Apply for QTS Q&A pack

Apply for QTS in England question and answer - for more information, visit this page: Overseas trained teachers: apply for qualified teacher status in England

1. **What is the Apply for QTS in England service?**

Some highly qualified overseas trained teachers can apply for professional recognition through our Apply for QTS in England service. Teachers must be able to demonstrate that they meet the robust criteria, to gain QTS.

2. **Who can apply for QTS in England?**

Teachers who qualified to teach in Wales hold QTS automatically and do not need to apply.

Teachers who qualified to teach in Gibraltar, Northern Ireland or Scotland, can apply for QTS if:

- They hold a teaching qualification that's equivalent to a UK level 6 or higher – if this is equivalent to level 6 but is not a bachelor's degree, they must also be able to provide evidence that they hold a separate bachelor's degree
- They are recognised as a teacher in the country they trained to teach in

Teachers can apply for QTS in England if they meet our robust requirements and have a teaching qualification from the countries and regions of:

- Australia
- Canada
- the European Economic Area (EEA)
- Guernsey
- Hong Kong
- Jersey
- New Zealand
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- the USA

Teachers who have a teaching qualification from the following countries and are working in a valid teaching role in England, can apply for QTS if they meet the requirements. The countries are:

- Ghana

- India
- Jamaica
- Nigeria
- Singapore
- South Africa

Teachers who qualified to teach in one of these countries and are not working in a valid teaching role in England, may still be able to apply for QTS.

However, they will need to give evidence that they have a subject specialism in mathematics, science or languages and are qualified to teach children who are aged anywhere between 11 and 16 years. They will also need to meet our other robust requirements.

Applicants can use our online eligibility checker to assess if their qualifications and experience meet our criteria.

3. What does a valid teaching role in England mean?

Teachers who have worked in the following roles and settings in England, during the last 12 months can apply, regardless of the qualification they trained to teach, providing they meet the other criteria:

- a teacher, supply teacher, cover supervisor or teaching assistant in a state school
- a teacher or supply teacher in an independent school
- a teacher, tutor or lecturer in an Ofsted registered Further Education and Skills setting (for example, a college)
- a lecturer or tutor in an English Higher Education provider registered with the Office for Students (for example, a university)
- a teacher in an Ofsted registered Early Years setting (for example, a nursery)

Applicants will be required to provide evidence of work experience in England, alongside evidence that they meet our eligibility criteria. This includes previous work experience overseas.

We will also prioritise their applications.

4. How long will it take to process applications?

Currently, we assess 90 per cent of applications within 12 months. (Information correct as of July 2025. Timelines are based on total applications completed since February 2023).

We aim to conclude prioritised applications faster, however, assessment time may also be impacted by factors outside of our control. For example, we rely on third parties such as referees and overseas regulators to verify information provided by applicants before assessors can reach a decision on applications.

5. What other routes are available to gain QTS for those teachers who aren't eligible?

Overseas trained teachers who don't have QTS can work in most roles in England that would otherwise require QTS, for up to four years.

There are other routes that overseas trained teachers can pursue to gain QTS, such as, Assessment Only and ITT. Those planning to apply for ITT will not be able to apply for funding support if they are now eligible to Apply for QTS.

6. What work experience do teachers need to provide to be considered for prioritisation?

To be considered for prioritisation, teachers must provide evidence of working in the following roles and settings in England, during the last 12 months:

- a teacher, supply teacher, cover supervisor or teaching assistant in a state school
- a teacher or a supply teacher in an independent school
- a teacher, tutor or lecturer in an Ofsted registered Further Education and Skills setting (for example, a college) a lecturer or tutor in an English Higher Education provider registered with the Office for Students (for example, a university)
- a teacher in an Ofsted registered Early Years setting (for example, a nursery)

It is crucial that teachers also provide further details of teaching work experience, in any country. To be eligible for recognition, teachers must provide at least 9 months of post qualification work experience, where they were:

- employed in a school that delivers mandatory education
- responsible for teaching children aged between 5 and 16 years
- unsupervised in the teaching role
- solely responsible for planning, preparing, and delivering lessons to at least 4 students at a time
- solely responsible for assessing and reporting on the progress of those students
- in continuous employment equivalent to one term (based on an institution that operates three terms in a school year).

It is important that teachers provide a full career history (both in England and overseas). Teachers who provide less than 9 months' evidence of teaching experience will not be eligible for QTS. Teachers who provide less than 2 school years' experience will be required to complete statutory induction.

7. Who can act as their referee?

Teachers will be required to provide details of a referee who trained assessors can contact to confirm their experience.
The referee should be a current senior member of staff at the school (for example, a headteacher/principal, an assistant/deputy head, head of department, or a school business manager).

8. Where should teachers go with questions about their applications?

Teachers who have made applications should contact professional.recognition@education.gov.uk