Leicester College

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Certificate in Education (CertEd) Further Education and Skills level 5

Course Overview

Our two-year, part-time course is validated and certificated by De Montfort University. If you are joining the course in September 2026, you will attend college on Mondays. This course will introduce you to aspects of teaching, learning, and assessment to enable you to develop your work as a teacher, trainer, or tutor. It is perfect for those working or wanting to work with students who are aged 16 or over, including areas such as sixth form, further education, offender learning, and adult and community education.

 After completing the course, you will be eligible to apply for QTLS (Qualified Teacher in Learning and Skills status).

 The level 5 Certificate in Education (Further Education and Skills) is available to candidates who have significant industrial experience and/or a minimum level 3 qualification in their specialist teaching area.

 Over the two years, you will study a range of modules to establish knowledge whilst developing your practical skills associated with teaching, learning, and assessment within the further education and skills sector.

 The course is validated and certificated by De Montfort University. Applicants who intend to teach in high priority subject areas may be eligible for a Department for Education bursary. Please see the additional costs section below.

What you will learn

First-year modules include:

 1. Planning and preparing for teaching and learning - This introductory module will enable trainees to develop their understanding of key concepts relating to planning and preparing for inclusive teaching, learning and assessment within the education and training sector

 2. Teaching my subject –The purpose of the module is to provide trainees with knowledge and understanding of how to teach their subject specialism. A strong emphasis is placed on the application of a range of different theories, principles and models to support inclusive teaching, learning and assessment.

 3. Professional practice e-portfolio part one – the purpose of this module is to provide you with the teaching experience to develop knowledge, understanding, and skills relating to the planning and delivery of effective teaching, learning, and assessment within the education and training sector. You will undertake microteaches to your peers and be observed teaching in your organisation. An e-portfolio will be created for you and you will be expected to upload a range of documentary evidence that support your teaching development. A checklist of the contents of your e-portfolio will be provided at the beginning of the course.

The second year of the programme encourages you to build on the knowledge gained during year one and explore a wider range of concepts in greater detail. In particular, an emphasis is placed on independent learning and professional enquiry with regards to teaching, learning and assessment within your specialist area.

 Modules include:

 1. Effective digital and online practices – you will learn how to identify and use effective digital resources and to manage online delivery of your teaching.

 2. Professional practice e-portfolio part two – progressing from the understanding and knowledge gained in part one, you are expected to demonstrate further competence in creating and maintaining an inclusive learning environment. As in Year 1, an e-portfolio will be created for you and you will be expected to upload a range of documentary evidence that support your teaching development.

 3. Managing behaviour in a learning environment - The purpose of the module is to provide trainees with the pedagogical knowledge and experience to further develop their skills at managing a range of behaviours in the learning environment.

 4. Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) - Trainees will learn how to recognise a range of Special Educational Needs so as to be able to create an inclusive learning environment for their own learners.

Entry Requirements

To enrol onto this course you will require the following:

 1. GCSE grade C/4 or Functional Skills level 2 in English and maths (international students may be required to attain an average overall IELTS score of 6.5)
 2. An undergraduate degree (or higher)
 3. Minimum level 3 qualification or significant industrial experience in your specialist area if not covered by your degree*. If you are unsure about this, please contact the team.
 4. A minimum of 75 hours of teaching per year should be arranged prior to starting the course. This should be teaching to groups of learners aged 16+ and will take place alongside your study on this PGCE course. These teaching hours can be found after you have been interviewed but you will not be able to start the course without them being in place. We may be able to signpost you to relevant organisations after interview has taken place. You will also be expected to undertake a further 50 hours of CPD per year. This could include shadowing other teaching staff, attending standardisation meetings, undertaking staff training and observing your peers' teaching.
 5. Evidence of a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced check. Applicants who have been residents overseas for three months or more over the last five years must provide a criminal record check for that country. The Home Office provides guidance on applying for criminal records checks for overseas applicants (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-records-checks-for-overseas-applicants).

 You will be required to attend an interview with our admissions tutor where you must provide evidence that you have the appropriate qualifications/experience for the course and a career in teaching.

 *Those intending to teach academic subjects would usually be expected to have a degree in their subject specialism. Those intending to teach in professional or vocational areas would usually be expected to have a professional or industry qualification and experience working in their respective sector. There is a general expectation in the sector that a teacher should be qualified to at least one level above that at which they intend to teach, hold the highest level trade qualification available or have particularly substantial professional experience.

Course Fees

Course Details

Course Code P00354

Start Date 22/09/2027

Study Hours Part Time

Duration 2 years

Campus St Margaret's Campus

Level 5

Apply Here

Tax-free bursaries will be available to trainees who are training pre-service (i.e. before entering paid teaching employment) to teach high-priority subjects in the FE sector in England.

 The eligible subjects and bursary values are set out below. The bursary is paid in instalments across the two years of the course, as long as you continue to meet the eligibility criteria, which will be discussed with you if you are offered a place on the course.

 £31,000 - Mathematics, Science (including chemistry, physics and biology), Engineering (and/or manufacturing), Computing
 £15,000 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
 £10,000 - English (capped at 100 places)

Course Progession

Once you have completed the course you will be a fully qualified teacher in the post-compulsory education and training sector and will be able to apply for QTLS status. You may wish to move on to take a subject specialist qualification in literacy, ESOL or maths, or progress on to an MA in education.

What Happens Next

All applicants will be invited to an interview and to complete a written task. You will be asked to provide a range of documents to evidence your suitability to teach, in line with Department for Education guidelines.