



Teaching Without a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed)

July, 2010

Table of Contents

Teaching Without a B.Ed	Pg. 3
Skills That Matter	Pg. 3
Career Profiles:	
Montessori Teacher	Pg. 4
ESL Teacher	Pg. 5
Early Childhood Educator	Pg. 5
Teaching Abroad	Pg. 6
Waldorf Teacher	Pg. 7
College/Vocational Teacher	Pg. 8
Other Teaching Options	Pg. 8
How the UTM Career Center Can Help	Pg. 9

Teaching Without a B.Ed

Careers in education are multi-faceted and complex with teachers being so much more than educators – they become role models, friends, and inspirations to their students. Teaching is both fulfilling and demanding, requiring patience, tolerance, and creativity. Under the umbrella of teaching, there are many pathways into this broad field of work and the choice to take one route over another depends on numerous factors including program duration or location, teaching method of interest, personal preference and experience, requirements - academic and other, and/or finances.

The different avenues into the field of education lead to numerous kinds of teaching careers, many of which are outside the typical public school classroom setting. While obtaining a Bachelor of Education is the required prerequisite for many types of education work, exploring other teaching roles, like Teaching Abroad, English as a Second Language, and Early Childhood Education, broadens the options to include some areas not requiring a B.Ed.

Skills That Matter

Before considering any area or work, it is important to determine whether a good fit exists based on an individual's strengths and skills. Critical requirements for a career in education include:

- Patience
- Organization
- Resourcefulness
- Energy
- Creativity
- Flexibility
- Communication – oral and written
- Dedication
- Caring
- Tolerance
- Active listening

Gaining Experience

The skills and experiences listed above may be gained through work experiences, volunteer placements, and high school or university experiences. It is important to also gain education-specific experience to have a realistic understanding of the teaching environment and to enhance your profile for education program applications. Education work involves many student populations - young children, youth, or adults with diverse backgrounds and needs, so gaining experience with specific groups of interest is critical to deciding which area might best suit an individual.

Lesson and curriculum planning are part of any teaching position, requiring attention to detail and punctuality to meet deadlines. Being sure to include this kind of work in education related experiences, before entering the field, will help potential teachers decide if the work matches their strengths and interests.

Many experiences - volunteering as a part-time tutor, helping friends, classmates or siblings with homework – allow individuals to reflect first hand on this area of work and decide which teaching area, and related education path, seems best for them.

Below are some sample positions, taken from the UofT Career Center online job posting system, which could strengthen or develop the skills noted above.

Sample Job Postings¹

Position Title: ESL Teacher; Organization: Red Leaf Student Program
Job Order Number: 2010.SE.0404 (summer position)

Position Title: Summer Camp Teachers; Organization: Camp Markham
Job Order Number: 2010.SE.0393 (summer position)

Position Title: Leadership Camp Instructor; Organization: UTM-Dept of Physical Ed, Athletics & Rec; Job Order Number: 2010.SE.0368 (summer position)

Position Title: Mentoring/Tutoring; Organization: Youth Assisting Youth
Job Order Number: 2010.VL.0858 (volunteer position)

Position Title: Volunteer Childcare Position; Organization: Mississauga Parent Child Resource Centres;
Job Order Number: 2010.VL.0846 (volunteer position)

Position Title: Tutoring inner-city kids- volunteers; Organization: Weekdays Program; Job Order Number: 2010.VL.0834 (volunteer position)

NOTE: to access these postings, UofT students must create a Career Centre account. Postings which are no longer active can only be accessed using the Career Centre student computers.

Career Profiles

Below are job descriptions, plus education and training details, for various areas of teaching outside of the public school classroom setting.

Montessori Teacher²

Job Description

Montessori education is a teaching method that emphasizes learning through all five senses, not just through listening, watching, or reading. The high level of academic achievement, common in Montessori schools, is a natural outcome of the learning experience in such a supportive environment.

The Montessori model serves the needs of children of all levels of mental and physical ability as they live and learn in a natural, mixed-age group very much like the society they will live in as adults. What sets Montessori education apart is the emphasis on seeing children as they are and creating environments which foster the fulfillment of their highest potential - spiritual, emotional, physical, and intellectual - as members of a family and the world community.

“Education is not something the teacher does but is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being.”- Dr. Maria Montessori

Unique Skills: caring, creativity, organization, passion

Education & Training

Montessori teacher training is offered at many Montessori institutions across North America. Training courses are usually split into two or three groupings according to age levels.

Below are links to training information:

www.montessoriteacherscollege.com

www.montessoritraining.net

www.monessori.org

www.montessori-institution.ca

ESL Teacher³

Job Description

Every year, thousands of people move to Canada from other parts of the world. Some have learned English in their home countries, but need help writing or understanding our idioms and slang. Others arrive not knowing much more than “hello”. These new additions to our country turn to ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers to help them learn the language.

ESL Teachers are trained to work with students of all ages, from elementary school children to adult learners. They work for all kinds of organizations in Canada and abroad, including elementary and high schools, community colleges, private language schools, and community organizations. ESL teachers have to work particularly hard to help shy or self-conscious students feel comfortable and participate in class. Varied lesson plans, activities, and assignments to motivate students are essential in this setting.

Unique Skills: patience, resourcefulness, additional language(s)

Education & Training

Requirements to become an ESL teacher vary depending on where an individual wants to work, whether it is at a community college, private language school, or community organization. In most cases, ESL teachers need at least a bachelor’s degree in a related subject such as English with some employers also requiring completion of a recognized ESL certificate or diploma program. It is important to research the different types of courses offered in order to determine which one would be best for you and would meet the requirements of a preferred potential employer.

Below are links to training information:

International House:

www.sol-group.net/teachertraining/index.php

Tesl Canada:

www.tesl.ca

ESL in Canada:

www.eslincanada.com

Oxford Seminars:

www.oxfordseminars.ca/tesol-tesl-tefl-certification.php

Early Childhood Educator⁴

Job Description

Early Childhood Education (ECE) aims to expose preschool children to experiences and skills that will smooth their transition into grade school. ECE teachers are important early ‘jumpstart’ educators, teaching children in many areas including fine motor skills development plus early reading and writing. Early childhood education work involves much lesson planning and organization as well as evaluations that document the observation of children and assessment of their specific needs.

ECE teachers study all aspects of child learning and development - cognitive, physical, social, and emotional, training them to be able to plan and design games and activities that are both fun and

educational. Teaching the alphabet requires a strategy very different than ones used to teach young children about sharing or acceptable behavior when they get angry or frustrated.

Unique Skills: creativity, resourcefulness, flexibility, communication, organization, patience, dedication

Education & Training

In order to become a fully-qualified early childhood educator, a diploma, certificate, or degree in early childhood education is required. Diplomas generally take 2 years of full-time study to complete, and can be obtained at colleges across Canada, while Certificate programs often take less than 2 years to complete and are offered at various institutions. Bachelor's degrees take the longest time - normally 4 years. Regardless of the ECE program (diploma, certificate, or degree), some are offered on a part-time basis, which then take longer to complete.

Some colleges offer specialist certificates in areas such as infant and toddler care and special needs, intended for individuals who already have some ECE education wanting to specialize in a particular area. Additionally, there are Master's degrees in early childhood education for individuals wanting to study a particular area in more depth, wanting to do research in this field and/or teach ECE to others.

Most ECE programs include co-op placements, giving students the opportunity to obtain on-the-job experience while studying.

Below are links to training information:

<http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/portal/page/portal/ONTCOL/Home> (Ontario College Application service)
http://www.aucc.ca/index_e.html (Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada)

Further ECE training information can be found in Career Cruising, accessed from a UofT Career Centre account.

Teaching Abroad⁵

Job Description

Teaching abroad includes teaching positions in many disciplines and languages around the world. The majority of positions available for native English speakers are for those willing to teach English as a foreign language. This area of education requires a passion to teach and openness to new cultures.

Unique Skills: flexibility, open-mindedness, adaptability, patience, communication, creativity

There are many different programs that hire teachers, like the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET), and Teach Korea.

Heather Hines, a former JET participant, recaps her experience in Japan below.

Why were you interested in teaching abroad, what made you pursue the experience?

"I was interested in teaching abroad for a number of reasons. I'd actually had a Japanese pen pal many years earlier when I was in grade school which piqued my interest in Japan. It seemed like it was so very different from anything to which I was accustomed and I was interested in learning more. I actually attended JET information sessions for 2 years before I actually applied.

After completing my B.Ed., however, my interest in Japan focused more on the educational system and how it compared to ours here in North America. It seemed like a natural fit to apply for the JET program at that time so that I could experience the classrooms there on a first hand basis. A nice bonus was that it allowed me to experience another part of the world while being paid."

Was your experience abroad memorable, and how? What did you learn that will transcend beyond the classroom?

“Yes, it was definitely a memorable experience. All these years later, not a week goes by where I'm not reminded in some way of my time in Japan. I think the biggest lesson I learned was that I was stronger and a lot more capable than I knew. I learned to adapt, try lots of new things, learn to do new things and think about problems and different solutions differently. I was touched by the many people who showed kindness to me whether it was a stranger pointing me to the right train track, or my students presenting me with little origami cranes (a few of which I still have) for luck. People just want to connect with each other, no matter where they are in the world.”

How is teaching abroad a unique experience as compared to other teaching opportunities, and would you recommend it to other students?

“Teaching abroad is unique in that there is, in my opinion, so much more that you can learn. It offers a hands-on practical experience in cross-cultural communication that isn't quite the same as when you're in your home country, regardless of how diverse it may be. It challenges you to question your way of doing and seeing things and therefore offers many more personal growth opportunities.”

Education & Training

The qualifications required by employers vary widely depending upon the demand and availability of teachers and work visa requirements in specific countries. In many countries, a bachelor's degree is required to be able to work legally, although not necessarily requiring that the degree be in education.

Alternately, some English teaching schools do not require a college degree as long as the teacher is a native speaker. Many competitive employers require a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certificate although some schools employ native English speakers without this. Any certification though will help develop skills and prepare individuals for the classroom experience and certificate programs often assist with job placement.

English teach abroad programs do not always require teaching experience but having some increases one's chances of getting hired. Having an education background and experience teaching English as a foreign language leads to limitless options. The US, UK, Australia and many other destinations have highly paid teaching jobs for qualified English speaking teachers.

Below are links to training information:

International House:

www.sol-group.net/teachertraining/tefl.php

Oxford Seminars:

<http://oxfordseminars.ca/tesol-tesl-tefl-certification.php>

TEFL International:

<http://www.teflcourse.net/?gclid=CPeljrDrxaICFYv75wodN39sGg>

Waldorf Teacher⁶

Waldorf education teachers are urged to engage in the educational process in the same three-dimensional manner as the children they will be teaching - *actively, emotionally, and thoughtfully*. The philosophy has them fully present in the classroom and in their preparation, searching for new insights and approaches and evolving throughout their teaching career. Since Waldorf teachers move from grade to grade with their students, teaching a new curriculum each year, they too receive an education, including an understanding of the natural world through subjects like astronomy, meteorology, botany, geology, and zoology. Waldorf education is taught at special schools across the world, accredited schools in North America being members of AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America).

Unique Skills: expressiveness, team-work, caring, passion

Information about Waldorf schools in Canada can be found at:
<http://www.waldorf.ca/index.cfm?PID=13287&PIDLIST=13287>
Further Information about Waldorf teaching can be found at:
<http://www.waldorfanswers.com/Waldorf.htm>
<http://www.whywaldorfworks.org/>

College/Vocational Teacher

College teachers may be required to have post secondary education and teacher education, but may be considered for a teaching position with an acceptable combination of education and experience in a subject area.

Teachers of Technological or Vocational Studies may not require a post secondary degree or B.Ed but must have a secondary school diploma and proof of competence in their field of specialization. Vocational teachers teach in Community Colleges, High Schools, Adult Education Programs, and Private Schools. With many employers looking for workers that can immediately apply studied knowledge in the workplace, and hands-on skills needed in addition to book knowledge, many workers are turning to vocational education for training in the technical aspects of many areas of work.

For further information:

Ontario College of Teachers

www.oct.ca/become_a_teacher/?lang=en-CA, under Teachers of Technological Studies

Other Teaching Options

Corporate Trainer⁷

Corporate trainers plan and present courses or seminars to all levels of an organization's staff and are employed by banks, governments, corporations, and professional training agencies. These educators are often self-employed, working on a contract basis with multiple clients.

Unique Skills: Listening, communication, adaptability, patience

Information about Corporate Trainers can be found in Career Cruising, accessed from a UofT Career Centre account.

Foreign Language Instructor⁸

Foreign language instructors teach languages that are spoken primarily in other countries. Individuals planning to travel to other countries or interested in other languages, or employees of companies that need to learn another language for their work are the typical students for these educators.

Like other teachers, these instructors prepare lesson plans, assignments and other materials, teach classes, run discussion groups, supervise classroom activities, evaluate assignments and mark exams. Since their students/clients are unfamiliar with the language, careful attention must be paid to ensuring that their instruction is clear. Foreign language instructors teach students from all age groups and backgrounds.

Unique Skills: patience, attention to detail, communication, passion

Information about Foreign Language Instructors can be found in Career Cruising, accessed from a UofT Career Centre account.

Educational Assistant⁹

The work of Educational assistants varies depending on the school they work in and the needs of the student and classroom teacher. This type of work is often provided in a one- on-one setting for students needing extra assistance with school activities and tasks.

Educational assistants may help students complete assignments, demonstrate activities, answer students' questions about a lesson given by the teacher, or provide clarification to students. Their work in the classroom is always done under the supervision of the classroom teacher.

Unique Skills: responsibility, assertiveness, patience

Information about Educational Assistants can be obtained from various institutions that offer training for this kind of work and from Boards of Education that hire individuals in this field.

Adult Educational Teacher¹⁰

Teachers of literacy and basic education skills instruct adults of all ages in reading, language (written and oral), and math - skills to help solve problems, hold a job, further their education, or get more out of life. Adult Education teachers typically work at Adult Education Centres associated with public school boards, community and learning centers, and sometimes corporate settings. The student is most likely an individual that did not, for one reason or another, finish public school.

Unique Skills: organization, communication, flexibility

Information about Adult Education Teachers can be found in the UTM Career Centre library (available to UofT students) and in Career Cruising, accessed from a UofT Career Centre account.

How The UTM Career Center Can Help

(Please note: Services noted below are for UofT students and alumni only)

Individual Career Counselling

If you are unsure about your career direction or how your personality and skills relate to your post graduate decisions, a career counseling appointment might be of help. You can discuss your concerns and gain helpful advice to start planning your future. Drop by the Career Centre (SE 3094) or call 905-828-5451 to book an appointment.

Workshops

Workshops can be very helpful in gaining information about questions you may have. Specifically related to Teaching, the UTM Career Centre holds a workshop called 'Is Teaching in Your Future?' Check the Events Calendar for upcoming dates.

Summer Job Fair and Get Experience Fair

The **Summer Job Fair** (held in January) brings representatives interested in hiring students for summer positions from dozens of organizations to UTM, allowing you to learn about a wide range of summer opportunities. The fair is a good opportunity to develop networking skills, and understand more about positions by asking representatives any questions you may have.

The **Get Experience Fair** (held in the early Fall) gives students the chance to learn more about opportunities where they can gain valuable experiences through: volunteerism, internships, the Work-Study program, international exchanges, research opportunities, leadership programs and more, offered by a variety of off and on-campus groups and community organizations. Check the UTM Career Centre website for current year fair dates.

Tip Sheets

Available for students in the UTM Career Centre, these resources cover many topics - Applying to Teaching, Post-Grad Programs, and many more. Come in and see the many Tip Sheets we have!

UofT Online Job Postings

From the UTM Career Centre website, any registered or recently graduated UofT student can create a Career Centre account from which numerous types of job postings – summer, part-time, volunteer – can be accessed.

Full-time postings are available for some students as well – some for students in their final year of studies and others for recent graduates. See the Events Calendar on the UTM Career Centre website for more information regarding the orientation session – Now That I'm Graduating What's Next? – regarding these postings and important information about looking for full-time work.

Alternatives to Teaching Panel Package

To explore careers that transcend beyond the typical teaching careers, but still involve a component of education, check out the Alternatives to Teaching package located in the Career Center library "Panel Packages" binder or online through the Career Center Website, under "Explore Careers" and "Resources and Links" <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/pdf/AlternativesToTeaching.pdf>

Career Centre library

Information on many teaching professions can be found in the Career Profiles section of the library.

Career Centre website

Visit <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/teaching.html> for information about teaching plus links to various resources and services related to this area

In Conclusion:

There are many types of teaching work – some requiring a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed), but many that do not. Knowing your interests and strengths, researching the various teaching options, talking to people working in the field and getting first-hand experiences are all critical steps in finding out which, if any, are best suited to an individual.

End Notes

¹ available at the Career Center website www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers

² "Montessori Teacher" online. Internet. 26 Feb 2010. Available: www.montessori.edu

³ "ESL Teacher" online. Internet 26 Feb. 2010. Available: www.careercruising.com

⁴ "Early Childhood Educator" online. Internet 26 Feb. 2010. Available: www.careercruising.com

⁵ "Teaching Abroad" online. Internet. 26 Feb.2010. Available: www.teachabroad.com

⁶ "Waldorf Teacher" online. Internet. 26 Feb. 2010. Available: www.careercruising.com

⁷ "Corporate Trainer" online. Internet. 26 Feb.2010. Available: www.careercruising.com

⁸ "Foreign Language Instructor" online. Internet. 26 Feb.2010. Available: www.careercruising.com

⁹ "Educational Assistant" online. Internet. 26 Feb.2010. Available: www.careercruising.com

¹⁰ "Adult Education Teacher" online. Internet. 26 Feb. 2010. Available: www.careercruising.com

**Career Cruising can only be accessed through a UofT Career Center account or with a Career Cruising login and password **