



Department  
for Education

# **Projected number of overseas teachers awarded QTS in England**

**Ad-hoc statistics: Following the introduction  
of a new approach to recognising overseas  
teaching qualifications**

**December 2022**

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# Applying for QTS in England as an overseas teacher

At present, overseas teachers are eligible to apply for qualified teacher status (QTS) through the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) if they have a teaching qualification from Australia, Canada, the EEA, Gibraltar, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Switzerland or the USA.

In June 2022, the Department for Education announced a new approach to recognising overseas teaching qualifications with QTS. On 1 December 2022 the Department laid regulations to bring this new system into force and [updated the guidance](#)<sup>1</sup> on how teachers will be able to apply.

This updated guidance sets out that teachers from 9 new countries<sup>2</sup> will be able to apply for QTS through the TRA from the 1st February 2023. It also announced that by the end of 2023, this route will be opened to qualified teachers from every country outside the UK.

In this release, newly eligible countries refers to **all** countries (except those currently eligible), as opposed to those that will immediately become eligible from the 1<sup>st</sup> February. This reflects the eventual goal of the policy, rather than the immediate changes.

This release details the projections the Department has made of additional QTS awards due to this change in criteria.

## Headline Projections

Table 1 below sets out the projections of the total QTS awards and additional QTS awards made to overseas teachers from newly eligible countries per financial year.

These projections are calculated by taking the most recent published data of QTS awards from currently eligible countries, and estimating the number that would be awarded from newly eligible countries. We do not hold data on the potential demand for QTS from newly eligible countries so we have derived the estimate using the relative split

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualified-teacher-status-to-overseas-teachers/a-fairer-approach-to-awarding-qts-to-overseas-teachers--2>

<sup>2</sup> Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Nigeria, Singapore, South Africa, Ukraine and Zimbabwe

between ITT trainees that come from eligible and ineligible countries. See the methodology section for further information.

**Table 1 Total number of QTS awards made to all teachers from overseas and of additional QTS awards made to teachers just from newly eligible countries in different modelling scenarios per financial year**

<b>Projected volumes per Financial Year</b>	<b>Total QTS awards to all teachers from overseas who have their qualification recognised with QTS</b>	<b><i>Of which</i> QTS awards to teachers from newly eligible countries</b>
Low	2,097	413
Central	2,303	619
High	2,922	1,238

The central estimate of 2,303 total QTS awards reflects an increase of 37% on the baseline figure of 1,684. This is the number of QTS awards the TRA made to overseas trained teacher in the 2021/22 financial year. The low estimate projects an increase of 25%, and the high estimate an increase of 74%.

## Methodology

There is limited data available that could be used to estimate the impact of the changes to eligibility criteria on the number of QTS awards made.

The [TRA publish](#)<sup>3</sup> the number of QTS awards they made to overseas trained teachers in each financial year. This release uses these numbers, taken from the TRA's 2021-22 annual report and accounts, as a baseline figure of QTS awards given the current eligibility criteria. In 2021-22, the total number of QTS awards to overseas trained teachers was 1,684.

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[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1092918/TRA\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2021-22\\_accessible\\_version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1092918/TRA_Annual_Report_2021-22_accessible_version.pdf)

The department does not hold any data on the number of overseas teachers that could be eligible for applying for QTS in England. To address this evidence gap, we have used data on the number of overseas ITT trainees as a proxy.

Initial Teacher Training (ITT) in England does not have any criteria based on nationality, and is an alternative route for people from around the world to gain QTS in England, by completing a course of Initial Teacher Training in England. This acts as a proxy for potential interest in teaching in England, which is used to estimate the change in QTS awards based on the new eligibility criteria.

In 2018-19, out of [28,949 total postgraduate trainees](#)<sup>4</sup> there were 1,496 final-year trainees taking ITT in England from countries that are currently eligible to apply for QTS through the TRA, and 550 from countries that are ineligible. This means that for every 1 ITT trainee from a currently ineligible country, there were approximately 2.7 trainees from eligible countries.

The central estimate of these projections is calculated by dividing the current baseline of TRA QTS awards by this ratio. Given the 1,684 awarded QTS in 2021-22, the additional number of QTS awards from previously ineligible countries is 619.

As a result of the uncertainty involved in these projections, as detailed in the limitations and caveats section below, these projections also include a high and low estimate. To calculate these, the eligible to ineligible ratio has been adjusted by increasing or decreasing the ratio by 50%.

For the low estimate, the ratio has been increased by 50%, to approximately 4.1 trainees from eligible countries to every 1 trainee from currently ineligible countries. At this value, 413 additional awards are projected. For the high estimate, the ratio has been decreased by 50%, to approximately 1.4. At this value, 1,238 additional awards are projected.

## Limitations and Caveats

As set out above, there is significant uncertainty surrounding these projections. A key assumption in modelling the impact of the changes in eligibility criteria is the demand for QTS in England from countries where teachers are currently ineligible to apply for QTS. We've used the proxy of ITT trainee data as this is the only source of data relating to the

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<sup>4</sup> <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/initial-teacher-training-performance-profiles/2018-19>

Nationality data is not currently published in the ITT performance profiles release

relative demand to teach in the English education system across different countries. We assume that once the eligibility criteria change, the ratio between those from currently eligible countries and from newly eligible countries is equal to the ratio between those two groups that we see in ITT. A limitation to this approach is that those from countries currently eligible for QTS awards have two direct routes to gaining QTS, compared to the one available for those from countries currently ineligible for QTS award. Therefore there may be some displacement and a risk that the ratio doesn't capture the relative demand for QTS in England completely. In addition, there may be different behaviours between these groups that we can't capture in our projections. The range of different ratios indicates the level of uncertainty we have in this key assumption.

We use the most recent data (from the 2021/22 financial year) from the TRA as a baseline of QTS awards. As can be seen in the published data, QTS awards have fallen over the last 3 years. Given this trend, we may see QTS awards (especially to those from the EEA) continue to fall. The alternative to using the most recent data would be attempting to project a figure for the current financial year, and then use that as a baseline. This would have decreased our projections of QTS awards. Instead of adding complex assumptions in an attempt to predict a new baseline, we decided that by providing a significant range of uncertainty that this would appropriately reflect this additional limitation.

The new eligibility criteria are designed to ensure a fairer approach to awarding QTS but may make it more difficult for some from already eligible countries to apply and be awarded QTS in England. We don't have sufficient data to estimate what percentage of those that have previously been awarded QTS wouldn't meet the new eligibility criteria.



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