Industry Guide: Teaching

Introduction to Teaching
Teaching is a profession that requires a strong grasp of subject-area knowledge, fine-tuned communication skills, the ability to build relationships with students, and a substantial amount of persistence. The field of teaching is broad and opportunities to teach, including overseas experiences, are abundant. The best way to gauge whether this is the career for you is to get in front of a classroom and experience it for yourself whether through MIT programs or independent programs elsewhere.

Positions in Teaching
Dedication Required
The position titles in the field of teaching vary depending on the type of school you choose to teach at, the grade levels offered in the school, the subject area, the teaching model the school has adopted, and even the country the school resides in.

Courses and Programs Typical for Teaching
Teaching is open to all courses, though many of the MIT graduates who are now teaching come from the sciences. Additionally, MIT offers a teacher licensure program, the Scheller Teacher Education Program (STEP), which can be completed entirely at MIT or in conjunction with courses at Wellesley. This program is offered through the Department of Urban Studies and Planning and prepares students to teach science or mathematics to grades 5-12. For more information go to: http://education.mit.edu.

Major Employers
A Global Profession
MIT students have opportunities to teach anywhere in the world. Many schools welcome MIT graduates with deep subject area knowledge and fresh teaching ideas.

How to Gain Teaching Experience
MIT has several in-house programs to help you gain teaching experience. The MIT Educational Studies program has several teaching opportunities throughout the year and MISTI offers opportunities to teach abroad through their Global Teaching Labs. Other opportunities outside of MIT include Breakthrough Cambridge or Citizen Schools. This is not an exhaustive list of ways to gain teaching experience, but certainly a good place to start your search.

Research is Great Experience
Research Informs Teaching
UROPs and graduate research in education done at MIT can be helpful in enhancing your candidacy for a teaching position. Here are a few examples of the labs at MIT that focus on education and teaching.
The Job Search and Interview Process

Have a Sample Lesson Prepared
Most teaching positions open in late spring. However, openings often depend on when schools find out about staff departures, so be prepared to apply throughout the year. Make sure to attend education career fairs such as those hosted by MERC, Carney Sandoe, and Boston College. For interviews, prepare to discuss your philosophy of education and your experience with teaching the specific subject area and student population. Interview processes will often include teaching a short lesson and group interviews with school staff.

Salary Information
Teaching salaries vary widely depending on your geographic location and the type of school you are teaching in. Public school salaries are usually listed on the district’s website. Additional salary information by state can be found: http://www.nea.org/home/49809.htm

This salary information comes from the 2013 Graduating Student Survey. Average SB Education Salary $40,000 Average SM Education Salary $70,650

Additional Information
Licensure
State-level teacher licensure is required for public school teachers. Licensure is not required for private/independent school teachers.
Licensure Requirements by State: www.uky.edu/Education/TEP/usacert.html

Although licensing requirements differ among states, most states require:
1. A bachelor’s or master’s degree in the area you wish to teach and, depending on the state, completion of an accredited education program that fulfills student teaching and practicum requirements.
2. Demonstrated proficiency in a particular subject area via state exams.
3. Proof of literacy skills by passing the PRAXIS: http://www.ets.org/praxis or a state exam, such as the MTEL: http://www.mtel.nesinc.com in MA.

GECD Services

Drop-in Hours: Monday-Friday 11am-3pm

GECD Staff are available year round for appointments. To make an appointment, login to CareerBridge and select “Make Appointment” from the left side of the welcome page. You can also book by coming in to our office at E39-305 or by calling 617-715-5329

Check out our Calendar for Events and information on Employer Presentations!
http://gecd.mit.edu/calendar