Requirements and Guidance 2017/18
Assessment Only Route to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

This route to QTS is for very experienced graduate teachers*. It is not a teacher training route. The route will suit those teachers who do not have QTS but who have taught in at least two schools or colleges:
- maintained schools as instructors
- further education
- international schools delivering the English National Curriculum
- independent schools or
- as overseas-trained teachers (OTTs)

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

Candidates will produce a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate that they have met all of the QTS standards. Candidates will need to be currently engaged in a teaching role at the point of application or able to secure their own placement in a suitable school setting for the duration of the assessment process.

Following successful application and selection, candidates will be expected to complete the assessment process in 12 weeks. This means that candidates wishing to make an application should be in a position whereby they are already meeting the majority of standards.

Candidates 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 years’ 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, and that all who are assessed in settings that include pupils aged 3-11 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 curriculum in two or more settings and across two or more consecutive age ranges*
- have already been observed teaching by their current school and have 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.
Notes:
*Including substantial experience of whole-class planning, teaching, assessment and reporting to parents. Experiences must the sufficiently broad and sustained to have prepared candidates to meet the full QTS standards with guidance available at: 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 to 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 be dependent 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:

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<tr>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Stage</td>
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<td>Ages 3-5</td>
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<td>Years 1-2</td>
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<td>Ages 5-7</td>
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<td>Years 3-4</td>
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<td>Ages 7-9</td>
<td>Ages 14-16</td>
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<td>Years 5-6</td>
<td>Years 12-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 9-11</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 will be a condition of acceptance on the scheme. The school-based mentor will be expected to meet the candidate weekly to support portfolio development and to undertake lesson observations on the Assessed Practice. The mentor will also be expected to support the candidate in addressing any professional development targets established through the Initial Assessment and during the Assessed Practice.

Applying

A. Expression of interest - Initial Application

- Complete the expression of interest form. The course tutor will then contact you by email. She will then either ask you to complete the full application form, ask for further details or explain why this route is not suitable for you.

B. Formal Application

- The application should include as much detail as possible about your teaching experience (which can include 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.
- References: Two references needed. One from your current employer (e.g. Head Teacher). S/he will need to confirm in 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.

Please apply as soon as possible. Places will be allocated 'first come first served.'

C. Initial Assessment Stage

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

An interview will take place at the candidates’ school and the candidate will be observed teaching at least one lesson. The interviewer will discuss the candidate’s suitability with both the head of department/faculty head/year leader or equivalent as well as the school's professional tutor or the senior member of staff in charge of NQTs/trainee teachers.

Initial Assessment by interview. The candidate will be asked about their recent and past teaching experience. The candidate will be required to produce their original examination and degree certificates plus photo ID (passport or a driving license.) The candidate will have to present a portfolio of evidence showing how each standard currently is met.
D. Recommendation for Progression to the Assessed Phase with Development Targets;

The initial assessment will normally lead to a recommendation that the candidate is ready to progress to the Assessed Phase.

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

E. Observation of teaching prior to formal assessment

Normally a twelve week period of assessed teaching practice will be undertaken in the “sponsoring” school. It cannot be more than 12 weeks. Candidates will continue to add evidence to their portfolios and they will be required 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 the candidate teaching provide feedback on progress, scrutinise documentation and discuss the candidate’s progress with the school mentor.

F. Final Review and Recommendation for QTS

The final assessment will be in three parts:

Firstly the school will review the candidate’s portfolio of evidence and verify that all standards have been met.

Secondly the school will consider the candidates professional practice against OFSTED standards and rate the candidate accordingly.

Thirdly the university will review the candidate’s evidence and then have a face to face structured discussion to discuss the candidates’ evidence and to examine the candidate’s professional knowledge for school. This takes place at the candidate’s school.

Providing all the QTS standards are met to a satisfactory standard the candidate will be recommended for the award of QTS. The candidate then goes on to complete a probationary year.

Funding

A fee of £2490 is payable by the candidate or their sponsor. Payment will be in three instalments:
- the first payment of £550 at the start of the process
- £1040 after the interview, before registration.
- £900 before the final assessment.

If you feel that you fulfil the essential requirements you should compete the ‘Expression of Interest’ form and return it with all the requisite documentation detailed at the end of the form. If you have any doubts about the requirements, contact us and we will advise you of the best way forward.

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