Requirements and Guidance

Assessment Only route to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS): 2019/20

The Assessment Only route to QTS is for very experienced graduate teachers*. 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, i.e.:

- maintained schools as instructors
- further education
- international schools delivering the English National Curriculum
- independent schools or
- as overseas-trained teachers (OTTs)

Applications are considered only from teachers whose school rates their teaching as good or outstanding.

During training, you will produce a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate that you have met all of the QTS standards. You must, therefore, be currently engaged in a teaching role 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.

Following successful application and selection, you will complete the assessment process in 12 weeks, meaning that you must be in a position whereby you are already meeting the majority of standards.

You will be required to complete skills tests in literary and numeracy prior to starting the course.

Notes:
*It is unlikely that a graduate teacher with less than two year’s experience will be eligible for this route; in many cases more experience might be required.

Requirements

1. Selection and initial needs assessment requirements

Candidates must:

- be graduates holding a UK first degree of 2:2 or above (or an equivalent qualification) (Secondary candidates must hold a degree containing at least 50% of the subject they wish to teach or considerable experience of teaching the subject in Key Stage 4)
- have achieved a standard equivalent to a grade C 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 in the GCSE examination in a science subject.
- have passed both the literacy and numeracy skills tests
• have been subject to and passed the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and criminal records check
• have completes a *Fitness to Work* assessment at their school
• have considerable experience of teaching the English national curriculum in two or more settings and across two or more consecutive age ranges #
• have already been observed teaching by their current school and been rated as either good or outstanding
• have the active support of a school willing to provide an appropriate assessed placement environment and mentor support.

# including substantial experience of whole-class planning, teaching, assessment and reporting to parents. Experiences must be sufficiently broad and sustained to have prepared candidates to meet the full QTS standards. See guidance at: [http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/teacher-training-options/assessment-only.aspx](http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/teacher-training-options/assessment-only.aspx)

2. **Initial assessment requirements:**

Candidates are initially assessed to confirm that they:
• have the intellectual and academic capacities needed to meet the required QTS 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
• A City Technology college for the Technology or the Arts
• An Academy
• An independent 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.
Age range requirement: all candidates recommended for the award have been assessed as meeting the QTS standards across two or more consecutive age ranges selected from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Stage</td>
<td>Years 1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 3-5</td>
<td>Years 3-6</td>
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<td>Ages 5-7</td>
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<td>Ages 7-11</td>
<td>Ages 10-11</td>
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<td>Ages 11-14</td>
<td>Ages 12-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 14-16</td>
<td>Ages 16-19</td>
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OR Middle school = ages 7-14
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 his or her school. 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 Assessed Practice. The mentor is also expected to support the candidate in addressing any professional development targets established through Initial Assessment and Assessed Practice.

Applying

A. Expression of Interest. Initial Application

- Complete the relevant Expression of Interest form. The course tutor will then contact you by email. You will then be asked to complete the full application form or provide further details. You might also receive an explanation as to why the Assessment Only route is not suitable for you.

B. 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). S/he 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.

We recommend that you apply as soon as possible as places are allocated on a ‘first-come-first-served’ basis.
C. 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 the head of department/ faculty head/year leader or equivalent and the school’s professional tutor or the senior member of staff in charge of NQTs/trainee teachers.

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.

D. 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.

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.

E. Observation of teaching prior to formal assessment

Normally a 12 week period of assessed teaching practice is undertaken in the “sponsoring” school. It cannot be more than 12 weeks. During this period, you will continue to add evidence to your portfolio and to maintain a full file of evidence of planning, assessment and evaluation. Lesson observations with feedback will also be required. 10-12 lesson observation graded against OFSTED criteria are required.

One or more lesson observations will be undertaken jointly with a suitable experienced professional who is external to the school. A member of the University partnership will observe you teaching, provide feedback on progress, scrutinise documentation and discuss your progress with your in-school mentor.

F. Final Review and Recommendation for QTS

Final assessment is in three parts:

Firstly, the school will review your portfolio of evidence and verify that all standards have been met.
Secondly, the school will consider your professional practice against OFSTED standards and rate your performance accordingly.
Thirdly, the University will review your evidence and then have a face to face structured discussion with you to discuss your evidence 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 complete a probationary year.
Funding

A fee of £2490 is payable by you or your sponsor. Payment is in three instalments:

- The sum of £550 is required as a payment at the start of the process.
- £1040 is required after the interview and before registration.
- A final sum of £900 must be paid before the Final Assessment.

If you feel that you fulfil the essential requirements, please compete the relevant Expression of Interest form at www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite/assessmentonly and submit it with all the necessary documents detailed at the end of the form. If you have any doubts or questions about the requirements, contact us and we will try to advise as to the best way forward.

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