



Teaching
Agency

Assessment Only (AO) criteria

Approval

In order to offer the Assessment Only (AO) route to qualified teacher status (QTS), an accredited initial teacher training (ITT) provider's provision must be of least good quality¹.

The Teaching Agency (TA) will consider permanent or temporary suspension of a provider's approval to offer the AO route where:

1. ITT provision is subsequently deemed to be of 'requires improvement' or lower quality¹,
2. the provider is subject to withdrawal of accreditation procedures,
3. the provider acts unreasonably in offering places and pre-entry support, or
4. AO provision does not comply with the following AO criteria.

¹ As determined by Ofsted inspection grade criteria.

1. Entry criteria

All AO providers must ensure all of the following, prior to acceptance onto the route:

- A1.1 That all entrants have achieved a standard equivalent to a grade C in the GCSE examinations in English and mathematics, and that all those who intend to train to teach pupils aged 3-11 additionally have achieved a standard equivalent to a grade C in the GCSE examination in a science subject.
- A1.2 That all candidates hold a first degree of a United Kingdom higher education institution or equivalent qualification².
- A1.3 That all candidates, as part of the provider's selection procedures, have taken part in a rigorous selection process designed to assess their:
- a) suitability to teach, and
 - b) ability to demonstrate meeting all the standards for QTS without the need for any further training.
- A1.4 That all candidates have passed the professional skills tests prior to entry.
- A1.5 That all candidates have taught in at least two schools³, early years and/or further education settings.

² A first degree comprises 300 HE credit points of which 60 must be at level 6 of the QCF.

³ Section 4 of the Education Act 1996 defines a school as: "an educational institution which is outside the further education sector and the higher education sector and is an institution for providing (a) primary education, (b) secondary education or (c) both primary and secondary education".

2. Assessment criteria

All AO providers must ensure all of the following:

A2.1 The content, structure, delivery and assessment of AO provision are designed to:

- a) enable candidates to demonstrate meeting all the standards for QTS across the age range of assessment, and
- b) ensure that no candidate is recommended for the award of QTS unless they have demonstrated meeting all of the standards for QTS.

A2.2 All candidates recommended for the award have been assessed as meeting the standards for QTS across two or more consecutive age ranges selected from the following:

Ages 3-5	(Foundation stage)
Ages 5-7	(School years 1-2)
Ages 7-9	(School years 3-4)
Ages 9-11	(School years 5-6)
Ages 11-14	(School years 7-9)
Ages 14-16	(School years 10-11)
Ages 16-19	(School years 12-13)

A2.3 That the process of assessment:

- a) includes the assessment of practical teaching in a school⁴, and
- b) typically does not last longer than three months.

⁴ Or early years or further education setting.

3. Management and quality assurance criteria

All AO providers must ensure all of the following:

- A3.1 That their management structure ensures the effective operation of the AO provision.
- A3.2 That partners establish an agreement setting out the roles and responsibilities of each partner in working together to assess candidates against the standards for QTS.
- A3.3 That they comply with all current legislation relevant to AO.
- A3.4 That rigorous moderation procedures are in place to assure the reliability, accuracy and consistency of assessments of candidates against the standards for QTS.
- A3.5 That they monitor, evaluate and moderate all aspects of provision rigorously and demonstrate how these contribute to securing improvements in the quality of the assessment of candidates.



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