

Becoming an FE College Lecturer

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/is-teaching-right-for-me/become-a-further-education-teacher>

The first question you might ask is "what exactly is the further education and skills sector?" Currently there are over 350 general FE and sixth form colleges, work-based training providers, adult and community learning providers and specialist colleges. There are also over 1000 private training providers, 200 public training providers and around 40 higher education institutions (HEIs) involved in FE teaching.

Lifelong Learning teachers work in a highly diverse range of settings, from prisons to community centres, workplaces, large further education (FE) colleges and school sixth forms. They teach a vast range of subjects, from Health and Beauty or Engineering to Ceramic Art or Philosophy, and from entry level to university level. They teach a more diverse student body than in any other sector of education, aged anywhere between 14 and 94.

The Work

Further Education (FE) lecturers teach students over the age of 16 and teach various types of courses including:

- Academic qualifications such as GCSEs/S grades, AS levels, A levels/Highers
- Vocational courses such as Work Based Diplomas and BTEC Diplomas which train students for careers such as catering, construction and childcare
- Skills for Life (Basic Skills) courses
- Leisure and hobby courses such as dressmaking, photography and car maintenance

The work can include:

- Planning and preparing lessons
- Using a variety of teaching methods such as seminars, tutorials and demonstrations
- Setting and marking assignments, tests and exams
- Monitoring and assessing students' progress
- Developing new courses and teaching materials
- Record keeping and other administrative tasks
- Attending meetings, professional development courses and workshops
- Interviewing prospective students
- Acting as personal tutors, supporting students and helping with problems
- Making contact with exam boards or local employers

Some lecturers supplement their income through:

- National exam marking
- Private tuition
- Teaching evening courses

Hours and Environment

Lecturers' hours can be:

- Permanent full-time (usually up to 37 hours a week with around 25 hours spent teaching)
- Permanent fractional (permanent contracts to teach for a fraction of the week)
- Part-time / sessional (non-permanent work as a visiting lecturer, for example teaching non-qualification evening/daytime leisure courses).

Skills and Interests

To be a further education lecturer you should:

- Have extensive knowledge of your subject and the ability to explain it at a level suitable for your students
- Be able to relate well to students of all ages and abilities
- Be enthusiastic and able to motivate students
- Be able to express yourself clearly both in speech and writing
- Be creative and able to design interesting activities and materials
- Have good organisational and planning skills
- Have patience and a sense of humour.