

The graduate teacher programme 2008/09

Information for candidates

What is QTS?

Qualified teacher status (QTS) is the basic requirement for qualification as a teacher in England. In order to achieve QTS, you need to show through practice and theoretical knowledge that you have achieved all the QTS standards (www.tda.gov.uk/standards).

What is the graduate teacher programme?

The graduate teacher programme (GTP) offers you a way to qualify as a teacher while you work. It is a full time programme of postgraduate training, which can last to up to a year. When you have found a job in a school as an unqualified teacher, you can follow an individualised training programme leading to QTS. Once you have QTS, you can work as a qualified teacher in any maintained school in England.

The programme suits mature people who want to change to a teaching career but need to continue earning while they train. The training is tailored to suit your individual needs.

Entry to the GTP is highly competitive, and places go to the best applicants in each of the Training and Development Agency for Schools' (TDA's) priority categories. For details of these categories, visit the GTP pages of the TDA website at www.tda.gov.uk/gtppriorities

Can I go on the programme?

To go on the programme, you must:

- find a school prepared to employ you as an unqualified teacher;
- be accepted by an employment-based initial teacher training provider (EBITT); and
- fulfil the Home Office's requirements for a work permit (applicable if you are not a national of the European Economic Area).

What qualifications do I need?

You need:

- a UK bachelor's degree or equivalent;
- GCSE grade C or above (or equivalent) in mathematics and English; and
- GCSE grade C or above (or equivalent) in science if you are applying for primary or KS2/3 teaching.

The TDA also offers the registered teacher programme (RTP) for people who have successfully completed two years of higher education or equivalent. For more information, see *The registered teacher programme: Information for candidates* (on the TDA website at www.tda.gov.uk/ebr).

Do my professional qualifications count?

If your qualification is equivalent to a degree, you may be eligible for the GTP. The equivalence will have to be verified by a higher education institution.

What if I have withdrawn from a previous initial teacher training (ITT) course?

Normally candidates who have failed or withdrawn from previous ITT programmes are ineligible for the GTP, but EBITTs may consider applications from candidates where there are exceptional circumstances. You would have to provide evidence of the circumstances when applying.

How long is the programme?

Normally one year. If you already have teaching experience, it may take less time. There is no minimum for the programme, but you need to allow enough time to meet the QTS standards and pass all three QTS skills tests.

What is an employment-based initial teacher training provider (EBITT)?

An EBITT is a provider of the employment based teacher training schemes that has been inspected by Ofsted and accredited by the TDA. All providers of employment-based initial teacher training schemes have been through the accreditation cycle. Most EBITTs are partnerships of bodies such as schools, local authorities and accredited ITT providers. They are given an annual allocation of GTP places by the TDA and take responsibility for designing and delivering your training programme. There are currently around 90 EBITTs in England. For contact details, see the TDA website at www.tda.gov.uk/ebr

How do I find a teaching post?

You could:

- check your local paper and the *The Times Educational Supplement* for vacancies;
- check the vacancy pages on local authorities' websites – they often advertise teacher vacancies;
- register with a teacher supply agency (advertisements in the press / on the internet); or
- contact an EBITT for advice on funding a post in a school (contact details can be found from the TDA website at www.tda.gov.uk/ebr).

What if I can't get a teaching job?

You may be able to train as a teacher by following a part time postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) course. For details, ring the teaching information line on 0845 6000 991.

I am teaching in an independent school. Can I go on the programme?

Unqualified teachers working in independent schools can go on the GTP. The TDA cannot provide funding for such applications so you would be classed as a self-funded application through an EBITT. However, the TDA will pay assessment costs.

Will I be paid?

The school will pay your salary at the rate for either a qualified or unqualified teacher, but the minimum is at point one of the unqualified teacher's pay scale.

The TDA may pay a grant of up to £14,200 (up to £17,800 for inner London) to the school towards the employment cases as well as a grant of up to £5,100 (up to £5,510 for inner London) to your training provider to cover the cost of your training. The TDA makes some places available with the £5,100 (£5,510) training grant only, where the school is able to cover the full cost of your salary.

Can I train while working as a teaching assistant?

If your school can place you in a teaching post instead, even part-time, you may be able to train through the GTP. Otherwise you could follow a part-time course at university or college while continuing your original job – contact the teaching information line to find out about options in your area.

How do I apply for the GTP?

EBITTs recruit candidates in their local area. They conduct interviews as part of their selection process, and you will need to give detailed information about your past experience and education. The EBITT will talk with you about what you can already do and what further training you would need to meet the standards for QTS. It will complete an initial training needs assessment where experienced teachers monitor, assess and record all your achievements. The EBITT may be able to help you find a post in a school. Competition for the GTP is strong and places are limited, so you cannot be guaranteed a place.

The quality of the school, the trainee and the training plan are important factors in assessing applications. Places are offered to the strongest candidates, schools and training programmes.

What goes into a training plan?

Your EBITT will discuss with you the training you need in order to achieve the standards for QTS. Each training activity will meet one or more of the QTS requirements. For example, your training plan could include guidance on classroom techniques; ways of preparing lessons; observing role models; discussing books and papers you have read; attending short courses or conferences; and practising your IT skills. You must also have experience in at least two schools to be awarded QTS.

How can I be sure of quality training?

Your EBITT and schools will provide the support and facilities you need. You will have the guidance of skilled and experienced colleagues and will be continuously assessed against the QTS standards throughout the programme. You will be expected to keep a portfolio of evidence of your achievements, which will include examples of pupils' work. In some cases, in the final stages of the programme an assessor will observe you at work, inspect your portfolio and talk to you and your supervisors.

What happens at the end of training?

If the assessor is satisfied, your EBITT can then recommend you to the General Teaching Council for England (GTC) for QTS. To qualify for QTS, you also have to pass computerised skills tests in literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT). Like any other newly qualified teacher, you will be given a career entry and development profile (CEDP), which will help your school plan your induction training.

Are you an overseas trained teacher?

If you are a qualified teacher trained overseas and would like to teach in England, contact the overseas trained teacher (OTT) helpline (0845 6000 991).

Where can I find out more?

For more information contact:

Teaching Information Line

Training and Development Agency for Schools

tel: 0845 6000 991

email: teaching@tdainfo.co.uk

website: www.tda.gov.uk

For further information on teaching in England or visit the TDA recruitment website (www.teach.gov.uk).

What is the next step?

Contact an EBITT or find a school willing to employ you while you train on the GTP. Visit the TDA website to find details of EBITTs that can give you advice (www.tda.gov.uk/ebr) or contact the teaching information line (0845 6000 991) for information on other flexible routes to QTS, such as a part-time or modular PGCE course, or visit the TDA recruitment website (www.teach.gov.uk).

The TDA is committed to providing accessible information. To request this item in another language or format, contact TDA corporate communications at the address below or e-mail: corporatecomms@tda.gov.uk Please tell us what you require and we will consider with you how to meet your needs.

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