

ESOL Qualifications (CELTA and DELTA) and QTLS

Current position

Anyone who is a **Skills for Life** teacher and who applies for QTLS, must have a subject specialist qualification, either the **Level 5 Additional Diploma** or the **Level 4 subject specifications** endorsed by FENTO.

Without this, they will not be able to be awarded QTLS.

In 2001, legislation was passed requiring that teachers of Skills for Life subjects have a subject specialist qualification – from 2002 for Literacy and Numeracy and from 2003 for ESOL.

Why are CELTA and DELTA not acceptable for obtaining QTLS?

CELTA – only covers the requirements for PTLLS and part of Planning and Enabling Learning at level 4. This means that it does not meet the Level 5 Additional Diploma or Subject Specialism (Certificate for ESOL Specialists) requirement or the FENTO endorsed Level 4 subject specification. *For the CELTA to be equivalent to the Level 5 subject specialism, 75 hours of teaching practice and additional study to a total of 120 hours is required* (info from Cambridge Additional Diploma in ESOL).

DELTA – covers all of DTLLS Part 1 Level 4 except for the module on assessment. See <http://tariff.svuk.eu/qualification/view/id/202> for detail on missing elements. This means that it does not meet the Level 5 Additional Diploma requirement or the FENTO endorsed Level 4 subject specification.

What if my ESOL teaching qualification is from an EU country, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland?

An ESOL qualification from another country will enable the person to teach for a private provider. However, if the person wants to teach on a course which is funded by the Skills Funding Agency (eg FE college, Adult and Community) then they would need to complete the ESOL specialist diploma as required by the 2001 legislation.

What if my Level 4 ESOL qualification was obtained before 2003?

If this was CELTA or DELTA, it would not have covered the full requirements of the Certificate or Diploma for ESOL specialists. The Additional Diploma or equivalent would therefore be needed to obtain QTLS.

If I teach EFL can I apply for QTLS without having the ESOL subject specialism?

Yes, technically a person can get QTLS if they are teaching EFL in a private college without having the ESOL specialism as it's legislated as being required for teaching on SFA funded programmes. The person applying for QTLS with a private provider will need to make it absolutely explicit that their EFL teaching is not funded by government in any way otherwise the assumption will be that they need the specialism. The other side of this though, is that if the person then wants to move into teaching ESOL (ie in a college/SFA funded even with a private provider) they will need to get the subject specialism and probably before they start applying for such jobs if they want to stand a good chance against others who already have the ESOL specialism.

If an EFL person was applying for QTLS without the ESOL specialism, the reviewer is likely to ask “why”? If they're teaching for a private provider, they are not required to be a member of IfL and the 2007 legislation is not applicable. This leaves the idea that they're applying for QTLS as a 'kitemark' or sign of 'professional'

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commitment, and if this is the case, then why have they not done the Subject Specialism as part of their professional development?

Case studies

Even with a CELTA and MA (English), if this person is a Skills for Life tutor, they would need an Additional Diploma in order to gain QTLS, as their existing qualifications wouldn't cover the pedagogy which the Ad Dip includes, but they might be able to gain APL for some of part of the Ad Dip, as some of it might have been covered in the MA, but that will depend on the institution offering the Ad Dip.

Other examples can be found at http://sflip.excellencegateway.org.uk/sfliqi/pdtraining/apl_casestudies.htm

The future

LLUK and LSIS have reviewed the qualifications and from September 2012 some institutions will be offering combined Literacy and ESOL Subject Specialisms. In some institutions these may also be combined with the DTLLS. Information will be made available as soon as possible on the register of Initial Teacher Training qualifications on the IfL website and also on www.talent.ac.uk.

The Legislation

According to the 2007 Legislation, *The Further Education Teacher's Qualification (England) Regulations 2007 No 2264*:

5 (1) Subject to the following paragraphs, no person may be employed in a full teaching role unless that person:-

- a) Holds the Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector at Level 5 or above approved by the Secretary of State, or its equivalent; and
- b) Holds a specialist's subject qualification approved by the Secretary of State, where the Secretary of State has decided that such a qualification is necessary, or its equivalent

[c)-e) cover Professional Formation and the QTLS process]

This means:

To apply for QTLS, all teachers in a full teaching role must have a full teaching qualification (DTLLS, PGCE, Cert Ed) and if teaching Skills for Life (ESOL, Literacy and Numeracy) a specialist subject qualification. The requirements for this are not set out in the 2007 legislation but in the earlier 2001 legislation.

The 2007 legislation continues at

7 (1) Subject to paragraph (2), the 2001 Regulations are revoked.

(2) The 2001 Regulations continue to apply until 31 August 2008 to any relevant teacher, as defined in those Regulations, who became a relevant teacher on or after 1st September 2001 and before 1st September 2007 and enrolled on a course to obtain a suitable qualification under those Regulations before 1st September 2007, with a view to obtaining that qualification by 31 August 2008.

It is this clause 7 which governs the Skills for Life qualifications a teacher must have when applying for QTLS.

In *A Guide to the Further Education Teachers' Qualifications (England) Regulations 2007, 2007 No. 2264* further explanation is given regarding Skills for Life teachers.

Paragraph 8 states:

teachers of designated subjects, currently Skills for Life subjects², (literacy, numeracy and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) are also required to hold subject specific qualifications. These can be taken as part of or in addition to a generic ITT qualification (DTLLS), (or in addition to an integral qualification if a further subject specific qualification is required, e.g. for teachers of more than one Skills for Life subject).

Note ² And any other subject designated by the Secretary of State in the future.

If you teach Skills for Life in an FE Institution (subject to paragraphs 24-28):

18. You must gain appropriate teaching qualifications, both generic and specialist if you teach Skills for Life subjects (i.e. literacy, numeracy and/or ESOL). Currently only teachers in a full teaching role may teach Skills for Life, which means that you must gain the DTLLS qualification. This is because there have not yet been any appropriate associate teaching roles in Skills for Life identified. In addition to the generic DTLLS qualification requirements set out in the paragraphs above, you must gain a subject specific qualification in whichever Skills for Life subject/s you

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teach. There are various routes to doing this, including integrated routes within ITT and additional routes as a topup to generic or integrated ITT qualifications (see Section 4 of the LLUK's 'Guidance for awarding institutions on teacher roles and initial teaching qualifications' at www.lluk.org/ittreforms for details). In terms of requirements:

19. Teachers of Skills for Life subjects who began teaching in an FE Institution prior to 1 September 2007 are not required to gain subject specific qualifications, provided, in the case of those who began teaching on or after 1 September 2001, they already have a generic teaching qualification and are qualified under the 2001 Regulations. However, Skills for Life teachers will be required to gain subject specialist qualifications if they wish to gain QTLS status, regardless of when they began teaching, and all Skills for Life teachers have been encouraged to gain subject specific qualifications since these were introduced, in September 2002 for literacy and numeracy, and in September 2003 for ESOL.

20. If you begin teaching literacy, numeracy or ESOL on or after 1 September 2007:

- you must gain a subject specific qualification in your Skills for Life subject/s as part of your Initial Teacher Training.

21. See further information on qualification routes at paragraphs 30-31.

Paragraphs 24-28 exempt teachers in HE from the legislation