

Skills for Life literacy, ESOL and numeracy teacher qualifications

Important changes were introduced to the training and qualifications of all teachers, tutors, trainers, lecturers and instructors in the September 2007 workforce reforms.

From September 2007 **all** teachers are required to register with the Institute for Learning and meet annual CPD requirements. See www.ifl.ac.uk for more information.

From September 2007 **new** teachers must gain an appropriate qualification depending upon their teaching role.

'Preparation for Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector' (PTLLS) is an initial award at Level 3 or 4 which should be gained in the first year of teaching. PTLLS may be offered as a 'stand-alone' award or as the first part of a longer teacher training qualification.

People in an associate teaching role go on from the PTLLS to complete a 'Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector' (CTLLS) at Level 3 or 4.

People in a full teaching role go on from the PTLLS to complete the 'Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector' (DTLLS) at Level 5 or above.

These courses may be offered by Awarding Organisations (AOs) and by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). HEI courses may have different names, but will still meet the requirements of the 2007 regulations.

Once qualified, new teachers undertake a process of professional formation before being awarded professional status by the Institute for Learning: Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS). Associate Teachers go through a similar process to gain Associate Teacher Learning and Skills (ATLS).

Skills for Life literacy, ESOL and numeracy teachers

All teachers of Skills for Life English (Literacy and ESOL) and Maths (Numeracy) are considered to be in a full teaching role and should gain the DTLLS and QTLS.

Skills for Life teachers are required also to hold a subject-specific teaching qualification in literacy, numeracy or ESOL.

Skills for Life Support Programme

The generic and subject specific qualifications can be offered in a number of different ways:

- **Fully integrated or partly integrated route** leading to the Diploma in Teaching English (Literacy) – or English (ESOL) or Mathematics (Numeracy) – in the Lifelong Learning Sector. This meets the requirements for both generic and subject-specific training in one programme.
- **Concurrent diplomas route**
In this route the two qualifications – the Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector and the Additional Diploma in Teaching English (Literacy) and/or English (ESOL) or Mathematics (Numeracy) in the Lifelong Learning Sector are taken separately, but alongside each other.
- **Additional diploma route**
The Additional Diploma in Teaching English (Literacy) and/ or English (ESOL) or Mathematics (Numeracy) in the Lifelong Learning Sector can be taken separately by teachers who are already qualified to teach other subjects.

These courses are most often run as part-time courses with regular attendance one day a week. However some providers may offer other models including 'blocks' of intensive delivery, blended learning approaches and full-time programmes.

Teachers who joined the profession before 2007

All teachers who began to teach in the Further Education sector before September 2007 are required to register with the Institute for Learning (IfL) and meet annual CPD requirements.

All teachers registered with the Institute for Learning make a commitment to continuing professional development. This isn't just attendance at courses or events; 'It is critical reflection on learning experiences and activities that improve practice and demonstrate continuous development as a teacher or trainer.' See: www.ifl.ac.uk/cpd/about-cpd

Reflect is an online tool for IfL members to record CPD activity, reflection and impact. A summary of CPD must be submitted to the IfL each year.

They are encouraged, but not required, to gain teaching qualifications or achieve professional recognition and apply for QTLS or ATLS.

Standards Verification UK has information about 'legacy' teaching and training qualifications and how they map to the 2007 professional standards at www.standardsverificationuk.org/2924.htm

Skills for Life Support Programme

For Skills for Life teachers who need to hold a subject-specific qualification in order to apply for QTLS, approved Level 4 qualifications in teaching literacy, numeracy or ESOL gained prior to 2007 remain valid.

The General Professional Recognition Learning and Skills scheme enables competent and experienced teachers to be recognised according to the requirements established by the FE Teachers' Qualifications (England) Regulations 2007. If successful, teachers can use their professional recognition towards gaining QTLS or ATLS.

GPRLS Skills for Life is specifically for experienced Skill for Life literacy, ESOL and numeracy teachers. More information can be found at www.standardsverificationuk.org/2927.htm

Qualifications for people wanting to support learners with language, literacy or numeracy

LLUK has produced guidance for awarding organisations on the L3 Certificate in Learning Support: literacy, language and numeracy. The new qualification is not in place as yet (March 2010); it is likely to be available from September 2010.

LLUK has also produced the 'Application of the National Occupational Standards for Learning Support Staff for literacy, language and numeracy learning support practitioners'.

Qualifications for teachers who embed literacy, language and numeracy into vocational areas

The **Award in Developing Embedded Approaches to Language, Literacy and Numeracy** is a Level 5 award for teachers and trainers in the full teaching role. It has three pathways: for specialist teachers of literacy and language, for specialist teachers of numeracy, and for teachers of other subjects.

Further information

The **talent** website gives more information about the qualifications, as well as a database of available courses, regional contacts and a free advice service: www.talent.ac.uk 020 7911 5372 or email: advice@talent.ac.uk

LLUK has information about the workforce reforms at www.lluk.org/feworkforcereforms.htm. There is also an information and advice service on 070 7936 5798 or email: advice@lluk.org

For guidance on how these regulations relate to work-based learning providers, go to: www.lluk.org/documents/fewr_guidance_for_wbl_providers_220408.pdf

Guidance for Adult and Community Learning, Offender Learning and the Third Sector is given at: www.lluk.org/documents/fewr_guidance_acl_providers_260908.pdf