



Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

Qualified Teacher Status is an accreditation made to teachers who meet standards to be able to teach in school confirming the individual has successfully completed an accredited programme of initial teacher training (ITT). This allows them to provide high-quality education in the subjects they specialise.

An individual would need to gain QTS within 4 years of teaching in an English school. If this is not obtained after 4 years, this person would be paid as an unqualified teacher. An extension is only possible if they have taken maternity, paternity, parental or adoption leave.

You must have QTS to teach in the following:

- Maintained primary school.
- Maintained secondary school.
- Maintained special school.
- Non-maintained special school.

To apply for the scheme, you must be:

- Qualified as a teacher overseas.
- Working as a teacher in a school.
- Put forward by a Recommending Body or Designated Recommending Body.

If you are qualified outside the European Economic Area (EEA), you will need:

- An overseas teaching qualification equivalent to a UK Bachelor's Degree.
- A Qualification equivalent to GCSE grade C in Maths and English.
- For Primary Teaching, if you were born on or after 01/09/79, you will need the equivalent of a GCSE grade C or above in Science.

Your Application:

- Your school can apply to the Teacher Training Agency (TTA) on your behalf or they can seek assistance from an experienced provider of employment-based training.

Before you are awarded QTS, you must complete a range of computerised skills tests in numeracy, literacy and information and communications technology (ICT).

The principal routes to QTS are:

- **Undergraduate training** through a three year first degree programme.
- **Postgraduate training** through successful completion of a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) which are typically one year in duration.
- School-based initial teacher training where training is undertaken in a school environment. Some school-based routes allow trainees to gain PGCEs, although this is not mandatory.
- Assessment-based routes aimed mostly at individuals without QTS but with significant teaching experience – i.e. those with overseas teaching qualifications.

How do I obtain QTS?

The quickest way is to undertake an employment based training programme, usually the Overseas Trained Teacher Programme, which allows you to work as a teacher and study for QTS simultaneously. It is sometimes possible to be awarded QTS without undertaking extra training by assessment only but the type and length of training depends on your qualifications and previous experience as a teacher.