

Mystery Career Profile 1 – Teacher

My role

I work with groups of children and young people every day. I plan lessons, explain new ideas, assess progress and help learners achieve their goals. No two days are exactly the same, and I often adapt activities to suit different learners.

How I entered this profession

After school or college, I went to university and completed a degree. I then completed further training that allowed me to teach professionally in schools.

Qualifications or training I needed

- GCSEs, including English and maths
- A degree
- Teacher training leading to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

Skills that help me succeed

- Communication
- Organisation
- Patience
- Creativity
- Problem solving
- Leadership

What I enjoy about my role

I enjoy helping young people understand something for the first time and seeing their confidence grow.

The impact I have on young people and learning

I help young people gain knowledge, develop skills and prepare for the next stages of education, employment and life.

Mystery Career Profile 2 – Teaching assistant

My role

I support learners in classrooms, small groups or one-to-one sessions. I help explain activities, encourage participation and provide extra support when learners need it.

How I entered this profession

I started by gaining experience working with children and young people. Some people enter through college courses, apprenticeships or support roles in schools.

Qualifications or training I needed

- GCSEs, particularly English and maths
- A Level 2 or Level 3 qualification in supporting teaching and learning (helpful but not always essential)
- Safeguarding and school-based training

Skills that help me succeed

- Patience
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Empathy
- Adaptability
- Listening skills

What I enjoy about my role

I enjoy helping learners overcome challenges and seeing them become more independent.

The impact I have on young people and learning

I provide additional support that helps learners participate fully and achieve their potential.

Mystery Career Profile 3 – SEN Specialist

My role

I work with children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities. I help identify barriers to learning and support teachers to make learning more accessible and inclusive.

How I entered this profession

I first gained experience working in education. I then completed specialist training focused on supporting children and young people with additional needs.

Qualifications or training I needed

- Experience working in education
- Specialist SEND training
- Ongoing professional development
- Some people complete postgraduate qualifications

Skills that help me succeed

- Empathy
- Observation
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Collaboration
- Patience

What I enjoy about my role

I enjoy finding creative ways to help learners succeed and celebrating their progress.

The impact I have on young people and learning

I help ensure that all learners can access education and develop the confidence to reach their goals.

Mystery Career Profile 4 – Carrers Adviser

My role

I help young people explore their future options. I provide information about education, apprenticeships, college courses and careers. I also help people understand their strengths and interests.

How I entered this profession

I completed specialist careers guidance training after gaining qualifications and experience working with people.

Qualifications or training I needed

- GCSEs including English and maths
- Relevant further education qualifications
- A Level 6 qualification in Careers Guidance and Development or equivalent

Skills that help me succeed

- Communication
- Listening
- Coaching
- Research
- Organisation
- Relationship building

What I enjoy about my role

I enjoy helping people discover opportunities they hadn't considered before.

The impact I have on young people and learning

I help young people make informed decisions about education, training and future careers.

Mystery Career Profile 5 – Sports Coach

My role

I teach physical skills, techniques and teamwork. I plan activities, demonstrate new skills and motivate people to improve. I often work with groups of different ages and abilities.

How I entered this profession

I developed experience in a sport and then completed coaching qualifications. Many people start as volunteers before progressing into paid roles.

Qualifications or training I needed

- Sport-specific coaching qualifications
- First aid training
- Safeguarding training
- Ongoing coaching development

Skills that help me succeed

- Motivation
- Leadership
- Communication
- Observation
- Organisation
- Resilience

What I enjoy about my role

I enjoy helping people improve their skills, confidence and teamwork.

The impact I have on young people and learning

I help young people develop healthy habits, confidence, resilience and leadership skills.

Mystery Career Profile 6 - Laboratory technician

My role

I teach physical skills, techniques and teamwork. I plan activities, demonstrate new skills and motivate people to improve. I often work with groups of different ages and abilities.

How I entered this profession

I developed experience in a sport and then completed coaching qualifications. Many people start as volunteers before progressing into paid roles.

Qualifications or training I needed

- Sport-specific coaching qualifications
- First aid training
- Safeguarding training
- Ongoing coaching development

Skills that help me succeed

- Motivation
- Leadership
- Communication
- Observation
- Organisation
- Resilience

What I enjoy about my role

I enjoy helping people improve their skills, confidence and teamwork.

The impact I have on young people and learning

I help young people develop healthy habits, confidence, resilience and leadership skills.