



Department
for Education

Guidance

Teach in England if you qualified outside the UK

Updated 13 July 2021

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Before you start

You may want to refer to the Department for Education's [Get into teaching](#) website which contains general information on life as a teacher in England, including details about [salaries and benefits](#).

What you'll need to work as a teacher in England if you qualified outside the UK

You will need:

- the correct visa or status
- teaching skills and experience you can demonstrate to an employer
- to pass criminal and professional safeguarding checks (these will be organised by your employer)

The correct visa or status could be one of the following:

- a job offer allowing you to apply for a skilled worker visa
- eligibility for another type of visa

- a pre-existing right to work in the UK, such as settled or pre-settled status under the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) or [indefinite leave to remain in the UK](#)

Irish citizens [do not need a visa to work or live in the UK](#).

It is also very helpful to have:

- a teaching qualification (this can be from your own or another non-UK country)
- English 'qualified teacher status' (QTS)

Qualified teacher status (QTS)

International qualified teachers are allowed to work as a teacher in England for up to 4 years without QTS. [Learn more about the '4 year rule'](#).

In some schools in England, QTS is not a legal requirement:

- within the English state school sector, [academy schools](#) and [free schools](#) can employ teachers without QTS
- outside the English state school sector, [private schools](#) or independent schools can employ teachers without QTS

However, in many schools funded by the UK government in England known as [state schools](#), teachers must have 'qualified teacher status' (QTS). Even where QTS is not a legal requirement, the majority of English schools use it to assess the quality of candidates for teaching jobs.

[Apply for QTS if you trained outside the UK](#).

Visas and immigration

This section explains the visas and immigration routes you may be able to use to work in England.

Check whether you can still apply to the EU Settlement Scheme

If you are from the [European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#) or Switzerland, you might be able to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and studying in the UK without applying for a visa.

The deadline for most people to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme was 30 June

2021.

If you or your family are from the EEA or Switzerland, you can still apply if you or a family member were living in the UK by 31 December 2020.

You must also either:

- meet one of the criteria for a later deadline to apply
- have 'reasonable grounds' for not applying by 30 June 2021

More information is available about the eligibility criteria for [later applications to the EU Settlement Scheme](#).

You can also apply to the EU Settlement Scheme if you [already have pre-settled status and are applying for settled status](#).

Apply for a skilled worker visa

The main visa route for non-UK teachers in England is the skilled worker visa.

To apply for a skilled worker visa, you will first need to search for a teaching job in England. You can use the UK government's [Teaching vacancies service](#) to search for available teaching roles.

Before you apply for a teaching job, you will need to find out whether the school is a Home Office licensed employer sponsor. Sometimes it will be the [local authority or academy trust](#) that holds the sponsor licence instead of the individual school. You could check the Home Office's [Register of licensed sponsors: workers](#) but you should also check directly with the school. Sponsors can help you apply for your visa, and schools can apply to be employer sponsors in order to employ you.

You'll be able to apply for your skilled worker visa if:

- you have a job offer from a school that is a licensed Home Office employer sponsor
- [you can speak, read, write, and understand English](#)
- your salary meets the requirements for a skilled worker visa

Salary requirement for a skilled worker visa

The salary threshold you must meet depends on your qualification status and region.

This table shows the minimum salary non-UK teachers must earn to be eligible for a skilled worker visa, by region and status (QTS and non-QTS).

Inner London Outer London London fringe Rest of England

QTS	£32,157	£29,915	£26,948	£25,714
Non-QTS	£22,849	£21,582	£20,480	£20,480

These thresholds match the minimum salaries on the national teachers' pay ranges, except for the non-QTS rates in the London fringe and the rest of England, where the threshold is the minimum for a skilled worker visa.

Working part time as a teacher

You can work part time, but your salary must meet the threshold for a skilled worker visa. There are 2 requirements:

- your part-time salary must be at least £20,480
- the full-time equivalent of your salary must meet the minimum set for your region and status (QTS or non-QTS)

Schools have some flexibility in how they set salaries. You may be able to negotiate a different rate of pay if the salary on offer does not meet the skilled worker visa requirements.

The salary requirements for a skilled worker visa apply whatever type of school you work in (funded by the UK government or in the private sector).

[Apply for a skilled worker visa.](#)

Work as a teacher in England without a skilled worker visa

This section explains the other visa and immigration routes you may be able to use to work as a teacher in England.

Graduate visa

If you are already an international student in the UK, you can apply for a [graduate visa](#) on successful completion of your degree. To apply, you will need to have been sponsored by a Home Office licensed student sponsor over the course of your studies.

The graduate visa will allow you to work, or look for work, in the UK for up to 2 years after completing your studies (3 years for PhD students) without a sponsor. This includes working as a teacher.

You will be able to switch from a graduate visa to another visa (such as the [skilled worker visa](#)) without having to leave the UK if you meet the requirements for the other visa.

The Youth Mobility Scheme visa

The [Youth Mobility Scheme](#) allows young people from certain countries to come to the UK each year to study or work without a sponsor. This includes working as a teacher.

A Youth Mobility Scheme visa lasts up to 2 years. You may be able to switch from a Youth Mobility Scheme visa to another visa route (for example the [skilled worker visa](#)) without having to leave the UK. You'll need to meet the requirements for the other visa route.

Other visas

Depending on your personal circumstances, you may be able to work in the UK on alternative visas – for example, a [Family visa](#), a [UK Ancestry visa](#) or, if you are from Hong Kong, a [British National \(Overseas\) visa](#).

You can also [check if you need a UK visa](#).

International travel during coronavirus (COVID-19)

Global travel, including to the UK, may be affected by coronavirus (COVID-19). If you are a non-UK national, you should check your country's advice as well as UK advice to keep up to date with [travel restrictions and self-isolation requirements on arrival in the UK](#). The UK government has also published guidance about [what to do if you need a visa to travel to the UK](#) and there is a Covid Immigration Helpline which can be emailed at CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Further information is available for those affected by [changes to UK immigration and borders due to coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Early career teacher (ECT) induction for teachers in England

Teachers who successfully gain qualified teacher status (QTS) through the [assessment only](#) or [English teacher training routes](#) will be able to apply for paid teaching jobs in all schools in England.

Many schools will also require you to complete an early career teacher (ECT) 2-year induction period, when you'll work and be assessed as a paid teacher in a school. This induction period is part of the UK government's [early career framework](#) for teachers. You'll be expected to show you meet the [teachers' standards](#) and you'll also get training and support from a mentor.

ECT exemptions

In some circumstances, depending on your teaching experience, you may be exempt from some or all of ECT induction.

You will not have to undergo ECT induction if you are applying to the Teaching Regulation Agency for a fast-track QTS and you are a teacher who qualified in:

- the [European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#)
- Australia
- Canada
- New Zealand
- the USA

Help for maths, physics and modern foreign languages teachers

You can [get personalised support](#) from a trained Department for Education advisor to help you apply for jobs in England.

Contact

Email international.teacherrecruitment@education.gov.uk. We aim to respond within 5 working days.

Further information

These webpages give an overview of English standards for teachers, curriculum, discipline and school inspections, as well as teaching information and resources.

- [Get into teaching](#)
- [Curriculum and qualifications](#)
- [Behaviour and discipline in schools](#)
- [Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills \(Ofsted\)](#)
- [The Education Endowment Foundation](#) – a charity gathering international evidence on teaching 5- to 16-year-olds
- [Times Educational Supplement \(TES\)](#) – information and resources for teachers

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support](#)

Brexit

[Check what you need to do](#)

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