

INFORMATION FOR OVERSEAS TRAINED TEACHERS

THE ASSESSMENT ONLY ROUTE TO QTS

Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) is the accreditation that enables individuals to teach in state-maintained and special schools in England and Wales. All teachers who successfully complete their teaching qualification in England and Wales are awarded QTS.

Teachers who qualified outside England and Wales or in the Further Education/Post Compulsory education sector do not have QTS.

Some teachers are eligible for QTS and can simply apply online, in which case you will be contacted by Hourglass Education and encouraged to apply. If you are eligible you have up to 3 months from the day you first teach/taught in England to receive the accreditation.

If you are unsure, then please contact us: 0800 014 2688

If you are not eligible for QTS then you can still obtain the accreditation but this can only be done whilst in a teaching position in England or Wales. This is called the Assessment Only Route.

If you are an overseas trained teacher who will obtain QTS via the Assessment Only Route, then you have 4 years to obtain QTS from the day you first taught/teach in England.

The Assessment Only route is a new route which enables you to obtain QTS without completing teacher training. This route is specifically designed for teachers deemed “unqualified” but employed in schools and delivering lessons of a high standard. This route gives you the opportunity to demonstrate that your teaching already meets the standards for QTS in England without the need for further training.

Suitable candidates for the Assessment Only Route include:

- Overseas Trained Teachers
- Degree holders currently teaching in schools
- Further Education trained teachers
- Teachers teaching in the independent school sector

To be eligible for the Assessment Only Route you will need to meet the following criteria:

- Experience teaching two consecutive key stages (secondary candidates) in two different schools;
- Experience teaching two consecutive age ranges (primary candidates) in two different schools.

This experience can be paid or unpaid employment, UK or overseas based but must have included whole class planning, teaching, assessment, communication with parents and the use and evaluation of distinctive teaching approaches to engage and support all students.

There are universities throughout the UK who are providers of the Assessment Only programme. You need to find yourself a provider within a realistic proximity of your school. A directory of AO providers can be found via this link:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/training/assessment-only-secondary-section/ao-providers-list>

AO providers will make you aware of their entry criteria. It can vary from provider to provider but generally the entry criteria (in addition to the experience detailed above) includes:

- a degree qualification from a higher education institution in the UK or a comparable qualification from overseas. If you hold an overseas qualification which is comparable to a UK qualification lower than a degree, then an AO provider will be able to advise you on how you can uplift the credits of your qualification to degree level.

- a standard equivalent to a grade C at GCSE examination level in Maths and English. If you are a primary teacher then this also includes science.

To confirm that you meet the two criteria above, UK NARIC can provide the status of overseas qualifications and their comparable level in the UK <http://ecctis.co.uk/naric/default.aspx>

- That you have passed the professional skills tests in literacy and numeracy.

To obtain QTS applicants need to demonstrate that they can meet all the standards for Qualified Teacher Status. This is done by creating a portfolio of teaching and lesson observations.

If an applicant cannot meet the required standards for QTS, then a plan needs to be discussed and implemented and support needs to be put in to place to develop their practise to the required level within the maximum 12 week assessment period.

You can read about the professional standards of QTS via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-standards>

Before you apply for an Assessment Only programme it is essential that you have the support and commitment of your school. They will need to assign you a school based ITT mentor who will meet with you on a weekly basis and support you throughout the assessment. They will also help to address any areas for development.

Upon successful completion of an Assessment Only programme, you will be awarded QTS. You will receive a QTS certificate from the National College of Teaching and Leadership. This certificate also details your own personal Teacher Reference Number (TRN). It is important you advise your school and Hourglass of this TRN for their records.