

Guidance

Contracted Ofsted inspectors for schools and further education and skills

Find out if you have the qualifications and experience to contract as an Ofsted inspector for schools or further education and skills.

From: [Ofsted](#)

Published 19 January 2022

Applies to England

Contents

- [Who can be a contracted Ofsted inspector](#)
- [Qualifications and experience required](#)
- [Skills and competencies required](#)
- [Register your interest](#)

 [Print this page](#)

Related content

Collection

[Contracting as an Ofsted inspector](#)

COVID-19 vaccinations

[Book your coronavirus vaccination and booster dose on the NHS website](#)

If you have the necessary qualifications and experience, you might be able to contract with us as an Ofsted inspector, either as a lead or team inspector. You would then take part in inspections across England of:

- schools, including maintained schools, initial teacher education

- providers and independent schools
- further education and skills providers

Ofsted can enter such contracts under [schedule 12, paragraph 11 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006](#).

We also have a permanent employed inspector workforce of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMIs). There is [separate guidance if you want to become an HMI](#).

Who can be a contracted Ofsted inspector

You can be a contracted inspector if you are either:

- a [serving practitioner](#)
- a [non-serving practitioner](#)

You must not have been previously barred from being a proprietor or head teacher of a school under [section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008](#).

We must also be satisfied that you are not connected with any inspection judgements or circumstances which may undermine your track record as an effective leader or credibility as an inspector.

Serving practitioners

You will be working in a provision which is inspected or regulated by Ofsted. That provision should have been rated as 'good' or better at the most recent inspection.

We will also consider talented leaders currently working in a provision that is less than good. In such cases there would need to be clear evidence of you having both:

- effected sustained, measurable improvement at your current provision
- previous experience of leading a good or better provision

Non-serving practitioners

You will be able to demonstrate up-to-date knowledge, practice and expertise in your sector.

You will not currently be working at a provision inspected or regulated by Ofsted. If you have previously worked at one or more, the last one you worked at should have been rated as 'good' or better at the most recent inspection.

Qualifications and experience required

Your qualifications

You will need both of the following:

- to hold [qualified teacher status](#) (known as 'QTS') or a recognised teaching qualification
- to be educated to degree-level qualification or [equivalent level 6](#)

If you want to inspect further education and skills providers, you must have up-to-date occupational competency. You must also have up-to-date knowledge of the types of provision, including:

- 16 to 19 study programmes
- apprenticeships
- community learning

Your experience

In addition to the qualifications above, you will need:

- a minimum of 5 years' successful teaching experience within the relevant remit
- a further minimum of 2 years' successful and substantial management experience in the relevant area
- up-to-date knowledge and practice in the sector
- experience gained from more than one institution

Skills and competencies required

You must be able to:

- use evidence to form hypotheses and questions
- identify priorities
- use evidence and your knowledge to evaluate options and arrive at well-reasoned decisions
- weigh complex and conflicting evidence to reach robust judgements
- produce clear written records and reports expressing your judgements cogently and precisely in writing

Register your interest

If you believe you meet the above requirements, you can [register your interest to contract as an Ofsted inspector](#).

 [Print this page](#)

Explore the topic

[Inspection of further education and skills providers](#)

[Inspection of maintained schools and academies](#)

Is this page useful?

Yes

No

[Report a problem with this page](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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

Services and information

[Benefits](#)

[Births, deaths, marriages and care](#)

[Business and self-employed](#)

[Childcare and parenting](#)

[Citizenship and living in the UK](#)

[Crime, justice and the law](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Employing people](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

Brexit

[Check what you need to do](#)

Departments and policy

[How government works](#)

[Departments](#)

[Worldwide](#)

[Services](#)

[Guidance and regulation](#)

[News and communications](#)

[Research and statistics](#)

[Policy papers and consultations](#)

[Transparency and freedom of information releases](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

[Help](#) [Privacy](#) [Cookies](#) [Accessibility statement](#) [Contact](#) [Terms and conditions](#)

[Rhestr o Wasanaethau Cymraeg](#) [Government Digital Service](#)

OGI All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated



© Crown copyright