

Teaching and Classroom Support

Do you want a rewarding and stimulating job where no two days are the same? Or would you like to see personal development in people and make a difference to their lives? If so, then you should definitely consider teaching or classroom support as a career.

There's no doubting though that teaching can also be an exhausting vocation at times. But, even if your students don't seem to want to learn, you can be rest assured that your enthusiasm for a subject can sow seeds which can grow right through life!

In 2019 there were 52,247 teachers in Scotland, an increase of 288 from the previous year. Around 95% of Scottish schools are state schools, run by the 32 Scottish local authorities.

What areas can I work in?

There are many areas that you can work in the education sector: primary school teaching, secondary school teaching, learning support teaching and classroom support, private tutoring or teaching, and college or university lecturing.

To see the routes to getting into each of these sectors, take a look at our [Career Pathway](#).

What kind of companies can I work for?

Possible employers include:

- local authority-run pre-schools, primary and secondary schools
- independent schools or academies
- commercial language schools
- young offenders' institutions
- charities
- colleges and universities.

What's the job market like?

Although the number of teachers working in Scottish schools increased by 288 from 2018, there continues to be a shortage, particularly in the following subjects: English, Maths, Chemistry, Computing, Gaelic, Home Economics, Physics, Religious and Moral Education and Technology.

The Scottish Government, in conjunction with universities that provide Initial Teacher Education (ITE), have accredited 12 new routes into teaching to try and encourage more people into the profession. During academic years 2017-18 and 2018-19 these alternative routes have successfully attracted 799 participants who may not otherwise have considered entering or returning to the teaching profession in Scotland.

The pupil teacher ratio (PTR) in schools overall stayed the same in 2019 as in 2017/18 at 13.6.

The number of full time teaching staff at Scotland's colleges in 2018-19 stood at 10,995 an increase of 13 over the

figure for the 2017-18 academic session, and the five year trend from 2014-15 saw an increase of 1.5%. In Scottish universities, the number of academic staff for the 2018-19 session was 23,580, an increase of 750 on the 2017-18 figure.

There is work for teachers of English as a Foreign Language, in Scotland, elsewhere in the UK and abroad, as more people want to learn to speak English.

Facts and figures

In Scotland in 2019 there were:

- 2,576 early learning and child care centres, 2,004 primary schools and 358 secondary schools
- 114 Additional Support for Learning (ASL) schools for children who need extra learning or behavioural support
- 25,027 primary teachers, 23,522 secondary teachers, 798 teachers working with pre-5s, 1,927 teaching in Additional Support for Learning (ASL) schools as well as visiting specialist teachers.

At Scottish FE institutions in 2019:

- there were 242,488 students enrolled
- overall student satisfaction was 93%.

At Scottish HE institutions in 2019:

- the top three areas of study based on enrolment numbers were: business and administration studies (34,030); subjects allied to medicine (31,175); biological sciences (24,765)
- The most popular subject amongst females and males was business and administrative studies.

Want to find out more?

You can find out more information about becoming a teacher at the Scottish government [Teach in Scotland](#) website.

Sources

- Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No10 (2019 Edition), National Statistics and the Scottish Government
- [General Teaching Council for Scotland \(GTCS\)](#) website
- [Scotland's colleges key facts 2019](#)
- SFC Statistics - Scottish Funding Council (31 March 2020)
- Staff numbers by HE provider (Scotland, 2018-19), HESA
- HE student enrolments by subject area and gender (Scotland, 2018-19), HESA
- Scottish Government Alternative Routes into Teaching (February 2020)