Before starting this PowerPoint presentation ask students to read the list and mentally select those features of work that are important to them.

Discussion may be generated about student values, life goals and career ambitions and the importance of thoroughly researching potential careers.

Point out that teaching offers all of the above.

Teachers love the nature of their work. People from other industries often take up teaching because so many other jobs lack these rewarding qualities.

This list is the result of a survey of teachers and teacher education university students.

(Careers advisers may choose to ask the staff in your school why they chose teaching and the rewards of the profession for them).

Teaching is about sharing knowledge. It is about preparing young people with a well rounded education so they can excel and advance into the world beyond school.

Primary school teachers help children from Kindergarten to Year 6 develop learning, thinking and problem-solving skills across a wide variety of learning areas. They provide them with the foundation for lifelong learning.

Secondary school teachers train in a number of subjects. This is so that high school students can be provided with the highest level of specialist knowledge in the subjects they study. Teachers’ areas of specialisation are generally located in one or two key learning areas.

Many teachers in both primary and secondary schools use their special interests and talents to contribute to a wide range of school activities.

As the “baby boomer” generation retire in greater numbers opportunities for employment as a teacher will increase. Western and south western Sydney is experiencing population growth as families, businesses and young people relocate to these areas. Teaching in the country offers great lifestyle benefits and great financial incentives like rental subsidies and extra vacation.

Discuss the need for more maths and science teachers in particular. If students with a passion for maths and science are not keen on the typical lab or office jobs in these industries then teaching is a great alternative.
Permanent employment is also guaranteed for recipients of teacher education scholarships. Your first appointment will be for an initial period of two or three years depending on the location. After that you have the option to apply for positions that interest you or to stay where you are.

For non-coastal rural students and students in western and south western Sydney, teaching is a career that may allow you to work and live near family, home town and friends.

Many people choose the profession of teaching because it is so supportive of the pressures and responsibilities associated with lifestyle and family life.

The starting salary for teaching in NSW public schools is quite high in comparison with other university graduate starting salaries. Teachers who are appointed to isolated rural areas receive additional pay by way of allowances and other benefits like extra holiday time and reimbursement of vacation travel expenses.

NSW teachers are among the highest paid in Australia.

There are many future directions you can take if you qualify as a teacher. You can move between school based and non-school based positions, apply for an executive position such as head teacher or accept additional responsibilities within your school such as year adviser. The public education system in NSW is so large it can offer teachers many exciting opportunities for career advancement.

Teaching is a transportable career and New South Wales trained teachers are highly valued in many other states and countries. There are opportunities for teachers and students of teacher education programs to use their qualifications to help them work, study and travel overseas.

**Examples**

The Department's Deferred Salary Scheme allows teachers to take a year's paid leave to do anything they choose. Overseas work, study and travel are popular options.

The Department supports a local and overseas exchange program for teachers. Teachers can exchange positions on a temporary basis with other teachers from within Australia and overseas.

Some universities provide overseas exchange programs for students of teacher education. Interested students can negotiate with individual universities before beginning their degree program.
The profession of teaching develops skills that are transferable to other areas of the workforce. The profession of teaching prepares people with the confidence and flexibility to adapt to a world that is constantly changing. A few years of teaching provides a sound background for hundreds of different career pathways.

And if you leave public education, you’ll always be welcome to return.

The most common ways to qualify as a teacher are:

1. To enter through an undergraduate degree program. Known as Bachelor programs, they generally involve the word ‘teaching’ or ‘education’ in their title. They usually involve four years of training.

2. You can complete an end-on teaching qualification, such as a Graduate Diploma in Education (Dip Ed) in as little as one year, after you have completed a suitable degree.

3. Some university graduates choose to complete a two year postgraduate course in education (eg Master of Teaching). This will increase your starting salary as you will be classified as five year trained.

Point out that there are HSC requirements for entry into teacher education courses:

1. **Primary programs**
   
   **English** – Higher School Certificate minimum Band 4 in Standard English OR minimum Band 4 in English as a Second Language OR minimum Band 4 in Advanced English.

   **AND**

   **Mathematics** – Higher School Certificate minimum Band 4 in General Mathematics OR completion of Mathematics (2 Unit).

2. **Secondary programs**

   **English** – Higher School Certificate minimum Band 4 in Standard English OR minimum Band 4 in English as a Second Language OR minimum Band 4 in Advanced English.


For 2011, the NSW Department of Education and Training is offering 300 scholarships to support students wishing to enter teacher education programs at university.

Scholarships will provide support for students who wish to be employed as teachers in mathematics, science, English and in special education (K-12).
Scholars receive generous financial assistance worth $23,000 over four years including:

- a $5,000 training allowance for each year of full time study; and
- a $3,000 grant on appointment as a permanent teacher.

As a teacher, you will also be eligible for the HECS-HELP benefit from the Commonwealth Government worth up to $1,558.50 per annum following graduation.

Teaching students who are also scholarship recipients can concentrate on and enjoy their studies secure in the knowledge that there is a permanent job waiting for them.

Applicants accepting the offer will need to sign a Deed of Agreement committing them to a minimum three year appointment following the completion of their teacher education degree. Appointments will be in areas of staffing need including NSW non-coastal rural areas and the western and south western suburbs of Sydney. Applicants who break the terms of the Agreement will be required to repay their scholarship to the Department.

We need more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers are great role models for their students
- There are scholarship places specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students can apply for teaching scholarships in any secondary subject

If you are an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander, becoming a teacher is a great way to inspire the next generation and to give something back to your community.

The Department is committed to assisting Aboriginal students in becoming teachers. Of the 300 scholarships available, at least 80 will be available for Aboriginal students to train as primary teachers or as teachers of any secondary subject. Aboriginal scholarship recipients will be appointed to an agreed area in NSW. There is great support offered for Aboriginal students through Support Units in universities.

If you are interested in finding out more about the benefits and rewards of a teacher education scholarship, you can obtain an information package from the teach.NSW website at [www.teach.nsw.edu.au/scholarships](http://www.teach.nsw.edu.au/scholarships).

Applications close on 8 October 2010.

The teach.NSW website has a link to the NSW Institute of Teachers for a list of institutions offering approved teacher education courses. Information about teaching in each secondary subject area and in early childhood or primary education is available from the teach.NSW website.