



Careers in Teaching Assistant

Your guide to becoming a TA in Liverpool schools

Liverpool & Merseyside | Level 1 to Level 3 | SEND-friendly options may be available



Why Choose a Career as a Teaching Assistant?

- Make a real difference to children's learning, confidence and wellbeing every day
- Schools across Liverpool and Merseyside are actively recruiting TAs
- Family-friendly hours and school holidays
- A brilliant stepping stone — many TAs progress to HLTA or teacher training
- Specialise in areas you care about, such as SEND support, reading or behaviour
- Courses available locally with flexible daytime and evening options



Skills and Personal Qualities

- Patience, empathy and a calm, encouraging manner with children
- Clear communication with pupils, teachers and parents
- Reliability and consistency — children depend on trusted adults
- Teamwork — working closely with teachers and school staff
- Creativity and flexibility in supporting different learners
- Understanding of safeguarding, confidentiality and professional boundaries



Useful School Subjects

- English — supporting reading, writing and communication is a core part of the job
- Maths — helping pupils with numeracy and everyday classroom learning
- Health & Social Care — child development, care and safeguarding
- Drama / Music / Art — creative activities that engage children
- PE — supporting active play and physical development



Local Courses (Levels 1 to 3)

Courses are available at local colleges across Merseyside. Many courses accept students without GCSEs.

School Leavers (16–18)

- Hugh Baird College — T-Level: Education & Childcare (Early Years Educator) Level 3
- City of Liverpool College — T-Level Education & Childcare, plus CACHE Level 2–3 education and childcare courses
- Knowsley Community College & St Helens College — Childcare and Education courses Level 1–3

Adults (19+) — Dedicated Teaching Assistant Courses

- City of Liverpool College — Teaching Assistants Level 1 (12 weeks, September and January starts), then CACHE Level 2 and Level 3 Certificates in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools
- Hugh Baird College — Level 2 Award in Support Work in Schools and Colleges, and Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning (two days at college plus at least one day a week in a school placement)
- Riverside College, Widnes — Teaching Assistants Level 2 (one year, daytime or evening; free for Liverpool City Region residents), progressing to Level 3 Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning

Useful Add-On Courses

- City of Liverpool College — Understanding Autism Level 2-3, Behaviour that Challenges Level 2, Children & Young People's Mental Health Level 2
- British Sign Language and Paediatric First Aid short courses strengthen any TA application

SEND-Friendly & Supported Provision

- Supported study options may be available — speak to your careers adviser about what could work for you

Apprenticeships and Training

- Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship — Level 3 (earn while you learn in a real school)
- Early Years Educator Apprenticeship — Level 3 (nursery and reception settings)
- Apply for school-based apprenticeships via LCR Be More and GOV.UK Find an Apprenticeship
- Note: most TA courses require a school placement (around one day a week) and a DBS check — colleges will explain how to arrange both
- Search live vacancies: www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
- Supported Internships (for students with an EHCP) are run by local colleges with their selected employer partners — ask your careers adviser whether this route could suit you

Jobs, Volunteering and Work Experience

Teaching assistants work in primary, secondary and specialist schools. All roles require a DBS check. Liverpool has a growing need for TAs, especially for SEND support.

Role	Where You Work	Starting Qualification
Teaching Assistant	Primary and secondary schools	Level 2 Supporting Teaching & Learning
1:1 / SEND Teaching Assistant	Mainstream and specialist schools	Level 2-3 + SEND experience
Early Years TA	Nurseries, reception classes	Level 2-3 Early Years
Learning Mentor	Primary and secondary schools	Level 3 + experience
Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)	Schools — leading small groups and classes	Level 3-4 + HLTA status
Cover Supervisor	Secondary schools	Level 3 + classroom experience
Teacher (career goal)	Schools	Degree + teacher training (QTS)

Teaching assistants typically earn £17,000–£22,000 (often pro-rata for term time). HLTAs earn £22,000–£28,000.

Progressing to teaching: newly qualified teachers start at £28,000–£34,000.

Work Experience & Volunteering

- Volunteer in a local primary school — reading with children is the classic way in (schools will arrange your DBS check)
- Help at youth clubs, holiday clubs, sports teams or Scouts/Guides to build experience with children
- Ask your careers adviser or local schools about work experience placements

Next Steps and Contact Information

- Visit college open days and websites

- Search for local jobs: www.indeed.co.uk | www.notjustjobs.com
- Find apprenticeships: www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

TAGS Careers	www.tags.careers — local careers information and resources
Colleges	City of Liverpool College: www.liv-coll.ac.uk (0151 252 3000) Hugh Baird: www.hughbaird.ac.uk (0151 353 4444) Riverside: www.riversidecollege.ac.uk
TA Jobs	Teaching Vacancies (GOV.UK): www.teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk School and council jobs pages across Merseyside
Apprenticeships	LCR Be More: lcrbmore.co.uk Find an Apprenticeship: www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
More Support	Your careers adviser can provide additional guidance tailored to your needs
Apprenticeships	www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk www.indeed.co.uk www.notjustjobs.com