Special educational needs (SEN) teachers are employed to work with a wide range of children and young adults. They may work with pupils who have a physical or mental disability, who are emotionally vulnerable or who require behavioural support. A SEN teacher may also work with gifted and talented individuals.

SEN teachers require an initial teacher training (ITT) degree, such as a BEd or a PGCE/PGDE, giving qualified teacher status, and they must be registered with the appropriate General Teaching Council. All ITT courses include a special educational needs element, and there are some specifically for SEN teaching. There are also specific qualifications required to teach pupils with hearing, visual or multi-sensory impairments.

Most SEN teachers are employed in local authority schools, but there are also opportunities in the independent and voluntary sector. Pre-entry experience of working with children with special educational needs is an advantage. This might include volunteering as a support worker in a school or involvement in play schemes and youth clubs.

Profiles

This detailed job profile includes up-to-date information about teacher training, entry requirements, how to get a job, who the main employers are, and salaries and conditions. Read the case studies to find out from experienced teachers what it’s really like to be a SEN teacher.

Special education needs teacher

Platform One - we may have Edinburgh Alumni contacts who can give you useful information and advice about teaching. You can search for contacts by employer, job title, location and school (UG and PG).

MyEd

General information

National Careers Service - information from the government's careers service, including a profile of a special educational needs teacher and a Portage Home Visitor.

Special Educational Needs Teacher

Portage Home Visitor
The **British Institute of Learning Difficulties (BILD)** - BILD is part part of the Learning Disability Coalition and helps develop the organisations who provide services, and the people who give support to people with learning disabilities.

[British Institute of Learning Difficulties](#)

**Contact a Family** - the only national charity providing support and advice to parents whatever the medical condition of their child. The site includes a series of factsheets detailing SEN provision in Scotland, England and Wales.

[Contact a Family](#)

**Independent Panel for Special Education Advice (IPSEA)** - a voluntary organisation providing telephone advice and support at tribunals. Volunteers are experienced professionals working in special education, including educational psychologists, speech therapists and teachers.

[Independent Panel for Special Education Advice (IPSEA)](#)

**Mencap** - leading charity assisting people with a learning disability, their families and carers. The site includes a vacancies section. Mencap serves England, Wales and Northern Ireland, while their sister charity in Scotland is **Enable**.

[Mencap](#)

[Enable](#)

**National Association of Independent Schools & Non-Maintained Special Schools (NASS)** - a membership organisation working with and for special schools in the voluntary sector within the UK. Site includes a directory of SEN schools.

[National Association of Independent Schools & Non-Maintained Special Schools (NASS)](#)

**National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN)** - leading organisation in the UK which promotes the education, training, advancement and development of all people with special educational needs.

[National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN)](#)

**National Association of Specialist Colleges (NATSPEC)** - offers education, training and support to meet the inclusive learning needs of young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. The site includes a directory of UK member/associate member colleges.

[National Association of Specialist Colleges (NATSPEC)](#)

**National Literacy Trust** - a very useful website, which includes a section providing the latest SEN news for the UK.

[National Literacy Trust](#)
Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties (PATOSS) - organisation for all those concerned with the teaching and support of pupils with specific learning difficulties: dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADD and Asperger syndrome.

Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties (PATOSS)

Scotland

Enquire - site providing education advice for students with special educational needs in Scotland.

Enquire

Education Scotland - government agency providing information about the education system, including a section on Additional Support Needs for children.

Education Scotland

England

Department for Education (DfE) - this site includes information on special educational needs in schools. On this site you will also find links to the Teaching Agency, the executive agency of the DfE with responsibility for teacher training and regulation, and the supply and retention of the workforce, including special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs).

DfE Special Educational Needs

Northern Ireland

Department of Education Northern Ireland - links to the special educational needs section of the website, which provides information for parents, legislation and the codes of practice.

Department of Education Northern Ireland

Teacher, autistic students

Autism Resources - a huge website full of resources covering all aspects of autism and Asperger Syndrome all over the world.

Autism Resources

National Autistic Society (NAS) - champions the rights and interests of all people with autism to ensure that they and their families receive quality services appropriate to their needs. The site has education information for pupils, parents and those working in SEN.

Inspiring futures
National Autistic Society (NAS)

Teacher, deaf and hearing impaired students

Action on Hearing Loss - the largest charity for deaf and hearing impaired people in the UK. The site provides information about teaching deaf and hearing impaired people.

Action on Hearing Loss

British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD) - the only association representing the interests of teachers of deaf children and young people in the UK. The site includes information on teacher training.

British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD)

Training as a Teacher of the Deaf

British Deaf Association (BDA) - for the latest news and information from the British Deaf Association, British Sign Language and the Deaf community.

British Deaf Association (BDA)

DELTA (Deaf Education through Listening and Talking) - a voluntary association of young deaf adults, and families and teachers of deaf children. This charity supports and develops the Natural Aural Approach to the education of deaf children.

DELTA (Deaf Education through Listening and Talking)

National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) - UK’s leading charity for deaf children and their families. The site has a careers section, which includes a guide for deaf people on how to become a teacher of deaf children.

National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS)

Royal Association for Deaf People (RAD) - a charity providing services for deaf and deafblind children and adults, including the RAD Centres for Deaf People. There is a useful education and training section, which includes information on how to become a British Sign Language tutor. The site also advertises some job vacancies.

Royal Association for Deaf People

Teacher, dyslexic students

British Dyslexia Association (BDA) - charity which campaigns and works towards a dyslexia friendly society that will enable all dyslexic people to reach their potential.

British Dyslexia Association (BDA)
Dyslexia Institute (DI) - an educational charity focused on the education of people with dyslexia, including teacher training. The site includes information on specialist teaching for dyslexic students.

**Dyslexia Institute (DI)**

**Teacher, visually impaired students**

Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) - the leading charity offering practical support and information to anyone suffering visual impairment. The website provides comprehensive information and lists teaching vacancies.

**Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)**

Royal Blind School Edinburgh - highly regarded local school for the visually impaired. Vacancies in the school are advertised on the website.

**Royal Blind School Edinburgh**

**Vacancies**

Prospects: Teaching and Education - section of Prospects, the official UK graduate careers website, covering the training and recruitment of teachers. Includes detailed information on the recruitment policies of all UK Education Authorities, job-hunting tips and links to their jobs websites.

**Prospects Web: Teaching and Education**

MyCareerHub is exclusively for current students and graduates of the University of Edinburgh. It can be used to:

- search for jobs and events, such as recruitment fairs
- find out about employers

**MyCareerHub**

University of Edinburgh Careers Service
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