

Teacher training and development ...

There are increasing opportunities for speakers of community languages who wish to attain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in England. There are several different routes for entering the teaching profession, which are outlined on these pages. The best route will depend on individual circumstances and preferences. All candidates for initial teacher training are required to have a GCSE Grade C in Maths and English or an equivalent qualification. In order to gain Qualified Teacher Status, a degree from either a UK or an overseas institution, or degree equivalence as defined by the course provider, is also a requirement (although in the RTP this can be achieved while carrying out the training). It is important to note that this degree need not be in the language itself, e.g. in the case of a native speaker.

Extending your language skills and suitability for training

Many teachers of community languages are interested in gaining QTS, but find it hard to gain a place on teacher training courses because they cannot offer a second language. If a trainee teacher (on either PGCE or GTP) has only Urdu, for example, as a teaching language, a school may find it difficult to find enough classes for them to teach in order to gain sufficient teaching experience. A trainee teacher of a community language who can also teach French, German or Spanish (the most commonly taught languages in secondary schools in England) has a better chance of gaining a place on a teacher training programme and is also more employable once qualified.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) has developed pre-initial teacher training modern languages extension courses which are of three months' duration, full-time and intensive. Courses are specifically designed to help graduates with one language develop a second language sufficiently to teach it in Key Stage 3 (up to the level of pupils aged 14). Course participants will be paid a bursary of £150 per week for fourteen weeks while on the course. To have a confirmed place on an extension course, candidates must hold an offer of a PGCE

place or be accepted to a GTP. There is a fully funded two-week study course in France or Germany included.

These courses are available for German at the University of Portsmouth and at Liverpool John Moores University. For the French extension courses there are five course providers: Liverpool John Moores University, University of Portsmouth, University of Hull, Anglia Ruskin University and London Metropolitan University. Upon satisfactory completion of the course, participants will progress to initial teacher training (PGCE or GTP). For further information, contact the TDA on their Teaching Information Line (0845 600 0991) or see their website at www.tda.gov.uk.

Recognition of existing qualifications

*A degree from a country outside the EU

UK NARIC will be able to advise on the comparability of international and UK qualifications. Advice will be given over the phone. Written confirmation

of equivalence will be provided on receipt of certificates (with certified translation) at a cost of approximately £36 plus VAT.

Tel: 0870 990 4088. E-mail: info@naric.org.uk.

www.naric.org.uk

*Qualified teacher in a country outside the EU

Your qualification is probably not recognised so you will need to gain QTS before you can work as a permanent, qualified teacher in England. There is a special assessment-only route to QTS for overseas trained teachers who are employed in schools. For further details on the programme, please see www.tda.gov.uk/partners/recruiting/ebr/ottprog.aspx. You can also contact the Overseas Trained Teachers (OTT) advice line on 01245 454 321 or e-mail ott@tdainfo.co.uk.

*Qualified teacher from the European Economic Area (EEA)

EEA nationals who are recognised as qualified school teachers in an EEA member state, may apply for Qualified

Employment-based routes (EBRs)

If you have teaching experience already, you may be suitable for the Graduate Teacher or Registered Teacher Programmes. The training programmes are co-ordinated by a Designated Recommending Body (DRB) or a Recommending Body (RB). Some DRBs and RBs may be able to help you find a school to train and work in, but with community languages it is often the case that teachers are trained in schools where they are already working. To find out more about applying for employment-based routes, ring the Graduate and Registered Teacher Programme advice line on 01245 454 444 or send an e-mail to grtp@tdainfo.co.uk. Details of DRBs and RBs are provided on the TDA website at www.tda.gov.uk.

GTP (Graduate Teacher Programme)

This is an employment-based route where on-the-job training is combined with professional duties in the school. The GTP is for graduates who have the relevant experience to cope with an important teaching load at the same time as their training. The training, which lasts between one term and a year depending on previous experience, leads to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) on successful completion. Trainees on the GTP receive a monthly salary usually based on the unqualified teachers' scale, depending on the amount of teaching they are undertaking.

RTP (Registered Teacher Programme)

This is a similar employment-based scheme for non-graduates. If you have a school willing to employ you, you could undertake the RTP, a scheme for those who have successfully completed two years of higher education. The school would need to work with a local higher education institution to ensure that you receive suitable training to extend your subject knowledge to degree level. The training programme leads to a degree-equivalent qualification as well as QTS and usually lasts two years.

Qualify to teach community languages

Teacher Status (QTS) in England without the need for further training. Teachers who gain QTS through this route are exempt from the requirement to serve a statutory induction period. Contact the General Teaching Council (GTC). Tel: 0121 345 0140. E-mail: tqanswer@gtce.org.uk. www.gtce.org.uk.

CILT working with teacher trainers of community languages
CILT, the National Centre for Languages has brought together PGCE providers of community languages to form a support network and share expertise. Other teacher trainers interested in developing community languages are welcome to contact Sarah Cartwright to join these discussions. E-mail: sarah.cartwright@cilt.org.uk.

The PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education)

During this one-year course, you spend twelve weeks at a university or other higher education institution and 24 weeks on teaching placements in two different schools. You work with other trainees and, if successful, gain a recognised postgraduate qualification (PGCE), enabling you to teach in secondary schools in England. Some existing courses in universities or other higher education institutions focus on one or more community language.

Others can provide courses for those who speak a community language in addition to French, German or Spanish. The PGCE offers a phased transition into professional life. In some institutions, a PGCE may be studied part-time or by distance learning. Increased flexibility is offered by new modular PGCE courses being introduced by some institutions. These courses may be able to accredit prior teaching experience provided it is appropriate. Increasingly for community languages, experience in supplementary schools may form an important part of the teaching practice during the training year.

See below for details of institutions offering PGCE courses in community languages. The institutions themselves will be able to tell you more about the course.

Institution	Course	Contact details
Edge Hill College of Higher Education, Lancashire	PGCE Urdu	enquiries@edgehill.ac.uk
Goldsmiths College, University of London	PGCE Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Panjabi and Urdu (Flexible)	j.anderson@gold.ac.uk
London Metropolitan University	PGCE in KS2/3 Languages in the Community	admissions@londonmet.ac.uk
Middlesex University	PGCE Turkish	admissions@mdx.ac.uk
University of East London	PGCE Bengali	secondary@uel.ac.uk
University of Exeter	PGCE Mandarin	Tel: 01392 264 837
University of Nottingham	PGCE Japanese	dawn.aston@nottingham.ac.uk
University of Sheffield	PGCE in Japanese, Mandarin and Urdu	t.lamb@sheffield.ac.uk
University of Strathclyde	PGDE with Urdu	a.g.b.robertson@strath.ac.uk

When you have contacted one of the training providers and discussed applying for a programme, you must apply centrally through the GTTR (Graduate Teacher Training Registry). Request an application form via their website: www.gttr.ac.uk.

Financial support

Tuition fees

From September 2006, ITT providers in England will be able to charge trainee teachers on postgraduate ITT courses variable tuition fees of up to £3,000 a year. The Student Loans Company will allow you to take out a larger loan to cover these tuition fees. You will not have to repay any tuition fees until you have completed your ITT course and you have obtained a position with a salary of more than £15,000 a year. Many ITT providers that want to charge the full tuition fee of £3,000 will give you a grant of £300 towards this fee.

If you live in England and you are starting a postgraduate ITT course from September 2006, you will receive £1,200 towards your variable tuition fees. This amount is not means-tested. For further details on grants available to cover tuition fees, please see www.dfes.gov.uk/studentssupport.

Training bursary*

PGCE trainees of Modern Foreign Languages starting their course in September 2006 in England receive a non-taxable training bursary of £9,000 during their training year (£225 per week).

*Only 'home' students and EU nationals living in the European Economic Area are eligible for training bursaries.

Golden hello

If you complete a postgraduate ITT course in Modern Foreign Languages (which is currently a priority subject) and take up a NQT position teaching this subject in a maintained school or non-maintained special school in England, you may be eligible to receive a one-off taxable payment of £2,500 after successfully completing your induction period.

Trainees on the GTP/RTP are employed by their training school and receive the monthly salary of an unqualified teacher, depending on the amount of teaching they are undertaking. For further information about student finance, please see www.gttr.ac.uk/teach/england.html.