



Study English language teaching

English is spoken by millions of people worldwide. There are many excellent training organisations in the UK and worldwide. However, there are some particular advantages to learning in the United Kingdom.

Checklist: Why learn to teach English in the United Kingdom?

- The UK has a long tradition of high-quality training programmes combining hands on practice with theory
- The UK offers internationally recognised, quality-assured qualifications for both new and experienced teachers
- UK training providers have extensive experience in dealing with teachers and learners from other cultures

What is the difference between TEFL, TESOL and TESL qualifications?

These are common acronyms in the English teaching field. There is some difference in meaning, but they are often used interchangeably.

TEFL stands for 'Teaching English as a Foreign Language'. Programmes that use this label usually place emphasis on teaching English to people whose first language is not English, but who need to learn it for work or leisure.

TESOL is a more general term, meaning 'Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages'. This term is often used when teaching people for whom English is not their only or main language. It is now also the term used by the Further Education sector in the UK to refer to the teaching of English to all newcomers to the UK.

TESL means 'Teaching English as a Second Language'. This is the term more commonly used when learners of English are studying within a community in which most residents speak English, for instance in programmes for new immigrants to English-speaking countries. However, there is a lot of overlap between TESL and TEFL. Many people with TESL certificates are teaching successfully in TEFL environments, and vice versa.

The important issue for would-be teachers of English is to know where and in what sectors (private, state primary, secondary, etc.) they think they would like to teach so that they can find out what qualifications are required for those teachers.



Qualification awarded	Whom and where you could teach	Where you could gain this qualification	Length of course and its components	Entry requirements	Assessment method and cost of course
A. Initial training courses					
Cambridge CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) (National Qualifications Framework and Qualifications Curriculum Authority Level 4)	Adults in private language schools or colleges in the UK or abroad. In some state colleges in the UK or abroad	At about 300 colleges, universities and language schools in the UK and abroad validated by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. For details see website www.cambridgeesol.org	Full-time course: four to five weeks. Part-time course: from four to twelve months. 5 main units; 120 hours full or part-time, including 6 hours of teaching practice	This course is suitable for people with little or no ESOL teaching experience, or for those with teaching experience in another discipline	Continuous assessment; no final examination. Course fees are set by individual centres (see website)
Cambridge CELTYL (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Young Learners) (QCA Level 4)	Children or teenagers, in a private language school in the UK or abroad. In some state colleges in the UK or abroad	See website above	As above	As above	As above
Cambridge CELTA YL (Young Learners') Extension	As above	See website above	Two week extension to the CELTA course. About 60 hours tuition including four hours of teaching practice	As above	As above
Cambridge Certificate in Further Education Teaching Stage 3 with Certificate for ESOL Subject Specialists	Adult learners in the state sector in England and Wales	20 centres in England (see website above)	2 modules; 6 units. 180 hours + 120 hours teaching placement in a Further Education context	This course can be taken as initial or continuing training. Module 1 is CELTA; if you have this you can be considered for entry to Module 2	Continuous assessment based on teaching practice and assignments



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Trinity CertTESOL (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) (QCA Level 4)	Adults and young people in colleges or private language schools, or in Further Education in the UK	At more than 100 Trinity College validated centres at universities, colleges and language schools in the UK, and many more worldwide. For further details see www.trinitycollege.co.uk	Full-time: four weeks minimum; part-time from two to twelve months. 130 hours tuition (5 units) and 6+ hours teaching practice. (The CertTESOL is also a component of BA degrees at some universities)	This is an initial training course for those with little or no TESOL experience	Assessment is based on written and practical work, including an interview relating to teaching practice. Course fees are set by individual centres (see website)
Trinity CertTEYL (Certificate in Teaching English to Young Learners) (QCA Level 4)	Young learners up to age 16	As above	This course is similar to the CertTESOL (see above), but some course components differ to give greater emphasis to the teaching, motivation and assessment of younger learners. Teaching practice is 10+ hours	As above	As above
International House CertTEFL (Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language)	Adults and young learners in the International House network of language schools overseas, or in private language schools in the UK	International House, London (www.ihlondon.com)	Four weeks full-time; 120 hours including classroom observation and supervised teaching practice	This is an initial training course, primarily aimed at teachers whose first language is not English	See website for full details



Qualification awarded	Whom and where you could teach	Where you could gain this qualification	Length of course and its components	Entry requirements	Assessment method and cost of course
B. Post-initial training courses					
Cambridge DELTA (Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults) (QCA Level 5)	Adults in private language schools in the UK or abroad, at levels with more responsibility, or in some state colleges in the UK or abroad. A diploma is usually needed to teach in a British Council teaching centre overseas	At about 300 colleges, universities, and language schools in the UK and abroad validated by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. For details see www.cambridgeesol.org	Full-time course: from two to three months. Part-time course: from six to twelve months. 6 main units; 120 hours full or part-time, including 10 hours of teaching practice	This course is intended for teachers with at least two years' experience. You may also need to have a TESOL certificate	Assessment is based on coursework, an extended assignment and an examination
Cambridge ICELT (In-service Certificate in English Language Teaching)	Adults or young learners at all levels in schools, colleges and universities, or in private language schools	See website above	Two modules; 7 units. 120 hours tuition full or part-time. Courses can last from a few months to over a year	This course is intended for experienced serving teachers	Assessment is based on written assignments, language tasks and teaching practice
Trinity LTCL DipTESOL (Licentiate Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) (QCA Level 5)	Adults and young learners in private language schools or colleges in the UK or abroad. A diploma is usually required to teach in a British Council teaching centre overseas	At more than 100 Trinity College validated centres at universities, colleges and language schools in the UK, and many more worldwide. For further details see www.trinitycollege.co.uk	Full-time (180 hours tuition over 10 weeks), or part-time. It comprises four units, including 10 hours observation and 20+ hours of teaching practice	This course is for graduate teachers or the equivalent, with a minimum of two years' experience	Assessment is by one written paper based on coursework, portfolio of work, assessed teaching practice and interview. Course fees are set by individual centres (see website)



Qualification awarded	Whom and where you could teach	Where you could gain this qualification	Length of course and its components	Entry requirements	Assessment method and cost of course
PGCE TESOL (Postgraduate Certificate of Education in TESOL); PGDip ESOL (Postgraduate Diploma in ESOL)	Adults and post-16 learners in Further Education in the UK, including government-funded ESOL teaching	At universities which have a Department of Education; the British Council website www.educationuk.org/ has details of all of these	Full-time: 4 weeks to one year or more. Part-time: two years. In some institutions, the PGDip ESOL is the taught component of the MA	Courses are generally intended for teachers with a degree and some experience. See British Council website for further information	Continuous assessment based on coursework and assignments
Pre-Masters TESOL Access Course	Adults or young learners in universities, colleges or private language schools	Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh (www.education.ed.ac.uk/)	Distance learning (six months, to include 54 hours of teaching) plus full-time on-site (three months)	This is a training course for ESOL post-holders with little experience	Assessment is based on written and practical work, including an interview related to teaching practice. See website for information on fees
MA TESOL; MA ELT (English Language Teaching); MA Applied Linguistics; MA TEFL; MA TESL; MEd TESOL	Adults or young learners in universities, colleges or private language schools, in the UK or overseas	43 institutions throughout the UK offer more than 130 higher degree courses in ELT/ESOL. The British Council website www.educationuk.org/ gives details of all of these. Enter <i>English language teaching</i> under <u>Subject Keyword</u> , and <i>Postgraduate</i> under <u>Type of Course</u> to access a full list of institutions	One year full-time, or from two to four years part-time. Some centres offer distance learning. Courses normally consist of compulsory and optional modules	These courses are for teachers with a degree (usually a good honours degree in a language-related subject) and two, three or more years' experience. Applicants with less experience may also be considered. See individual entries under www.educationuk.org/ for details	Assessment is usually based on assignments, and in some cases a report (10,000 words) or a dissertation (20,000 words)

Qualification awarded	Whom and where you could teach	Where you could gain this qualification	Length of course and its components	Entry requirements	Assessment method and cost of course
Cambridge IDLTM (International Diploma in Language Teaching Management)	Management in a range of TESOL and ELT contexts	Awarded in partnership between Cambridge ESOL (see website), SIT (School for International Training, VT, USA) and University of Queensland, Australia. In the UK it is offered in Edinburgh and Bournemouth	325 hours of study over about six months; 2 weeks full-time at the start and 3 days at the end of the course. There is an introductory unit and 8 compulsory modules	This diploma is intended for experienced serving teachers who want to undertake management responsibilities	Assessment is based on the assignments for each module
Trinity Certificate in Further Education Teaching (TESOL) Stage 2 and Stage 3 (QCA Level 4)	Adults and young learners (16+) in the state sector (FE or Adult Education) in England and Wales. The DfES (UK Department for Education and Skills) requires that teachers in the FE sector must hold at least a Stage 3 qualification	At Trinity College validated centres at universities, colleges and language schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For further details see www.trinitycollege.co.uk	Stage 2: three units; 125 guided learning hours plus 60 hours teaching practice. Stage 3: three units; 245 hours plus 80 hours teaching practice	Generally, GCSE in English Language and Maths, plus two 'A' Levels or the equivalent in any subject. Course providers may set their own entry requirements; see Trinity College website for details	Assessment is based on an examination, portfolio of coursework, teaching practice and individual and group interviews. Fees are set by course providers. Public funding may be available; consult course providers for information
Trinity Certificate for Adult ESOL Subject Specialists (QCA Level 4)	As above	As above	Three units; 105 guided learning hours in an FE context plus 30 hours teaching practice. Experienced teachers, or those with an appropriate TESOL Certificate or Diploma, may study for fewer hours	This course can be taken as initial training or by serving qualified teachers. It is generic training for ESOL teachers who intend to work in the UK.	Internal assessment based on assignments and teaching practice, and an externally assessed assignment. Fees are set by course providers. Public funding may be available; consult course providers for information



Notes

If you have an interest in training for teachers of English as an Additional Language (EAL) in primary and secondary schools in the UK, you will find useful information on the website of NALDIC (National Association for Language Development in the Curriculum) at www.naldic.org.uk/docs/support/prof_dev.cfm

If you have a particular interest in a specialist area of TESOL (materials design, teacher education, research, evaluation, inspection, etc.) you may wish to consult the British Council website www.educationuk.org/ (by entering *English language teaching* under Subject Keyword, and *Postgraduate* under Type of Course in the first instance, to access a full list of institutions throughout the UK which offer higher degree courses in ELT and TESOL.

What sort of qualification should I take?

If you have no experience of teaching English to speakers of other languages you should follow one of the 'certificate' courses described in the table above. These are designed to give those new to teaching the best possible start to their teaching career. Holders of these qualifications are known as TEFL or TESOL 'initiated'.

To obtain a more senior teaching post or managerial position you will need to take a more advanced 'diploma' qualification. (A 'certificate' and at least two years teaching experience are required.) Holders of these qualifications are known as TEFL or TESOL 'qualified'.

A Master's programme may be required for the most senior positions in training organisations.

What do I need to teach at a British Council centre overseas?

For information on qualifications and requirements for the British Council teaching network outside the UK, please see www.britishcouncil.org/teacherrecruitment

Can I teach in state institutions?

In order to teach in the state school system in England and Wales you need to have Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). If you are a teacher from an EEA country, with qualifications and experience, you can apply for QTS from the General Teaching Council in England. To teach in the state system in Scotland, and in Northern Ireland, you would apply for registration to the General Teaching Council for Scotland, and in Northern Ireland the Department of Education for Northern Ireland. For more information on QTS refer to *Teaching and education* in this series.

For information on teaching in the further, adult and community education sectors in the UK, see the Lifelong Learning UK website www.lifelonglearninguk.org and the Trinity and Cambridge websites.

You should also bear in mind that in order to teach in the state sector in most countries you will need at least a degree and possibly a teacher training qualification offered in the state sector of that country. Check out the particular requirements for teaching before moving to that country to work.

Does the British Council recommend TESOL/ TEFL courses?


The British Council does not recommend TESOL or TEFL courses, nor does it operate an accreditation scheme for TESOL/ TEFL courses. You should check that the course you propose to take is recognised by reputable employers in the UK and around the world, and that it is externally validated by a recognised awarding body (examinations board) or higher education institution (e.g. university). The course should include substantial observed and assessed teaching practice with real learners.

How are TESOL/ TEFL courses accredited?

The main accrediting body for these kinds of course is the UK Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). To search for QCA accredited qualifications go to the OpenQuals website www.openquals.org.uk

Can I do a TESOL/ TEFL course by distance learning?

You can get some TESOL/ TEFL qualifications by distance learning. However, most initial qualifications that are widely recognised and respected are taught on a face-to-face basis.



You should make sure that your future employers recognise the status of any distance learning qualification that you take. If it does not include an element of observed and assessed teaching practice, it may well carry less status than those courses which do. Trinity and Cambridge both offer diploma qualifications on a partly distance basis.

Checklist: Choosing the right course

- find out whether the course and qualification are approved by the QCA or the Quality Assurance Agency (for higher education institutions)
- check what your future employers are looking for in terms of qualifications and experience. You can do this by contacting schools or institutions in the country where you wish to work
- find out whether the qualification will enable you to find a post (at least in the independent/ non-state sector) outside the UK
- ask about the number of course hours (theory and observed practice). Most reputable courses should be a minimum of 100 hours. Also ask about the qualifications of the instructors and the course content.

2 Entrance

How good should my English be to become a qualified teacher?

If you want to qualify as a TESOL/ TEFL teacher in the UK, your written and spoken English must be of a high standard. Whether English is your first, second or foreign language you must be competent, not simply as someone who uses the language every day, but as a model for learners.

Do I need a university degree to enrol on TESOL/ TEFL courses?

You do not normally need a degree to enrol on a certificate or initial-level course although you will need at least a higher education entry-level qualification. You will need a degree or equivalent to enrol on a diploma or higher-level course, and on a Master's course. It is important to note that many employers, particularly in state sectors around the world, do require teachers to have a degree.

Checklist: Entrance requirements

- find out if you have the appropriate academic qualifications for the sector you want to teach in
- assess whether your English language skills are of an appropriate standard or whether you need to do some refresher training (even if you speak English on a day-to-day basis).

3 Next steps

Checklist: Your next steps

1. Think about which country and which sector you wish to teach in. Check with local schools and/ or colleges (and with the Ministry of Education) to find out what qualifications are required.
2. Find out which courses are available. Decide whether you would prefer to do a short intensive course or a longer part-time course.
3. Courses vary so you will need to contact individual organisations for course timetables, fees, specific entry requirements and selection procedures. Remember to ask whether deposits are refundable – usually they are not.

Checklist: Your next steps continued

4. Apply direct to the training organisation for further details and for a place. You will normally have to be interviewed, usually in person but sometimes by telephone and/ or internet. If you take up a place, and there is a pre-course task or recommended reading, make sure that you do it – this will make your study on the course easier and more meaningful.
5. Note that if you are a qualified, experienced teacher from an EEA country, you can apply for Qualified Teacher Status in the UK. This will enable you to teach in UK state schools.

4 Where can I find more information?

British Council

Website www.educationuk.org

For further information, you can find details of your nearest office at www.britishcouncil.org/home-contact-worldwide.htm which includes links to all our country web pages and a worldwide address book giving contact details for all offices

English UK

56 Buckingham Gate
London SW1E 6AG
Telephone +44 (0)20 7802 9200

Fax +44 (0)20 7802 9201

Email info@englishuk.com

Website www.englishuk.com

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority Database of Accredited Qualifications

Website www.openquals.org.uk

Cambridge ESOL Examinations

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations
1 Hills Road
Cambridge CB1 2EU
Telephone +44 (0)1223 553 355
Fax +44 (0)1223 460 278
Email ESOL@ucles.org.uk
Website www.cambridgesol.org

Association for the Quality of TESOL Education (QuiTE)

Mr John Norrish (Chair)
Institute of Education
20 Bedford Way
London WC1H 0AL
Email enquiries@quality-tesol-ed.org.uk
Website www.quality-tesol-ed.org.uk/

Cactus TEFL

4 Clarence House
30-31 North Street
Brighton BN1 1EB
Telephone (from UK) (0)845 130 4775
Fax: +44 (0)1273 775 868
Email info@cactusteachers.com
Website www.cactusteachers.com
This organisation will answer TEFL enquiries

Overseas trained teachers (OTT) advice line

Telephone +44 (0)1245 45 43 21

Scottish English Language Teaching in Consortium (SELTIC)

PO Box 23024
Edinburgh
EH3 6WB
Scotland
Email english@seltic.org
Website www.seltic.org

National Association for Language Development in the Curriculum (NALDIC)

Registered Offices
The Spires
2 Adelaide Street
Luton
LU1 5DU

Teacher Training Agency (TTA)

Teaching Information Line +44 (0)845 6000 991
Fax +44 (0)1245 45 43 37
Email ott@ttainfo.co.uk
Website www.tta.gov.uk
(see 'Providing training' and then 'Employment based routes')

For information on organisations offering TEFL training worldwide

Website www.tefl.net