postgraduate or Professional Graduate Certificate routes.

- Level 2 in English and Maths

In addition, you must also:

- Provide confirmation of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

- Provide one satisfactory reference

- Complete a satisfactory interview

- Identify a subject specialist mentor who can support you in your subject specialism

If your first language is not English, you will need to meet the minimum requirements of an English Language qualification. The minimum for IELTS is 6.0 overall with no element lower than 5.5, or equivalent.

Teaching and Learning Approach

The programme uses a dynamic blend of learning and teaching approaches designed to place you at the centre of the learning process. Across all modules, interactive theory sessions introduce and explore core concepts and underpinning knowledge, while collaborative seminars enable you to question, debate and apply ideas in practice. Learning takes place through discussion, co-creation, analysis of real teaching scenarios, peer collaboration and reflective activities that mirror authentic professional practice. This approach encourages you to think critically, share perspectives, and develop confidence in applying theory to real classroom contexts. Teaching methods are designed to motivate and engage, supporting you to become an independent, reflective practitioner who actively shapes their own professional development both within and beyond the classroom.

Time Required on Campus

This part-time two-year programme is taught one evening per week for which attendance is required. Attendance at a one-day conference at the University of Huddersfield is a requirement in the second year. 250 Hours of teaching practice, observations and teaching related activities must be completed for the course requirements.

Work Experience

250 hours of relevant work experience placement based on subject specialisms are a requirement of the programme. The teaching practice hours will be undertaken within your workplace, supported by your identified subject specialist mentor. You will be encouraged to attend training events, team meetings and other relevant curricular activities to support your role whilst in placement.

How You're Assessed

This course is designed to support aspiring and developing educators to build the knowledge, confidence and professional expertise needed to teach within the Lifelong Learning sector. Alongside developing a strong understanding of teaching and learning, you will also be supported to recognise and plan your own continuing professional development, ensuring you grow as a reflective, future-focused practitioner. Throughout the programme, you will develop the practical skills and professional confidence needed to play an active role in teaching, learning and curriculum development within Further Education and Skills settings. You will focus on your own subject specialist area while also exploring wider approaches to teaching diverse post-16 learners. A significant proportion of your learning takes place in your own teaching environment, enabling you to apply theory directly to practice and see the impact of your development in real time. As part of the course, you will complete a subject specialist module, providing the opportunity to deepen your expertise, engage with current research, and collaborate with trainees from a wide range of vocational and academic disciplines. Exact attendance dates will be confirmed during your first year of study. You will experience a rich variety of learning approaches, including collaborative seminars, professional dialogue, peer learning, practical workshops and applied teaching activities designed to mirror real professional practice. Each trainee is supported by a personal tutor throughout the course, ensuring guidance, challenge and encouragement at every stage of your journey. Assessment methods are varied and practical, reflecting the real work of teachers. These include creating learning resources, participating in professional seminars, reflective activities and presentations that build both confidence and professional competence. Overall, the course offers a supportive and inspiring route into teaching, equipping you with the skills, knowledge and professional network needed to thrive in the Further Education and Skills sector.

Clothing, Equipment and Additional Costs

- A suitable electronic device, e.g. a laptop or tablet, with internet connectivity is required for accessing online learning and completing assignments.
- The location of your placement may require you to travel so please be aware of any associated travel costs.
- On successful completion of the programme, students have the opportunity to graduate at a ceremony wearing formal dress. The hire of the formal dress is an additional cost.
- If you decide to apply for QTLS status this will be an additional cost. You can find out more on the Society for Education and Training website.

Progression

Following course completion, you can continue onto an MA in Education course at a Higher Education institution. Upon successful completion of this course, you will be eligible to proceed to apply for Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status, following a process of professional formation through the Society for Education and Training. Your QTLS is full professional status for teachers in the Further Education and Skills sector.

Careers

Upon successful completion of this programme you could gain employment in post-16 education in e.g. Further Education institutions, some institutions offering Higher Education provision, the prison service and voluntary sector community organisations.

Financial Information

Find the full details of the fees associated with this programme and the financial support available on our https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/degree-level-courses/information/fees-and-finance.

How to Apply

To apply, scan the QR code at the top of this page!

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