

FAQs for Teachers

Great! You're interested in being a Laneway Learning teacher. But what's teaching a class with us like? These FAQs should help you figure out if teaching with us is right for you.

What is Laneway Learning about?

At Laneway Learning we offer **cheap, fun classes in anything and everything** and there are three things that define what we try to do:

*Laneway Learning is **accessible**.* We like to offer one-off introductions to topics that are a great starting point for people who then want to go away and learn more, and those with a busy schedule. Our classes are also very affordable – cheaper than a ticket to the movies – and are therefore within the means of most people.

*Laneway Learning is about **community**.* Our teachers all come from the local community. Sometimes they are professional educators, but most of the time they are amateur enthusiasts or local small-business owners. We enjoy bringing together people from very different walks of life, and giving a platform to people who have a project or a passion that they want to share.

*Laneway Learning is **surprising**.* We want our classes to surprise people; the more unusual and interactive the better. We try to host lessons and workshops on topics that are rarely covered anywhere else, and to do it in an unusual setting. The cafes and bars we use as venues are as little like an office (or a classroom) as possible.

How do the classes work?

Our classes take place on weekday evenings in cafes and bars around the city. At present we host classes at The Bean Cafe.

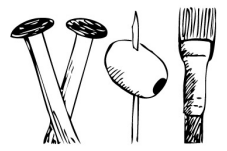
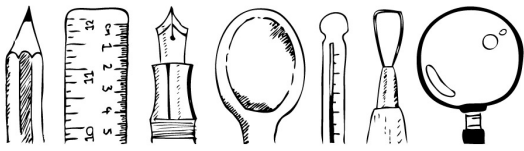
The classes are (almost always) one-offs and last for an hour and fifteen minutes. Of course 75 minutes isn't long enough to do any topic justice, but we find it is a good amount of time for an 'introduction' or 'overview' for most things.

On the night you can expect a great bunch of eager learners. We have a nice mix of first-timers and regular friendly faces, and everyone is always keen to get involved. Exact numbers depend on the class and the venue, but we tend to limit attendance to 20-25 people. We try to keep classes small and friendly enough to foster good discussion and a 'no question too stupid' atmosphere.

If you like, why don't you sign up for a class and see what they're all about for yourself?!

Who can teach?

Everyone can teach! Since we started we have had university lecturers, 18-year-old enthusiasts and national CEOs. It's much more important that you have a whole lot of love for your topic, rather than extensive teaching experience or a relevant degree. However if you haven't taught much before, tell us and we'll give you a bit more support. We have seen lots of classes now and are happy to give tips about what works well.



How much do classes cost?

\$12 plus materials. If you decide to teach, we'll need you to give a breakdown of how much the ingredients/equipment for your class will cost and we'll factor that into the price.

What's in it for the teachers?

We pay our teachers \$50 for each class they give, but no one really does it for the money.

Some teachers see Laneway Learning as a way to expand their own experience and knowledge (what better way to learn?), while for others it is a 'taster' to their own classes or services, or as a way of 'getting the word out there'. Either way, teaching at Laneway Learning is great fun! All our teachers are also invited to come to another class for free, anytime they like.

What preparation does a teacher need to do?

We try to take care of all the admin, so that our teachers can focus on preparing the class itself. We have all the standard equipment (projector, whiteboard etc.), will upload your class to our website, publicise it and administer bookings, cancellations and a waiting list. We'll also print out your handouts, help source materials and be there on the night to pitch in.

All we ask is that you put some care and attention into how you want your class to run, and that you write a short hand-out for attendees to take away (we'll send you a separate document on that). You may also need to source some materials for the class, but we can talk about that when we meet...

What's the first step?

The first step is a chat over coffee! This will give you a chance to ask any questions not covered above, and for us to find out a bit more about your idea. Before that happens, try to have a think about the following:

- What specific things do you want people to learn?
- How might you break the class into chunks to keep people interested?
- What activities could you include to make it really memorable?

You don't need to have all the answers, but it will help to have some food for thought.

After we meet, we'll then need you to write a short description of your class (a 'blurb'). This will give us the text we need for our website, but it will also help you plan exactly how you want the class to run. Our blurbs take a standard form and you can find plenty of examples online:

Title – *A short, catchy name for your class.*

What's it all about? – *The quick sell. Why should people be interested?*

What will we cover? – *A more detailed run-down of what the class will involve.*

Who will be teaching? – *A bio and a photo.*

When you have written a blurb we will be able to lock in a date and post your class on the site.

We look forward to meeting you!