

Teacher registration eligibility requirements

POLICY

Teaching – a regulated profession

The *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005* (the Act) establishes the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) as the agency with the responsibility for regulating the teaching profession in Queensland.

The main objects of the Act and the purpose of the QCT are to –

- Uphold the standards of the teaching profession
- Maintain public confidence in the teaching profession, and
- Protect the public by ensuring education in schools is provided in a professional and competent way by approved teachers.

To achieve these objects the Act confers on the QCT functions, including the granting of registration or permission to teach. This policy concerns the eligibility of persons for full or provisional registration. To be eligible for registration, a person must satisfy the QCT they meet requirements regarding qualifications and experience, or have otherwise met the requirements of the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST)*. A person must also satisfy the QCT that they are suitable to teach and meet English language proficiency requirements. All these requirements are specified in the Act and the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2005* (the Regulation).

Quality regulation – quality teachers

As the regulator of the teaching profession in Queensland, the QCT seeks to ensure that teaching in schools is performed by appropriately qualified, competent and ethical people in the best interests of students, the profession and the public. A primary consideration in performing its functions is the welfare and best interests of children.

Each year the QCT receives thousands of applications for teacher registration. While the majority of applicants have Queensland or other Australian qualifications, a significant number have qualifications obtained overseas. Due to the diverse nature of applications, the QCT has developed a balanced, cohesive and robust teacher registration policy that facilitates the achievement of the QCT's vision of quality regulation and quality teachers.

Teacher registration – what it means

Teacher registration is required for a person to be employed to undertake the duties of a teacher in a Queensland school. Attached to professional registration is the expectation that registered teachers will display high standards of competency and ethical behaviour.

In Queensland, only approved teachers can legally undertake the duties of a teacher in a prescribed school – that is, a State or non-State school or another institution (or part thereof), at which an educational program is offered that is based on either the national curriculum developed and administered by the *Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority*, or a syllabus developed, revised or purchased for a senior subject or P-10 subject by the *Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority*.

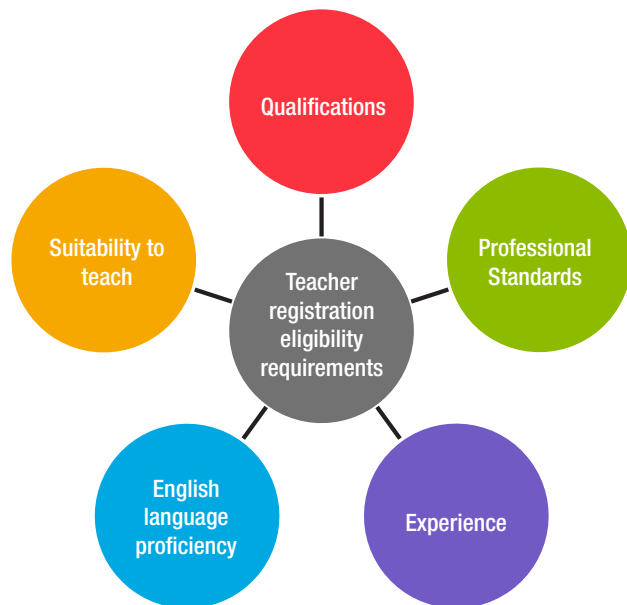
Additionally, only registered teachers may be engaged to supervise or assess the work of a teacher or student teacher in a prescribed school.

Under the Act, 'teacher', is defined as a person who undertakes duties in a school including delivering an educational program, assessing student participation in an educational program, or otherwise administering or providing consistent and substantial educational leadership to an educational program. The definition of teacher includes the principal of a school or, if a school has no position by that name, the person responsible for the day-to-day management of the school's educational program. 'Teacher' does not include a teacher's aide, a teacher's assistant or a student teacher.

Teacher registration eligibility requirements

Sections 8 and 9 of the Act specify eligibility requirements for full and provisional registration. The following diagram represents the teacher registration eligibility requirements policy structure. The structure provides the foundation for developing comprehensive and robust eligibility assessment policy and processes.

Diagram: Policy structure of teacher registration eligibility requirements



The following policy statement elaborates on these individual eligibility requirements for teacher registration.

Qualifications prescribed under a regulation

Under sections 5 and 8 of the Regulation, the prescribed qualifications for teacher registration in Queensland are successful completion of —

- a course of preservice teacher education consisting of at least four years academic study, including professional studies that are at least one year of academic study; or
- a graduate course of preservice teacher education consisting of professional studies that are at least one year of academic study; or
- another course of teacher education, provided by a higher education institution, that the college is satisfied is the equivalent of a course mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b).

Qualification elements

To satisfy the regulatory requirements, a qualification must include the following elements-

- be a course of preservice teacher education
- involve higher education study of at least four years of full-time equivalent (FTE) academic study
- include professional studies in teacher education comprising at least one year of FTE academic study
- include supervised teaching experience
- include discipline studies appropriate to the teaching area/s.

To provide the necessary knowledge, skills and experiences for persons entering the teaching profession in Queensland, a course of preservice teacher education must meet certain benchmarks regarding each of the elements identified above. The benchmark for each element is indicated below.

A course of preservice teacher education — is an initial teacher education qualification, the structure and content of which is designed to prepare persons for teaching in a primary or secondary school.

For the purpose of (a), this may constitute a four-year undergraduate course of preservice teacher education in which discipline and professional studies are integrated, such as a Bachelor of Education (Primary), or a four-year course combining studies from both discipline and teaching courses such as a Bachelor of Science/ Bachelor of Teaching degree.

For the purpose of (b), this means at least a one year course of initial teacher education completed at graduate level following successful completion of a discipline-based qualification comparable to three years of higher education in the Australian context, and where the discipline content is appropriate to the teaching area of the graduate course. An example may be a one-year Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary) following a three-year Bachelor of Science degree.

For the purpose of (c), other courses of teacher education are considered under QCT policy to determine whether they can be accepted as the equivalent of a course of preservice teacher education mentioned in (a) or (b).

Higher education — in Australia refers to nationally registered university and non-university institutions authorised to award qualifications at levels 5 to 10 of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The learning outcomes described at AQF levels 7 to 9, which include Bachelor degree and higher, and postgraduate qualifications, are the benchmark academic oriented qualification levels required for the teaching profession.

Professional studies — means a sequentially structured program of teacher education studies of no less than one years' duration FTE. The studies include theoretical and practical aspects of education including, for example, educational psychology and philosophy, the social context of schools, discipline-specific curriculum studies, studies in teaching and learning, and supervised teaching experience in schools — that is, educational settings equivalent to prescribed schools in Queensland.

Supervised teaching experience — is a core constituent of the professional studies component of a course of preservice teacher education. The supervised teaching experience involves actively engaging in all aspects of the teaching process in schools and an assessment of that active engagement by suitably experienced, qualified teachers. The experience must take place in educational settings equivalent to prescribed schools in Queensland. Official evidence detailing the supervised teaching experience component of a course is a requirement of an application for teacher registration.

Discipline studies — provide the required subject content knowledge to ensure persons have appropriate knowledge in areas that they are preparing to teach. Discipline studies may be embedded in an integrated undergraduate course of preservice teacher education or combined teaching and discipline degree, or may be contained within a separate discipline degree such as a Bachelor of Science. Discipline studies usually constitute between two and three years of the total four years of required higher education study.

Persons without prescribed qualifications – Professional Standards

A person with other higher education qualifications not prescribed under a regulation may be eligible for full or provisional registration on the evidence provided, if the QCT is reasonably satisfied that the person's education, demonstrated abilities, experience, knowledge and skills establish that the person meets the requirements under the APST, and the application meets all other eligibility requirements. The APST describe the key elements of quality teaching across the domains of professional knowledge, professional practice and professional engagement. A structured professional portfolio process may be used to enable the QCT to assess whether a person meets the requirements of the APST. The APST and detailed information about the process are available on the QCT website.

An experienced teacher with a recognised three-year teaching qualification may meet the requirements of the APST by submitting a standards Assessment form completed by a senior school administrator, such as a Principal, who has supervised and supported the work of the teacher. Provided the applicant's qualification and experience is assessed by the QCT as having met all policy criteria, an assessment using the Standards assessment form may be appropriate. The QCT will notify an applicant in writing if an assessment using the Standards assessment form is applicable to their application.

Experience

Most applicants who meet all eligibility requirements will be granted provisional registration. Information about transitioning from provisional to full registration is available on the QCT website.

Some applicants for registration may be eligible for full registration if the QCT is reasonably satisfied the applicant has attained the prescribed experience for full registration. Full registration corresponds to the Proficient career stage described in the APST.

The prescribed experience for applying for full registration under section 14(1)(a) of the Act is –

- (a) successful completion of one year of duties as a teacher; or
- (b) other experience the college is satisfied is the equivalent of successful completion of one year of duties as a teacher at a school.

For the purpose of (a), teaching experience is defined as successful completion of one year (200 days) of full-time equivalent duties as a teacher in recognised schools in Australian states and territories other than Queensland, and New Zealand. The one year of duties may include administering or providing consistent and substantial educational leadership to an educational program. While part-time and casual teaching may be included in the 200 days, the one year must include substantial continuous blocks of experience in which the teacher has actively engaged in all aspects of the teaching process described in the APST. The one year of experience must have been undertaken within the five years immediately prior to the date of application for full registration.

For the purpose of (b), other experience the QCT may consider as equivalent is one year (200 days) FTE experience as a Principal in a recognised school in Australian states and territories other than Queensland, and New Zealand. The one year must have been undertaken in the five years immediately prior to the date of application for full registration.

Suitability to teach

The QCT must assess the suitability to teach of an applicant for registration by considering a wide range of information from a variety of relevant authorities. Before using information to decide a person's suitability to teach the QCT must disclose the information to the applicant. Further information about assessment of suitability to teach is available on the QCT website.

Requirement for English language proficiency

To be granted registration, applicants are required to have the ability to communicate in spoken and written English at a professional level with students, parents, teachers and other persons. With the exception of those who have completed the full four years of higher education required for registration in English in an exempted country, applicants are required to provide evidence of English language proficiency levels. The standard means of evidencing proficiency is via the academic module of an International English Language Testing Systems test report or an International Second Language Proficiency Ratings assessment. Exempted countries are Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada and the Republic of Ireland. Information about test scores and test centres is available on the QCT website.

Policy review

The QCT keeps its policies, processes and regulatory responses under continuous review to ensure that teaching in Queensland schools is performed by appropriately qualified, competent and ethical people in the best interests of the profession and the public.

Registration process

Application for registration

A person may apply for full or provisional registration by means of an application form, specified documents and information, and an application fee prescribed under a regulation. The documents and information submitted with the application form are for the purpose of establishing whether an applicant meets the eligibility requirements for full or provisional registration.

Required documents, information and fees

Evidence of attainment of qualifications is supported by official documents issued by awarding higher education institutions, including transcripts of academic record and graduation certificates or testamurs. Higher education institutions that award teaching qualifications also issue official documents that detail the mandatory supervised teaching experience component of an initial teacher education program. These documents form the basis of the QCTs qualification assessment process.

Specific documents and information required to assess qualifications, eligibility for full registration, suitability to teach and English language proficiency are identified in the approved application for teacher registration process, together with details of currently prescribed fees. The QCT reserves the right to request other documents or information reasonably required to decide an application.

The QCT may lapse an application that is not accompanied by the required form, specified documents, information and fees. It may also lapse or refuse an application where documents and

information do not reasonably satisfy a reliability threshold.

The QCT relies on a significant amount of additional material where a standards-based assessment is sought (refer Persons without prescribed qualifications). Applicants need to be guided by the information and guidelines provided on the QCT website.

Assessing overseas qualifications

Qualifications are assessed for comparability of educational levels at Australian Bachelor degree level or higher against the AQF. The AQF is the national policy for regulated qualifications in the Australian education and training system. To assist the QCT in determining comparability levels of qualifications obtained outside Australia, a wide range of authoritative resources are consulted. This may include information and advice provided by Australian Education International-National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition, the official National Information Centre for Australia. However, it is the responsibility of the QCT to determine whether the qualifications also meet the legislative requirements specific to the teaching profession under sections 8 and 9 of the Act.

Deciding an application

The Act makes provision for the QCT to make any one of the following decisions—

- for an application for full registration — grant the applicant full or provisional registration with or without conditions
- for an application for provisional registration — grant the applicant provisional registration, with or without conditions
- refuse to grant the applicant registration.

Registration with a condition may be granted only if the QCT is reasonably satisfied the condition is necessary to ensure the applicant meets eligibility requirements. An example of a condition may be the requirement for a person to complete additional studies.

Review process

A person may apply for an internal review of a decision if dissatisfied with the original decision. If a person who has applied for a review of an original decision is dissatisfied with the review the person may apply to the Queensland Civil Administrative Tribunal for an external review of the original decision.

A person may make written application to the QCT asking for a condition to be reviewed and amended or cancelled.

Registration period

Provisional registration is granted initially for a period of two years, subject to payment of an annual fee. An option exists to extend provisional registration for a further period of two years but only one such extension is allowed. A provisionally registered teacher will receive advice from the QCT at the appropriate time about how to apply for an extension of provisional registration.

Full registration is granted for a period of five years subject to payment of an annual fee. The QCT may renew the person's registration at the end of this period subject to specified requirements. The requirements and process of renewal are set out on the QCT website.

Contact us

1051 | EC33 | 0816

07 3377 4777

or call 1300 720 944

GPO Box 702
Brisbane Qld 4001 Australia

Email: enquiries@qct.edu.au



www.qct.edu.au