

PCET PGCE ESOL FENTO

We fento trained fe teachers may have been the best trained FE teachers ever. I specialized in ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) which was something I was interested in at the time. I was paid £6,000 to take the PGCE course in 2002 which came in two qualifications, a cert Ed for non-graduates or a PGCE for graduates. I was very hopeful to gain a career after graduation as it was a new course in teaching and post graduate and included 120 hours of teaching practice at a college of further education. It was really difficult and traditionally people weren't normally that well qualified in the sector anyway but no one seemed that interested in it which upset me a lot.

They changed the ESOL teaching criteria at about the same time that I was studying and I was told that I wouldn't be fully qualified to teach ESOL which I was amazed at given the standards that were considered normal like the one month course called a CELTA which was always fine. I was forced to apologize for not being fully qualified when I started in my first teaching post because everyone assumed that I would be fully qualified when I was taken on (It later transpired that in hindsight I had been fully qualified after all but that was years after I had left that I found that out and the damage had been done)

No one has ever really been interested in my PCET PGCE qualification even to this day. I managed to get teaching work for a few years after graduation and then took a year out partly because I felt the cost of housing in London was so expensive and I was exhausted while just about paying the rent on a very modest studio flat, but I never found teaching work again in England, in fact, no one seemed to see any value in my degree or teaching qualification at all over and above the types of work on offer to people with no qualifications but there was simply nothing I could do about it despite how I felt. I still feel marginalised and let down as someone as qualified as I became

when I look at the education statistics of the population as a whole, I would have been qualified in the top 5% of the population at the time.

It's not that I want to moan and complain but I got exhausted in my mid-thirties and I didn't even have a car. I'm now fifty and try as I might things like cars and houses have remained out of my reach the whole time and it has never been fair given post graduate education which I remain proud of passing but have never managed to do anything with it.

This webpage has been an expression of my ability and feelings.
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