

# Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (Lifelong Learning) - Pre- Service



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

## The Course

If you are looking to progress into a career teaching in the Further Education and Skills Sector, then this programme could be ideal for you. We welcome applicants with industrial skills and/or relevant academic qualifications and a passion for teaching and training others. On this programme you will have the opportunity to develop the skills to play a full part in teaching and curriculum development. While you study you will focus on your particular subject specialist area, alongside general teaching in the lifelong learning sector. A significant amount of your learning takes place whilst on placement. You will have the opportunity to benefit from being able to observe experienced teachers, gain practical hands-on experience and to be mentored to help you develop into a successful and effective teacher.

## 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 to become an autonomous, self-regulating professional with a comprehensive, critical understanding of developments in the sector.
- > To provide a thorough grounding in all three of these elements, through learning and assessment activities which model good practice and support the development of trainee teachers. This includes achieving a critical understanding of learning, teaching and training in their social, political and philosophical contexts, but also specifically involves providing trainees with the opportunity to meet relevant professional standards, for the sector.
- > To develop your knowledge and understanding required to plan, implement, assess and evaluate learning in own specialist area.
- > To develop your practical skills to support and enabling learning; interpersonal skills associated with your intended or actual work role.
- > To encourage an inclusive approaches to teaching and learning, addressing issues of social justice
- > To encourage your 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

- > Being a Subject Specialist Teacher
- > Curriculum and Context

## Entry Requirements

No prior teaching experience is needed. This programme is particularly suitable if you have relevant qualifications and some experience in your industry and/or subject specialism.

Applicants should have:

- UK degree (normally 2:2 or above) or equivalent related to your specialist area
- Relevant work experience in some specialist subject areas

In addition, you will be asked to:

- Provide Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and health clearances
- Provide two satisfactory references
- Complete a satisfactory interview

If your first language is not English, or a Tier 4 student visa to study is required and GCSE English at grade or equivalent is not held, you will need to evidence your English language proficiency level, such as International English Language Testing System (IELTS) 6.0 overall (with a minimum 5.5 in each skill).

## Teaching and Learning Approach

This programme is delivered with a variety of learning and teaching approaches. The teaching methods focus on facilitating a student-centred approach to enhance the independent learning that takes place outside of the classroom.

## Time Required on Campus

Part time (2 years) The programme is taught one evening per week and requires 250 placement hours to be satisfactorily completed. Attendance at a one-day conference at the University of Huddersfield is required in the second year of the programme.

## Work Experience

Relevant work experience placement based on subject specialisms are a requirement of the programme. Trainees are encouraged to attend training events, team meetings and other relevant curricular activities to support their role whilst in placement. The teaching placement will be supported by Bishop Burton College dependent on subject area. Please note that placements can be evenings, weekends and daytime to reflect the sector.

## How You're Assessed

The programme will incorporate a variety of assessment methods across each academic year. The mix of assessments will seek to challenge and evaluate your knowledge, understanding and skills. Assessments for this programme may include written assignments, portfolios, practical assessments (observation of teaching) and a research project to present to conference in year two.

## Clothing, Equipment and Additional Costs

- > The location of your placement may require you to travel so please be aware of any associated travel costs.
- > A suitable electronic device, e.g. a laptop or tablet, with internet connectivity is required for accessing online learning and completing assignments.
- > 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.

## Progression

Following course completion, you can continue onto an Education MA 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 a Further Education and Skills sector organisation.