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Policy paper

# Introducing the international qualified teacher status (iQTS) pilot

Published 15 November 2021

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## Introduction to international qualified teacher status (iQTS)

In February 2021, the government launched a public consultation which introduced proposals for a new international teaching qualification called international qualified teacher status (iQTS). iQTS was announced as part of the [International Education Strategy 2021 Update](#) to help export excellence in teacher training.

In August 2021, the [government response](#) was published announcing the intention to launch iQTS with a pilot in 2022. This document sets out the policy framework and the government's plans for delivering iQTS.

## Aims of iQTS

iQTS is a new, UK government-backed international teaching qualification which will be recognised by the Department for Education (DfE) (via an amendment to regulations) as equivalent to English qualified teacher status (QTS). It will be delivered by accredited English ITT providers to trainees all over the world.

The aims of iQTS are to:

- provide opportunities for accredited English ITT providers to expand into the growing international teacher training market
- make high quality training accessible around the world, allow trainees to benefit from evidence-based ITT and allow schools to develop local talent
- increase the global pool of quality teachers and support global mobility within the teaching profession

iQTS is built on evidence-based English methods and standards of teacher training with contextualisation for the wide variety of settings trainees may be in.

## Providers offering iQTS

To be eligible providers must be:

- approved by DfE to offer iQTS
- already accredited to deliver ITT leading to QTS in England

Interested providers can [apply to join DfE's international qualified teacher status \(iQTS\) pilot](#) for the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

While all accredited ITT providers will be eligible to apply for approval to offer iQTS once we reach wider roll-out, a maximum of 5 providers will be appointed for the pilot year.

## iQTS pilot year

Pilot courses will begin in September 2022. Approved pilot providers will begin recruiting candidates in early 2022. There are limited spaces available for the pilot.

Information about how to apply for candidates interested in iQTS will be provided following the appointment of pilot providers.

## Delivering the training

Candidates will complete the iQTS training programme without needing to visit the UK. Training will be delivered in English and consist of a year of study alongside teaching practice in schools, including:

- tuition from the iQTS English teacher training provider, delivered largely using

- remote working technology
- face-to-face mentoring at the candidate's placement school
- regular feedback and rigorous assessment

## Funding and fees

No DfE funding is available for participation in the pilot or longer term provision of the iQTS qualification.

Trainee fees for iQTS will be decided by individual training providers.

## Who iQTS is for

iQTS is suitable for candidates living outside the UK, including:

- UK citizens currently working abroad who wish to start teacher training or develop their teaching career
- non-UK citizens who wish to begin teacher training or build on existing teaching experience
- UK and non-UK teachers without QTS who wish to improve their employability in England and internationally with a UK government-backed and approved professional qualification

To apply for iQTS you will need to have:

- a bachelor's degree, or equivalent, from a UK or non-UK university
- achieved a standard equivalent to grade 4 in GCSE mathematics
- for teaching children aged 3 to 11 (equivalent to English primary school), achieved a standard equivalent to grade 4 in a GCSE science (biology, chemistry or physics) subject
- demonstrated proficiency in the English language (you'll need an IELTS score of 6.5 or higher, the equivalent score in another English language testing system, or to have completed some of your education in English, for example, a degree studied in English)

## Course content

The government has created a framework for iQTS built on the core elements of initial teacher training in England. iQTS providers are expected to design and develop their programmes around this framework.

This includes:

- ensuring programmes are designed to allow trainees to meet the [iQTS Teachers' Standards](#)
- ensuring curricula encompass the full entitlement as described in the [iQTS Core Content Framework](#), are appropriate for the subject, phase and age range, and are contextualised for the local environment in which trainees are teaching
- meeting all of the requirements in the [iQTS criteria](#) for providers

Providers who wish to offer iQTS will:

- run their own application process,
- set course fees
- award the qualification at the end of the course provided all of the [iQTS Teachers' Standards](#) have been met

The pilot year will be used to test, learn from and iterate the framework to ensure the success of the wider roll-out of iQTS in 2023.

## Gaining English QTS

iQTS will be recognised as equivalent to QTS by DfE, subject to the will of Parliament, via an amendment to regulations. This means that iQTS holders will be able to apply to gain QTS in order to teach in England. Those who have successfully completed the iQTS qualification will be eligible to apply for the professional status of QTS through DfE's system for recognising overseas school teachers for QTS.

Once awarded iQTS by their provider, if a candidate wishes to gain QTS they will apply to the DfE alongside other teachers who are already eligible for QTS on the basis of having an overseas qualification.

If the iQTS holder then wishes to teach in a maintained school or non-maintained special school in England, they will need to complete an induction period in order to work in a relevant school<sup>[[footnote 1](#)]</sup>. They will be able to complete their induction either in a DfE-accredited British School Overseas (BSO) or in a relevant school in England<sup>[[footnote 2](#)]</sup>. During their induction, they will be assessed against English Teachers' Standards.

## Quality assurance

iQTS will be underpinned by strong quality assurance mechanisms to ensure all

trainees receive a high quality experience and maintain standards.

These include:

- delivery of iQTS programmes by accredited English ITT providers only
- DfE monitoring and evaluation of iQTS providers in their first year of offering iQTS
- regular inspection of iQTS providers after their first year by DfE-approved iQTS inspectorates
- robust internal and external moderation by providers to assess whether trainees have met the iQTS standards

## Wider roll-out

The intention is to make iQTS available to all interested accredited ITT providers by September 2023 after the pilot year is complete.

## Contact us

If you do not wish to join the pilot but would like to register your interest for 2023, and give feedback, as either a provider or a trainee, please contact us at [iqts.pilot@education.gov.uk](mailto:iqts.pilot@education.gov.uk).

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1. A relevant school includes: a maintained school; a non-maintained special school; a maintained nursery school; a nursery school that forms part of a maintained school; a local authority maintained children's centre; and a pupil referral unit (PRU) [↵](#)
  2. For a full list of institutions in which induction can be served, see paragraph 2.1 of [Induction for early career teachers \(England\) 2021](#) [↵](#)

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