

# R2S Career Factsheet: Higher Education Lecturer

*I often refer to being a University Lecturer as 'the greatest gig on earth'. The job is extremely rewarding and offers a real opportunity for you to affect change to policy and society in an area of interest. There is a lot of effort, dedication and patience required to get to this point. However, the rewards are vast, with the best being the opportunity to help adults create a future for themselves. To anyone wishing to pursue a career in academia my recommendation would be try and plan your career path early, and learn about higher educational practices by attending research seminars and conferences to get an understanding for the culture within the sector.*



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## Duties:

- planning and preparing lectures or seminars
- setting and marking assignments, tests and exams
- monitoring and assessing students' progress
- presenting research at national and international conferences
- keeping records and carrying out other administrative tasks
- going to meetings, professional development courses and workshops
- acting as personal tutor - supporting students and helping with problems
- engaging in scholarly activity, this involves writing papers for journals and writing books and chapters

## Skills:

- extensive knowledge of your subject and the ability to explain it at a level suitable for your students
- the ability to relate well to students and academics from varying backgrounds and cultures
- enthusiasm and the ability to motivate students
- the ability to express yourself clearly, both in speech and writing
- creativity, for devising interesting innovative teaching and learning materials
- good organisation and planning skills
- presence, patience and a sense of humour.

## You will need to have:

- A university degree (Undergraduate)
- A university Master's degree (Postgraduate)
- Postgraduate certificate in teaching and learning in Higher Education (HE)
- Doctorate in Philosophy (PhD) in any academic area (Postgraduate)

## What does a lecturer do?

A lecturer in Higher Education (HE) teaches adults over the age of 18 that are referred to as undergraduate students. They will also teach postgraduates, these are people that have normally completed an undergraduate degree. As a lecturer, you are also expected to write papers for journals and books.

## Who employs lecturers?

- Colleges
- Tertiary Colleges
- Sixth Form Colleges
- Independent Colleges
- Universities

## How much can you earn?

Fully qualified higher education (FE) lecturers can earn from £33,000 to £43,000 a year. Senior Lecturers can earn from £38,000 to £55,000.

Readers in Higher Education can earn anything from £45,000 to £65,000.

Professors can earn anything from £65,000 to £120,000.

HE lecturers working in London also get an additional London allowance.

## Career Development:

- Research Assistant
- Lecturer
- Senior Lecturer
- Readership
- Professorship

## Useful Resources:

Jobs.ac.uk  
TES (Times Educational Supplement)  
[//nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/highereducationlecturer.aspx](https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/highereducationlecturer.aspx)

## UK Providers of Degrees:

- There are over 100 higher education institutions in the UK, and you ordinarily you would apply through UCAS, whilst at college from around 16-17 years of age.