

Assessment Only (AO) Route to QTS

Autumn Term 2016/2017 Cohort



The Assessment Only (AO) Route is a relatively new route into teaching. It enables individuals to demonstrate that they already meet all of the Teachers' Standards, resulting in the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), without the need for any further training.

Who Should Apply for AO?

The AO route is offered by Buckinghamshire Learning Trust and Bourton Meadow ITTC and is primarily designed for graduates working in international schools who have a wealth of prior teaching experience in a range of abilities across two consecutive age ranges and in two complementary settings. Those who wish to gain the qualification through the AO route might include very experienced graduate teachers without QTS who are:

- Currently teaching in schools or academies
- Currently teaching in British Schools Overseas
- Trained to teach in the further education sector, and/or
- Teaching in the independent school sector

There is an expectation that in order to qualify, teachers will have experience of teaching across two consecutive key stages with classes that are not customarily fewer than fifteen students. Primary candidates will be expected to teach the full range of National Curriculum subjects across these age ranges and both primary and secondary candidates should have taught a range of abilities within both age ranges.

Requirements of Schools for AO Route:

In order to ensure the quality of support and success of candidates gaining QTS through the AO route, your school needs to:

- Have been judged good or better by Ofsted or an equivalent inspection (preferably BSO)
- Have trained mentors in the school who can recognise and demonstrate outstanding practice and who can effectively carry out the expected roles and responsibilities of the role;
- Agree to the terms of our partnership agreement
- Name a school in which the applicant has carried (or will be carrying) out his/her second placement
- Have a management structure that supports the training and professional development of teachers

The Mentor Must:

- Have at least 3 years' teaching experience
- Hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)
- Be familiar with the Teachers' Standards and the National Curriculum for England
- Be able to accurately identify and demonstrate outstanding practice and effectively support colleagues in working towards this outcome
- Have strong interpersonal skills enabling them to communicate positively and effectively with the candidate
- Have a supportive and sympathetic approach to colleagues
- Have the support of the Headteacher, Governors and other staff in carrying out their role
- Have the ability to formally observe the candidate, make sound judgements on the quality of teaching and provide constructive feedback, identifying strengths and areas for development

Charges for the AO route are £3000 per candidate. A non-refundable deposit is taken at the point of application with the balance payable at registration. In addition the school will need to pay all travel and accommodation expenses for the in-country assessment. We recommend schools book more than 1 candidate per cohort to reduce the expenses per head. Candidates will only complete their NQT induction year if employed in a BSO school. Without completion of the NQT year candidates will not be fully qualified teachers.

Recognised as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in March 2014



Applicants must meet the following criteria to be registered on the AO Route:

- Achieved a standard equivalent to **GCSE grade C (or higher) in English Language and mathematics**, and those who intend to train to teach pupils aged 3-11 will have additionally achieved a standard equivalent to a GCSE grade C in a science subject
- Hold an **honours degree** from a United Kingdom higher education institution or equivalent qualification
- Passed the **Literacy and Numeracy Professional Skills Tests**
- Assessed as **'fit to teach'**
- Obtained all relevant **safeguarding checks** for the country and/or school in which they're working
- Checked against the **DBS Barring List (UK)** 'Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006'
- **Demonstrates the positive values and personal attributes conducive to teaching** including: resilience and perseverance; the ability to read effectively and communicate clearly and accurately in both spoken and written standard English; strong communication skills and shows a commitment to their own professional development
- **Adequate teaching experience** which includes a minimum of two years' teaching experience in their main school, teaching whole classes and being responsible for planning, teaching and assessment in their subject at secondary level and across the whole National Curriculum at primary level. (Whole classes will usually consist of a minimum of 15 students)
- A minimum of half a term (typically five or six weeks) teaching experience (as detailed above) within a consecutive age ranges / key stages in a different school.
- Evidence that the **quality of this teaching is good or better against the Teachers' Standards**
- Sufficient evidence that the applicant is **meeting the Teachers' Standards in full, or will be by the end of the 13 week assessment period, without the need for any further training.**

Applications must be received by the 31st May 2016 to be considered for the cohort commencing in September 2016

For more information please email ao@learningtrust.net or visit www.learningtrust.net