

# HOW TO BECOME A SWIMMING TEACHER

## Your Complete Career Guide

(Updated for STA's New One  
Level 2 Qualification)





# PASSIONATE ABOUT SWIMMING?

Becoming a swimming teacher is one of the most rewarding and meaningful careers you can choose. Whether you're looking for flexible working hours, a job that keeps you active, or the chance to make a genuine difference to people's lives, swimming teaching offers all of this—and more.

You'll enjoy the satisfaction of teaching a vital life skill, experience a strong sense of community, and unlock opportunities to work across leisure centres, private swim schools, and specialist aquatic settings across the world.

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# NEW TO THE INDUSTRY?

If you are brand new to swimming teaching, your journey begins with the **STA LEVEL 2 SWIMMING TEACHING QUALIFICATION** - the only qualification you now need to become a fully qualified swimming teacher with STA.

This qualification has been fully updated in line with **CIMSPA'S EMPLOYER-LED SWIMMING TEACHER PROFESSIONAL STANDARD** and provides everything you need to confidently teach across the full learn-to-swim pathway, including:

- Essential swimming skills
- All four strokes
- Water safety
- Survival and rescue skills
- Adapting lessons for different ages and abilities

With a strong emphasis on practical, work-ready teaching skills, you'll gain hands-on experience and leave ready to teach independently from day one.



**CIMSPA**<sup>®</sup>  
Endorsed

Professional  
Standards

# YOUR SWIMMING TEACHING CAREER

As a qualified swimming teacher, you can choose a career path that suits your lifestyle, ambitions, and passions.

## OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Working for a leisure centre or private swim school
- Delivering group lessons or 1:1 tuition
- Contracted hours or flexible self-employed teaching
- Setting up your own swim school in the future
- Becoming a tutor and training future teachers
- Working nationally or internationally

## TRAVEL WITH YOUR CAREER

Because STA qualifications are recognised globally, you can explore the world while doing a job you love—perfect for those who want adventure alongside a fulfilling profession.

# EARNING POTENTIAL

**Swimming teachers typically earn £8.00–£25.00 PER HOUR, depending on:**

- Location
- Experience
- Specialist skills
- Type of employer

**Newly qualified Level 2 teachers benefit from significantly higher earning potential compared to assistant-level positions in other frameworks.**

**You can also increase your opportunities and income by expanding into specialist areas such as:**

- Baby & Pre-School teaching
- Disability swimming
- Aquatic fitness
- Open water skills
- Lifeguarding
- Pool and spa plant management

**These can be added through further STA qualifications or CPDs delivered online or face-to-face.**



# STEP ONE

## ARE YOU SUITABLE?

GREAT SWIMMING TEACHERS COME FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE AN ELITE SWIMMER OR HAVE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE - JUST THE RIGHT ATTITUDE AND A PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS.

### KEY QUALITIES INCLUDE:

- ✓ A GENUINE INTEREST IN SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY
- ✓ CONFIDENCE LEADING AND COMMUNICATING WITH GROUPS
- ✓ ENTHUSIASM AND CREATIVITY
- ✓ PATIENCE AND EMPATHY
- ✓ GOOD ORGANISATION
- ✓ SOCIABILITY AND TEAMWORK
- ✓ BEING A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL

IF YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH PEOPLE AND WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, THIS COULD BE THE PERFECT CAREER FOR YOU.





# STEP TWO

## GAIN YOUR STA LEVEL 2 SWIMMING TEACHING QUALIFICATION

Your next step is enrolling onto an STA Level 2 Swimming Teacher course. This nationally regulated and internationally recognised qualification provides the vocational knowledge and hands-on experience required to teach independently.

Developed in line with CIMSPA's updated Professional Standard, the qualification covers:

- Lesson planning, delivery, and evaluation
  - Safe and inclusive teaching practices
  - Technique development for all strokes
- Progression across the learn-to-swim stages
  - Survival, rescue and water safety skills
  - Adapting lessons for a range of abilities

### FINDING A COURSE

With courses available nationwide-and blended learning options-you can easily find flexible training that fits around your schedule. Search for a course via STA's Course Finder.

[CLICK HERE](#)



# STEP THREE

## FIND EMPLOYMENT

**After qualifying, you are ready to begin your teaching career.**

### OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- Working at leisure centres and aquatic facilities
  - Joining private swim schools
  - Providing 1:1 or small group tuition
    - Becoming self-employed
  - Starting your own swim school business

STA's dedicated job platform, **Jobs in Leisure**, connects newly qualified teachers with vacancies across the UK and internationally.

**jobsinleisure.**  **org**



**Connecting People**

# STEP FOUR

## MAINTAIN YOUR SKILLS

Once qualified, you'll need to maintain your occupational competency through regular CPD and teaching practice.

### YOU CAN ACHIEVE THIS BY:

- Attending face-to-face CPD workshops
  - Completing online courses
  - Gaining practical teaching hours
- Expanding into specialist areas such as baby swimming or disability swimming





# CREATING YOUR CV

**Your CV is your first opportunity to impress potential employers.**

- **Keep it to a maximum of 2 pages**
- **Use a clear, professional layout**
- **Include sections such as:**
  - **Personal statement**
  - **Qualifications**
  - **Work experience**
  - **Skills**
  - **Interests**
  - **References**
- **Tailor your CV for each job**
- **Highlight any experience working with children, coaching, or customer service**

**A WELL-PRESENTED CV GIVES EMPLOYERS CONFIDENCE IN YOUR PROFESSIONALISM AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS.**

# STA SUPPORT AND BENEFITS

Once qualified – included is 12-months STA membership, which gives you:

## INSURANCE

- ✓ Public Liability Insurance (up to £10 million)
- ✓ Professional Indemnity Insurance (up to £1 million provided by Allianz)

## EXCLUSIVE MEMBER RESOURCES & BENEFITS

- ✓ A library of CPDs for ongoing development
  - ✓ Access to STA's digital resources
  - ✓ Discounts and partner offers
  - ✓ Industry updates and guidance
- ✓ Support from STA's UK-based membership and technical teams

**HAVE A QUESTION?**

CONTACT THE STA TEAM AT  
**INFO@STA.CO.UK.**



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