

## **New QTLS: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Why is SET making the changes to QTLS?**

SET is introducing the changes in response to feedback from members. We are also bringing in changes in order to more closely align QTLS with QTS and the demands of the statutory induction period for teachers in schools, known as the NQT (Newly Qualified Teacher) year, so increasing the parity between QTS and QTLS. Importantly, we have made the changes to maximise opportunities for improving applicants' practice that will lead to improved outcomes for learners.

### **2. Who did SET consult prior to introducing the changes?**

Between January and November 2015 we carried out an extensive consultation with members as well as key stakeholders. Executive summaries of the Impact Study and Structural Review are [here](#)

### **3. Will the cost be the same?**

Yes, £100 is payable on registration and the remaining £385 on submission of your completed workbook.

### **4. Have the eligibility criteria changed?**

We have made some changes. For example, you need to nominate who will be your supporter (or mentor) when you start completing your workbook. This is so that they can support you throughout the process, not just at the end as was the case previously. More information is [here](#)

### **5. I have just qualified as a teacher in June this year. When is the next opportunity for me to register for professional formation?**

The next registration window opens on 1 September and closes on 31 October. You would be working towards sending us your completed workbook by 27 February 2017 for review in March, being notified of the outcome in April. Note you must have received your ITE certificate before you can register for professional formation

### **6. I have recently qualified as a teacher. Can I use any evidence from my initial teacher education programme?**

No. All your evidence must be from the date of registration for QTLS as it is a forward looking CPD opportunity, that will demonstrate how you have improved your skills and knowledge since completing your ITE programme.

**7. Have the requirements for maths and English teachers changed?**

Yes. If you register for professional formation from 1 September 2016 and your main role involves teaching GCSE maths/English, Functional Skills or literacy or numeracy in the FE and Skills sector, then you will need to demonstrate that you have a Level 3 qualification or above in maths or English. Guidance on acceptable qualifications is [here](#). Please note that you no longer need a Level 5 Specialist Diploma in Literacy or Numeracy (or ESOL) to register, although if you hold this qualification, this would be accepted as evidence of Literacy or Numeracy skills at Level 3.

**8. Will I still need level 2 qualifications in maths and English?**

Yes. This is to maintain the parity with QTS. A list of acceptable qualifications is [here](#).

**9. I have heard that SET are introducing an Advanced QTLS. When will this be available?**

We are currently consulting on whether members want SET to introduce an Advanced progression route from QTLS. The results of the survey will be available in September 2016. If there is compelling evidence that we should introduce this option, then we will carry out a deeper consultation in the autumn to inform the development of this status, and would aim to pilot it in September 2018.

**10. Is the QTLS that is being launched in September more advanced than the current version?**

No. The level is the same.

**11. Is the QTLS that is being launched in September harder than the current version?**

It will not be harder, but we have taken steps to strengthen QTLS, including the requirement to demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of applicants' teaching practice, underpinned by educational theory and/or research. Applicants should note that the evidence requirements have changed and you will not be able to use any evidence prior to registering for QTLS. There is more information [here](#) about the process.

**12. I've heard that the government plans to abolish QTS. How will this affect QTLS and is there any point in me undertaking it?**

We have no plans to abolish QTLS. We welcome the changes that are being proposed to QTS, given that we are currently developing ways to strengthen QTLS to reflect teaching effectiveness and impact. QTLS remains an excellent and valued way to demonstrate experience and teaching expertise, respected across the FE and schools sector. The parity between QTLS and QTS is an important aspect to professionals working in the FE sector and we will be working closely with the DfE in future months to align QTLS with the re-developed QTS to maintain this equivalence. There is more information about the proposed changes [here](#).

**13. I've seen that applicants need to keep a CPD record as part of the application. How many hours CPD do I need to record?**

There is no requirement to undertake a specific number of CPD hours during the process. Applicants, with the help of their supporters, will need to make a judgement about how many hours CPD they will need to undertake, but they should bear in mind that the process from registering to completion of their workbooks should take a minimum of four to six months. A suggested template that applicants can use to record their CPD will be available on '[Guidance on completing your application](#)' page.

**14. I've seen that applicants need to carry out a self-assessment against the professional standards. How can I access this?**

You can access the on-line self-assessment [here](#).

**15. What support and guidance will there be from SET for applicants?**

[Guidance for applicants](#) that provides details about the evidence requirements and technical support is now available. There will also be case studies to suggest how applicants can demonstrate their progress in their workbooks and templates to help them record their progress. A set of resources that will introduce and signpost applicants to relevant educational theory and research in relation to the 20 professional standards will be available in early September. These will all be available on the [Guidance on completing your application](#) page.

**16. What guidance is there for supporters?**

There is information for supporters on the [Guidance on completing your application](#) page.

**17. What support is there for initial teacher educators to help trainees understand the requirements of new QTLS?**

We have a [new page for Initial Teacher Educators](#) on our website that includes a PowerPoint presentation that initial teacher educators can adapt to use with trainee teachers to raise awareness of the requirements of QTLS. We also have a flyer on the website and can also send you copies of flyers and other print material if you are running a large event. Contact [membership.communications@etfoundation.co.uk](mailto:membership.communications@etfoundation.co.uk) for more information.

**18. Do I have to be in a full time job to do QTLS?**

No, but ideally you will need to be teaching learners for a minimum of two hours a week for the duration of QTLS in order to be able to meet the evidence requirements and to be able to demonstrate improvements in your practice.

**19 I'm not working at the moment, so would I be able to meet the requirements of QTLS?**

You might be able to meet the requirements by taking on some voluntary teaching of learners aged 14+.

**20 How many hours a week do I need to be teaching?**

Ideally you will be teaching learners for a minimum of two hours a week for the duration of QTLS.

**21. I don't teach every week, but often have to deliver courses over a period of a month or six weeks. Would I be eligible to undertake QTLS?**

Yes, provided that you will be able to demonstrate in your application the impact of any CPD on your practice that you have undertaken during the process.

**22. How many observations of my teaching will I need?**

You will need to have had two observations of your teaching; one at the beginning of the process and one towards the end. These can be formal observations carried out by a manager, or informal peer observations.

**23. How long should it take?**

The process from registration to submission of your completed workbook should take a minimum of four to six months. If you register on 1 September, you would be working towards submitting your completed workbook by the end of February 2017, for review in March, being notified of the outcome by the end of April.

**24. I think I would need more than 4-6 months to complete professional formation. Can I take longer if I need to?**

Yes, you can defer your application once. So if you register in September 2016, you would be able to defer your application, so that you send us your completed workbook by the end of June, for review in July with notification of the outcome in August.

**25 I am self-employed. Can I undertake QTLS?**

Yes, provided that you are teaching learners for a minimum of two hours per week for the duration of professional formation.

**26. Although I trained as a teacher in FE, I now work in a school. Can I still do QTLS?**

Yes, provided that you are teaching learners aged 14+. This is because QTLS is a further education and skills status, primarily aimed at teachers working in the FE and Skills sector. Note that if you are working in a school and have achieved QTLS, you would be exempt from serving statutory induction and are not required to complete a statutory induction period in schools (Newly Qualified Teacher year). This is because QTLS holders have already completed a period of teaching and professional formation, verified by the SET, which bridges the gap between initial teacher training and employment as a practicing teacher.

**27. I am already registered for professional formation. Do I now need to complete the new workbook?**

If you have already registered with SET and are completing your workbook, you must send us your completed workbook by 27 October 2016. If you do not meet this deadline, you will be issued with the new workbook that will be launched in September and so you will need to gather new evidence in order to meet the requirements.

**Any further questions?**

Please contact our Membership Enquiries team [membership.enquiries@etfoundation.co.uk](mailto:membership.enquiries@etfoundation.co.uk) or call them if you have any further questions on 0800 093 9111.

