
Information for candidates about the Registered Teacher Programme – 2002/03



What is the Registered Teacher Programme?

The Registered Teacher Programme (RTP) offers you a way to qualify as a teacher while you work. When you have found a job in a school as an unqualified teacher, you can follow an individual training programme leading to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). At the same time you complete your degree. Once you have QTS, you can work as a qualified teacher in any maintained school in England.

Can I go on the programme?

To apply for the programme, you must be:

- employed as a unqualified teacher;
- at least 24 years old; and
- put forward by a Recommending Body (see below).

The programme suits people who want to change to a teaching career and need to continue earning while they train. The training is tailored to suit your individual needs. The RTP is a challenging route. It takes effort and commitment to work and train in a school, and study for your degree at the same time.

What qualifications do I need?

You must:

- have successfully completed two years of higher education (or equivalent); and
- hold GCSE grade C or above (or equivalent) in mathematics and English. For primary, if you were born on or after 1 December 1979 you must have GCSE grade C or above (or equivalent) in science.

The TTA also offers the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP) for people who already have an UK first degree (or equivalent). For more information, refer to *Information for candidates about the Graduate Teacher Programme – 2002/03*, which is available from TTA Publications (0845 606 0323).

Do my professional qualifications count?

If your qualification is equivalent to two years of higher education and a university would accept you on a top-up degree programme you may be eligible for the RTP.

How long is the programme?

Normally two years. The minimum length of a programme is twelve months.

How do I find a teaching post?

- Check your local paper and the *Times Educational Supplement* for vacancies.
- The TTA publishes a contact list for Graduate and Registered Teacher Programme candidates. The list gives details of people who may be able to advise on how to find a job. The list is available on the TTA website or from TTA Publications on 0845 606 0323.
- Your LEA may advertise teacher vacancies on its website vacancy pages. There are also a number of teacher supply agencies that advertise in the press and on the Internet.

What if I can't get a teaching job?

You may be able to train as a teacher by following a part-time BEd course or through a flexible or distance learning course. For details, ring the Teaching Information Line on 0845 6000 991.

Will I be paid?

The school will pay your salary at the rate for either a qualified or unqualified teacher. The TTA will pay a grant of up to £4000 a year to cover the cost of your training.

Can I work as a teaching assistant or technician and train?

If your school can place you in a teaching post instead, even part-time, you may be able to train through the RTP. Otherwise you could follow a part-time course at university or college while continuing your original job – ring the Teaching Information Line to find out about options in your area.

What is a Recommending Body?

A Recommending Body (RB) takes responsibility for designing and delivering your training programme. An RB can be a school; a local education authority; a university or other provider of teacher training; or any other body able to organise your training.

What is a Designated Recommending Body?

Designated Recommending Bodies (DRBs) are new organisations set up to deliver the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP) in England. Many DRBs will also be able to handle applications for the Registered Teacher Programme. Most DRBs are partnerships of bodies such as schools, local education authorities and accredited initial teacher training (ITT) providers. There

may be around 70 DRBs in England. DRB contact details will be published on the TTA website www.canteach.gov.uk/gtpreform in June 2002.

What goes into a training plan?

Your RB (or DRB) will discuss with you the training you need to achieve the standards for QTS. Examples could include guidance on classroom techniques; ways of preparing lessons; observing role models; discussing books and papers you have read; attending short courses or conferences; and practising your IT skills. Experienced teachers monitor, assess and record all your achievements. From September 2002, you must have experience in at least two schools to be awarded QTS.

How do I apply for the RTP?

Once you have a teaching post, a Recommending Body (or Designated Recommending Body) applies on your behalf. The RB or DRB completes a detailed application form setting out your proposed training. The first sections cover your qualifications and experience. Then the form asks for details of what you can already do and what further training you need in order to meet the standards required for QTS. This is decided during an initial training needs assessment when your colleagues at school and other advisers may watch you teach and discuss your strengths and weaknesses with you.

There are no deadlines for the RTP. Your RB or DRB can apply at any time.

How can I be sure of quality training?

Your RB and school will be able to provide the support and facilities you need. Your school will provide you with a mentor.

You will be continuously assessed throughout the programme against the standards for the award of QTS. You will be expected to keep a portfolio of your own and your pupils' best work. In the final stages of the programme, an independent external assessor will watch you at work, inspect your portfolio and talk to you and your supervisors.

What happens at the end of training?

If the external assessor is satisfied, he or she will tell your RB or DRB and they can recommend you to the Secretary of State for Qualified Teacher Status.

You also have to pass computerised skills tests in literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT). Like any other newly qualified teacher, you will be given a Career Entry Profile, which will help your school plan your induction training.

What is the next step?

Find a school willing to employ you while you train on the RTP. The TTA's contact list for potential trainees lists people who may be able to help you. Contact the Teaching Information Line (0845 6000 991) for alternative routes to QTS, such as a full-time or part-time BEd.

Where can I find out more?

Once you have found a school willing to train you, ask them to contact the TTA for more information:

Registered Teacher Programme
Teacher Training Agency
1 The Chambers
East Street
Reading RG1 4JD

Tel: 0118 902 1915 (8.30am-5.30pm M-F)
Fax: 0118 959 1696
E-mail: GRTP@cfbt-hq.org.uk
Website: www.canteach.gov.uk

For further information on teaching in England call the Teaching Information Line on 0845 6000 991 or visit the TTA's website at www.canteach.gov.uk.

For information on teaching in Wales e-mail teachingenquiries@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Are you an Overseas Trained Teacher?

If you are an Overseas Trained Teacher and would like to teach in England, please contact the Overseas Trained Teacher helpline on 0118 902 1916 or e-mail OTT@cfbt.hq.org.uk.

