

Requirements and Guidance

Assessment Only Route to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS): 2022/23

The Assessment Only route to QTS is for experienced graduate teachers with a minimum of two years teaching. It is not a teacher training route. It suits teachers who do not have QTS but have taught in at least two schools or colleges, including

- maintained schools as instructors
- further education
- international schools
- schools overseas
- independent schools or
- as overseas-trained teachers (OTTs)

Prior to starting the Assessment Only route, you must produce a commentary and portfolio of evidence demonstrating how you **already** meet the teachers' standards. This will be reviewed and during the 3-month training period, you will further supplement this portfolio of evidence to demonstrate that your teaching is consistently good and that you have met all of the teachers' standards. You must, therefore, be **currently engaged in a teaching role** in a UK school at the point of application or be able to secure your own placement in a suitable school setting for the duration of the assessment process.

You will be required to complete a skills test in numeracy during the course and provide evidence that your standard of literacy is adequate for your role.

Requirements

1. Selection and initial needs assessment requirements

Candidates must:

- be a graduate holding at least a bachelor's UK degree or an equivalent qualification. If your degree subject does not match the subject you wish to teach, you would need to demonstrate your subject knowledge via other means, e.g. considerable teaching experience at Key Stage 4, school references.
- have achieved a standard equivalent to a grade C / grade 4 in the GCSE examinations in English language and mathematics. Candidates being assessed in settings that include pupils aged 3-11 must additionally have achieved a standard equivalent to a grade C / grade 4 in the GCSE examination in a science subject.
- pass the numeracy skills test, taken during the assessment period.
- have passed the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and criminal records check.
- have considerable experience of teaching their subject in two or more settings and across two or more consecutive age ranges. This would include substantial experience of whole-class planning, teaching, assessment and reporting to parents. This experience must be sufficiently broad and sustained to have prepared candidates to meet all of the teachers' standards.
- have successfully been observed teaching by their current school.
- have the active support of a school willing to provide an appropriate assessed placement environment and mentor support.

2. Initial assessment requirements:

Candidates are initially assessed to confirm that they:

- have the intellectual and academic capacities needed to meet the required teachers' standards
- possess appropriate qualities, attitudes and values expected of a teacher
- can read effectively and be able to communicate clearly and accurately in standard English
- have met the Secretary of State's requirements for health and physical capacity to teach.

3. Assessment and experience requirements

Assessment of teaching requirement: the process of assessment includes the assessment of practical teaching in a school. A school is defined as:

- A maintained school
- A non-maintained specialist school
- A City Technology college
- An academy
- An independent school
- A free school
- A further education institution
- Sixth form college
- Other settings (this may include schools or other settings outside England) with the exception of pupil referral units.

Two school requirement: Candidates must have taught in at least two schools across a minimum of two consecutive age ranges prior to being assessed against QTS standards.

Independent school candidates' experience of state schools: Whether or not a candidate will need some experience in a state school will depend on the candidate's total teaching experience. Achieving QTS makes you eligible to work in the full range of schools, so having some experience in the state sector would be advisable.

Age range requirement: all candidates recommended for the award will have been assessed as meeting the QTS standards across two or more consecutive age ranges selected from the following:

Primary				Secondary		
Foundation Stage Ages 3-5	Years 1-2 Ages 5-7	Years 3-4 Ages 7-9	Years 5-6 Ages 9-11	Years 7-9 Ages 11-14	Years 10-11 Ages 14-16	Years 12-13 Ages 16-19
Middle						

Teachers in middle schools have to have experience of teaching all the NC subjects in the 9–11-year-old age group plus their specialist subject in the 11+ age group

School support for candidate requirement:

It is intended that support for candidates, once registered, will be provided by a suitably qualified and experienced mentor from their school. A partnership agreement between the university will be agreed, making clear the roles and responsibilities of all. Having the school's commitment to provide a school-based mentor is a condition of acceptance on the Assessment Only route. The school-based mentor must meet the candidate weekly to support portfolio development and to undertake lesson observations on a weekly basis. The mentor is also expected to support the candidate in addressing any professional development targets established when collating evidence, at interview or throughout the process.

Applying

A. Eligibility Checker

- Complete the eligibility checker. This should highlight any actions that you need to undertake prior to applying. Please contact AOQTS@sussex.ac.uk us if you need support with this.

B. Expression of interest. Initial Application

- Complete the Expression of Interest form and return this to mike.lambert@sussex.ac.uk. The course tutor will then contact you and, should you fulfil the requirements for the assessment only route, you will then be asked to complete the full application form or provide further details.

C. Formal Application

- The application should include as much detail as possible about your teaching experience (including paid employment and unpaid/voluntary roles) to allow us to judge your suitability for this route.
- You will need to provide evidence of how you meet selection criteria, together with details of a school willing to host the assessed placement.
- Two references are required: one from your current employer (e.g. Head Teacher). They will need to confirm within the reference that they are supportive of your application; that they will continue to support you whilst you undertake your studies; and that they commit to providing you with a suitable mentor. The second reference should be from the head of the school where you taught previously.
- A sponsoring school may also offer you financial support to enable you to undertake the route.

D. Initial Assessment Stage

Your application is judged against application criteria and, if these are met, you will be invited to prepare a portfolio of evidence demonstrating the degree to which QTS standards are met.

An interview will take place at your school where you will also be observed teaching at least one lesson. The interviewer will discuss your suitability for the Assessment Only route with both your proposed mentor and the school's professional tutor.

In the interview, you will be asked about your teaching experience. You will be required to produce original examination and degree certificates, plus photo ID (passport or a driving license). You must also present a portfolio of evidence showing how each teaching standard has been met to date.

If you are successful at interview, the fees of are £2750 become payable at this point. If, in the unlikely event that following submitting your eligibility documentation and completing the interview process, you are not yet ready to complete the Assessment Only Route to QTS, a fee of £500 will be payable. This amount will be discounted from a later successful application

E. Recommendation for Progression to the Assessed Phase with Development Targets

Initial assessment will normally lead to a recommendation that you are ready to progress to the Assessed Phase. This phase can last up to 3 months

The recommendation will include any appropriate professional development targets for you to address prior to and during the placement. If a significant gap in evidence against the QTS Standards is identified, you will be required to defer the assessed placement until you are able to provide further evidence.

F. Observation of teaching during the formal assessment phase

This period of assessed teaching practice, which can last up to 3 months, is undertaken in your current school. During this period, you will continue to add evidence to your portfolio and maintain a full file of evidence of planning, assessment and evaluation. Weekly lesson observations with feedback will also be required – this should be 10-12 lessons in total.

One or more lesson observations will be undertaken jointly with a university representative with suitable experience who is external to the school. They will provide feedback on the lesson, scrutinise documentation and discuss your progress with your in-school mentor.

G. Final Review and Recommendation for QTS

Final assessment is in three parts:

Firstly, two assessors from the school – normally your mentor and the professional tutor – will review your portfolio of evidence and verify that all standards have been met.

Secondly, the school will consider your professional practice against the teachers' standards and rate your performance accordingly. They will also provide formative comments to enable you to continue to develop your practice in the future.

Thirdly, assessors from the University of Sussex will review your evidence and then have a face-to-face structured discussion with you to discuss your evidence, understand your development and examine your professional knowledge.

Providing all the QTS standards are met to a satisfactory standard, you will be recommended for the award of QTS. You will then go on to become an Early Career Teacher (ECT)

Funding

A fee of £2750 is payable by you or your sponsor. This becomes payable after a successful interview. If unsuccessful at this stage, we will invoice you for £500 on account of the time spent up until this point. All invoices must be paid before QTS can be granted.

If you feel that you fulfil the essential requirements, please complete the Expression of Interest form at www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite/assessmentonly and submit it to mike.lambert@sussex.ac.uk. If you have any doubts or questions about the requirements, contact us and we will try to advise as to the best way forward.

Course Leader: Mike Lambert

Email: mike.lambert@sussex.ac.uk

Course Coordinator: Diane Carr

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Tel.: 01273 872870

Useful links

[Get into teaching](#)

[University of Sussex – Assessment Only Route](#)

[Teachers' Standards](#)