

Information for new teachers

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

The Laneway Learning vibe

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 offer one-off introductions to topics. These introductions are a great starting point for people who want to go away and learn more, and are perfect for those time-poor folks 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. We also love collaborating with local businesses and organisations for running our classes, putting on special events and participating in festivals.

- **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, bars and unused spaces we use as venues are as little like an office (or a classroom) as possible.

Class format

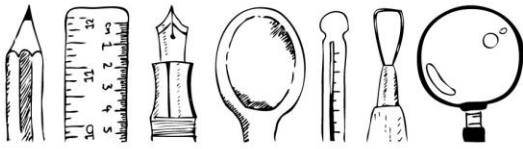
Our classes typically take place on weekday evenings in unused spaces (like cafes and bars) around town.

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.

Classes cost are very affordable. 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.

On the night you can expect up to 25 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 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?!



Class topics

We aim to cover a huge variety of topics and love having a bit of anything and everything, but there are a few things that aren't suitable for a class at Laneway Learning.

Our classes are purely for fun and the joy of learning something new, so with this in mind we don't organise classes related to:

- **Business**

We already spend enough of our time working so we stay away from topics that are too much like work or that are designed for 'skilling-up'. Let's relax and have fun!

- **Health and self-help**

Health and self-help are really important issues. But they also come with a lot of responsibility and so we prefer to be cautious.

- **Pseudoscience**

Pseudoscience covers beliefs or practices that are presented as scientific, but which are not researched or which are shown to be contradictory or exaggerated. Although Laneway Learning classes are for fun, we still want to make sure we're accurate!

- **Preaching**

Different religions and belief systems are really interesting and it's great to know more about our neighbours. However, we want to teach people the facts and let them make up their own minds, rather than preaching about our personal beliefs.

Who can teach?

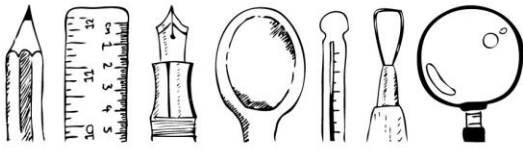
Anyone can teach! Since we started we have had university lecturers, 18-year-old enthusiasts and national CEOs. It's much more important that you have a whole lot of love for your topic, rather than extensive teaching experience or a relevant degree.

If you haven't taught much before, tell us and we'll give you all the support you need.

What's in it for the teachers?

We pay \$50 per class, 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?), whereas 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. Or, if you prefer, you can use your freebie to bring a friend along to your class.



What does a teacher need to do?

We make teaching fun and easy, so that you enjoy yourself as much as your students.

We have all the standard equipment (projector, whiteboard etc.), will upload your class to our website, publicise it and administer bookings. Plus we can print handouts and help source materials.

- **Step one: Idea**

Think about your class idea. Does it fit within the Laneway Learning vibe and class format?

- **Step two: Plan**

Think carefully about how you want your class to run and put together a bit of a plan for your class as a starting point. Have a think about:

- 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?

- **Step three: Materials**

Will your class require materials? Make a list of what you think you would need for a class of 24 people and the associated cost. This can be refined later.

- **Step four: Contact**

Contact via the 'Want to teach page?' on our website and we can arrange to chat about your class ideas over a coffee.

Make sure you tell your networks about your class too!

The next step

The next 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:

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. Easy as that!

We look forward to meeting you!