I want to work as a music teacher or leader

Do I need qualified teacher status (QTS) to work in school?
- As a classroom teacher: YES
- With a music service: PREFERRED but not essential
- As an independent tutor or peripatetic teacher: NO
- As a musician in residence: NO
- On individual projects: NO

Do I want to train part-time?
Flexible PGCEs offer training programmes designed to fit around your particular needs. See The flexible PGCE section in the Routes into Teaching Music Guide, or check the GTTR Guide for Applicants or log on to www.gttr.ac.uk.

Do I want to gain QTS while studying for my first degree?
Check out the three- or four-year BEd or BA with QTS courses in the GTTR Guide for Applicants or log on to www.gttr.ac.uk.

Do I want to train while working in a school?
- School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) offers one-year full-time school-based training leading to QTS, and with some, to a PGCE qualification. You must already have a degree (or equivalent), and may need previous experience working in a school or with young people. Check the GTTR Guide for Applicants or log on to www.gttr.ac.uk then talk to the SCITT providers offering the courses that interest you.
- The Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP) enables schools to employ a graduate to work, and be paid, as an unqualified teacher. See Qualifying to teach while working in the Routes into Teaching Music Guide, or phone the GTP helpline on 01245 454444, or go to the Teacher Training Agency website www.teach.gov.uk and look up ‘employment-based routes’.

Do I want to study for a degree and then take a course leading to QTS?
Check out the one-year postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) courses in the GTTR Guide for Applicants or log on to www.gttr.ac.uk then find a university or college offering the courses that interest you.

Do you have a degree?
You need one to be a qualified teacher.

Do you have the right GCSEs?
NO: Contact your local education authority or local college to check on the GCSE or Access courses available that will meet your needs.
YES: That’s great; now all you need is a degree and a place on an initial teacher training course.

What are the different routes to QTS?
Do you want to teach in a primary, secondary or special school?
- Primary school teachers vary in the route they take, but the majority take the undergraduate route by taking a first degree with QTS attached.
- Secondary school teachers mostly take a PGCE after taking a first degree in their specialist subject.
- Special school teachers usually train as primary or secondary teachers and then move into the special school sector with additional professional development. (Some ITT courses offer options on special needs.)

How can I qualify as a classroom music teacher?
Teaching is an all-graduate profession.
- To teach, you need a degree and to take an initial teacher training course, at undergraduate or postgraduate level, that leads to qualified teacher status (QTS).
- To go on an ITT course, you must have GCSE at grade C or above in English, maths and (if born after 31 August 1979) science (or equivalent).

One Last Word
Always check that the course or qualification you take will provide the right sort of skills, knowledge and experience you need (especially practical teaching experience where relevant) to develop your career in the direction you want it to go.

Who offers these qualifications?
The main providers are:
- Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music - ABRSM (www.abrsm.org)
- Trinity Guildhall Examinations (www.trinitycollege.co.uk).

Many other organisations provide training and qualifications for different sorts and styles of teaching (See the Routes into Teaching Music Guide and the Rhinegold Guide to Music Education).

Do I need qualifications?
It depends what job you want to do and what different employers want. Performance qualifications provide a firm foundation on which to build teaching and learning skills. They tell training providers and employers that you have reached a particular standard of competence in the instrument you play. Teaching and professional development qualifications are valued in format and informal, individual and group settings across the education sector. These do not lead to the award of qualified teacher status (QTS), which you need to work as a classroom teacher.

I want to teach music but not as a classroom teacher.
What are my options?
You can work as:
- an instrumental or vocal tutor in private practice or with a local music service, or both;
- a music leader, facilitator or animateur;
- a musician in residence in schools and other learning settings, or on specific music projects.
You can do these jobs as a freelance musician or tutor, or as part of an organisation or music group. Or you can combine the two ways of working.

I want to know more about teaching before I decide.
If you are studying for a music degree, you may be able to gain experience of teaching music as part of your course or through the Student Associates Scheme (SAS). Find out more about the SAS on the Teacher Training Agency website www.teach.gov.uk/sas.