

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What is the Assessment-Only Route?**

The Assessment-Only Route is an alternative approach to the awarding of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Applied over a **maximum** 12 week period, applicants, with the support of their school, provide evidence of meeting the Teachers’ Standards (DFE 2012) to the same robust and rigorous criteria applied to PGCE and School-Direct Associate Teachers of West Midlands Consortium (WMC). The significant difference is that all applicants are currently employed as unqualified teachers in schools with a **minimum** of two years teaching experience. There are **no** taught academic requirements and there is **no** provision for training by WMC in the Assessment-Only Route. Applicants are assessed as meeting entry requirements (matched to PGCE and School-Direct provision) and are able to demonstrate meeting the Teachers’ Standards.

**How long will the Assessment-Only Route take?**

The Assessment-Only Route **must** be completed within 12 weeks.

**Who can Apply?**

Candidates who wish to gain the award of QTS through the Assessment-Only Route might include experienced graduate teachers who have experience of teaching across two age phases and ability settings in at least two school contexts and who are:

* Currently teaching in school
* Trained to teach overseas
* Trained to teach in the further education sector
* Teaching in the independent school sector
* Teaching in the international school sector

**When can I Apply?**

Applications are accepted throughout the year with programmes commencing at the beginning of each academic term.

**I have a 2:2 or Third Class Degree: can I be considered for the Assessment-Only Route?**

We consider each applicant on an individual basis related to their experience and, although we cannot guarantee that every applicant will be accepted for this route, holding a 2:2 or Third Class degree is not always a barrier.

**I don’t have a Grade C/4 in …., is there a way that I can gain this?**

If you are confident that, with your current knowledge and or private tuition/revision of your own, you would be able to pass a one-off test this might be the quickest route to obtaining this qualification. This is called an equivalency test and is an officially recognised exam prepared and externally assessed by a freelance equivalency testing service.

**Is my Teaching Experience Appropriate?**

Teaching experience may include voluntary/unpaid work as well as employed teaching experience. Applicants **must** be able to demonstrate meeting **all** of the Teachers’ Standards for the award of QTS. Applicants **must** demonstrate that they have had the opportunity, in both of their school settings, to gain suitable and sustained experience in planning, teaching and assessing to a recognised national/international curriculum; in examination syllabi; in recording and reporting to parents and in teaching pupils of all abilities across at least two age phases. Documentary evidence **must** be available.

A significant proportion of this teaching experience should be recent (within the last 12 months). West Midlands Consortium will make a decision regarding the relevance of teaching experience based on individual circumstances.

**My teaching experience is mostly in the Further Education sector. Can I apply for the Assessment-Only Route?**

Applicants **must** show that they have appropriate experience of teaching across two key stages in at least two school/further education settings. For applicants predominantly based in further education settings, they must demonstrate sustained and substantial opportunities teaching in Key Stage 4 age phase contexts.

**My teaching experience is mostly in the Special Educational Needs sector. Can I apply for the Assessment-Only Route?**

Applicants **must** show that they can meet the Teachers’ Standards across two key stages, encompassing a range of assessments and teaching and learning approaches. Applicants’ experience of assessment, teaching and planning must take account of physical ages as well as developmental stages. Applicants **must** demonstrate that they have sufficient and appropriate experience in their chosen key stages. Applicants could undertake a second school experience in a mainstream setting to support their evidence for the Teachers’ Standards.

**Why must I have taught in a second school setting?**

The DfE requires all applicants to have worked in a minimum of two school settings **before** applying for the Assessment-Only Route. West Midlands Consortium requires applicants to have undertaken a **minimum of six weeks** teaching in their second setting prior to application. However, the applicant must also demonstrate that they have had enough experience to fully meet all of the Teachers’ Standards in that second setting. This may include opportunities to teach pupils from diverse backgrounds as well as gaining experience of different teaching and learning pedagogies, varying school organisations and distinctive leadership and management approaches.

Teaching experience in this second setting may be less recent than within the last 12 months (see section on ‘is my teaching experience appropriate?’)

**What should my timetable look like?**

Applicants **must** demonstrate that they have the opportunity to teach across the two Key Stages (consecutive) for which they are being assessed and their timetable for the period of assessment must show this. Applicants should teach a minimum of 50% and a maximum of 80% of an experienced teacher’s timetable for the duration of the assessment period. Applicants **must** have the opportunity to work with adults other than teachers, pupils across the ability range within the school and in the pastoral setting of the school. Secondary applicants’ timetables are expected to provide 80% of their teaching commitment to be in their specialist subject.

**Can I complete my GCSES during the process?**

You must have evidence of successful completion of GCSEs, or equivalents, in Maths, English and (for Primary Teaching) Science **before** you can be considered for the Assessment-Only Route.

**If I am successful and gain QTS from the Assessment-Only Route, do I need to complete ECT Induction?**

Yes. Generally you will be expected to complete the same Induction requirements as all successful candidates for QTS, which includes completing an ECT Induction. Your school is responsible for supporting you as necessary throughout your Induction and can request that this be shortened in view of your previous teaching experience.