
Certificate of Education (Cert Ed) in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector

Note that this course has its own application, interview and selection process - please refer to details at the end of the following information.

What is the course about?

This two-year, part-time, Level 5 Initial Teacher Training course is designed for teachers, tutors and trainers who are teaching, or intend to teach, their specialist subject in post-compulsory education and training; this can include public, private and/or voluntary settings. It is accredited by the University of Chester.

The Cert Ed qualification is UK-endorsed and fully portable, granting 120 credits at HE levels 4 and 5; 60 credits at each level.

The first module can be undertaken as a stand-alone award for those who want only a practical introduction to teaching, resulting in the award of "Introduction to Education and Training" (IET) - 20 credits at Level 4.

What are the entry requirements?

You must have:

- an appropriate qualification in your intended teaching subject at Level 3 or above; or be working in an appropriate teaching or training context.
- Level 2 qualification in English/Literacy and Maths/Numeracy (GCSE grade C or above, or Functional Skills).
- computer literacy – able to use email, internet and a word processing package. The ability to use spreadsheet and presentation software packages will be required later in the first year.
- arranged a minimum of 50 hours of teaching or training practice per year with students aged 16+. Teaching practice group sizes may vary, ideally with a minimum of 12 learners, but the majority of the teaching practice must be to groups of 5 or more learners. *
- an appropriately qualified Subject Mentor.*

*Teaching hours and a Subject Mentor are not a requirement for the IET award (the first module only). However, experience of teaching does help to contextualise the course content, so applicants are encouraged to take advantage of any teaching opportunities.

What modules will I study?

A weekly 3-hour session is offered with a choice (subject to numbers) of afternoon or evening attendance - first year on Mondays, second year on Tuesdays.

Year 1: Level 4 - three 20-credit modules

The focus in the first year is on the classroom environment and the key elements of the teaching and learning process. The concept of inclusive learning - helping all students achieve - is emphasised as an integral element of the course. These elements include planning, delivery and assessment, supported by a study of the principles and theories of learning. Different teaching methods and learning resources are explored, including strategies to promote interest and learning, as well as approaches to the assessment of learning and achievement.

Trainees taking the full Cert Ed qualification are required to show evidence that they are applying what they have learned to enhance their own teaching practice.

Year 2: Level 5 - three 20-credit modules

The emphasis in the second year is the macro-environment of education, exploring the wider aspects of the professional practice of a teacher/trainer in the Lifelong Learning Sector. Elements include curriculum development and a range of practical and conceptual influences and constraints that impact upon education in the Sector, including local and national initiatives, policies and strategies. There is a strong focus on increasingly independent, individual research this year, with continued application of theory to own teaching practice. Teaching practice is an integral part of the whole course. It allows trainees to develop skills appropriate to the teaching of their subject specialism through focusing on their own development - both as a learner and as a practitioner. Trainees will have the opportunity to consolidate their skills, knowledge and abilities, developing best practice through ongoing evaluation of their teaching and the impact they are having on their learners' achievement.

How will I be assessed?

Trainees are assessed by means of written assignments and/or presentations for each of the modules, as well as by completion of a Professional Development Portfolio (the latter is not included in the IET award) that reflects their commitment to ongoing development as a teacher and to meeting the Professional Standards for Teachers and Trainers (ETF, 2014).

Who should I contact?

All enquiries should be directed to Vance King, Programme Leader, by telephone on 648200 or by email to vance.king@ucm.ac.im.

This course has its own application, interview and selection process. If you decide to apply, please request an application form and further details. Interviews are normally held around May for the course starting in September, followed by a selection process before any places are offered. Early applications are encouraged, so that advice can be offered on any area(s) needing action prior to interview.