

Assessment Only Route to QTS with Bromley Schools' Collegiate

What is it?

It is a route towards gaining Qualified Teacher Status for unqualified teachers who are currently teaching in England. Candidates should already have at least two years of whole class teaching experience across two different schools or settings. This must also involve the planning, teaching and assessment of whole classes and not just covering or supporting learning as in the case of HLTAs, cover supervisors or Teaching Assistants.

For secondary candidates, they may only qualify in a single subject, so when considering candidates, the amount of teaching they undertake each week within their main subject is considered. While it is possible for a part-time unqualified teacher to undertake this route, the portfolio development workload involved, must be a factor in any decisions made by the candidate and school when considering this route.

The assessment phase (which lasts no longer than 3 consecutive months), consists of 3 observed lessons in your school setting, to demonstrate your teaching strengths and abilities. Candidates will be assessed on their suitability to teach and their ability to demonstrate meeting all of the Teachers' Standards, without the need for any further training.

There will be a feedback/debrief session after the observation, to discuss what was observed and evidence towards Teachers Standards.

The AOR with us also involves developing a portfolio of evidence using the same framework as we use for ITT (same tasks) and we allow candidates to use evidence from up to a year before their commencement on the route to recognise that we are asking them to draw upon their existing practice.

What are the entry requirements?

- An undergraduate degree (normally 2:2 Honours or equivalent) in your specialist subject for Secondary or in any subject for Primary
- GCSE Grade C/4+ in English & Maths (plus Science for primary)
- Experience of whole class teaching in at least two different schools or settings for at least 2 years overall
- Employment in the current school for at least a year in a class teaching role
- Candidates should have the support of an in-school mentor/coach
- Supporting statement from employing Head Teacher
- Payment of the assessment fee

How can I register my interest in this route?

Contact the office via email in the first instance explaining your current teaching experience through sending us a copy of your CV.

What happens next?

We send you a copy of the application form, which is also available on our website, and ask you to complete it once you have discussed this with your employer to seek their support. Your application will also need to include a reference from your Head teacher (Section C).

Once your application has been processed and your qualifications verified, you will be invited to an interview along with your mentor. This can either be in person or via Zoom and should take around 45 minutes. The interview will be to assess your suitability for teaching and Curriculum knowledge. If you are successful at interview, you will be invited to join the next intake once the partnership agreement and assessment fee is paid.

What evidence will I need to produce?

You will be given guidance on the evidence portfolio to be completed. This will ensure coverage of all the Teaching Standards. You will be able to use information and examples from up to a year prior to your start date.

What experience do I need to be eligible?

To be eligible for the Assessment Only Route, candidates must have a minimum of 2 years whole class teaching experience while employed as an unqualified teacher. Within this experience, you must have gained experience teaching across 4 year groups within the age range you wish to qualify in for a minimum of 25 days each. You must also have experience of teaching within two schools or settings for a minimum of 25 days. All teaching experience must include lesson planning and use of assessment to inform planning.

Do I need to be employed for the route?

Yes, you must be employed as an unqualified teacher. To ensure your employing school are confident in your competence to teach, we request your current employment to be for a minimum of one year prior to beginning the route.

I was a cover supervisor for a year, so I meet the teaching experience criteria, is that enough?

Unfortunately, teaching experience gained within a cover supervisor role cannot be included towards the required teaching experience to be eligible for the route. We can only include experience gained as an unqualified teacher while whole class teaching.

I am a TA, can I be considered for the Assessment Only Route?

Unfortunately, we are unable to assist you with the Assessment Only Route while you are employed as a TA. Candidates must be employed as an unqualified teacher and have the responsibility for the whole class.

I do not have level 4 GCSEs, what should I do?

For the Assessment Only Route, candidates must have a level 4/Grade C GCSE (or equivalent) or above in English, Maths and Science (for Primary). For candidates who do not meet this criterion, we will offer and arrange our equivalency tests to be taken following a successful interview. Should a pass not be gained in the equivalency tests, a place cannot be offered to undertake the Assessment Only Route.

I took my exams so long ago that I do not have my certificates, what should I do?

We must see original copies of your qualifications. You will need to apply to the exam board to request copies of your certificates. There will be a fee for this. We cannot accept candidates on to the route without having sight of their certificates. If you are unable to produce GCSE certificates, you will be required to take our equivalency tests.

I have equivalency exam results from elsewhere; can I use these results instead?

No, for equivalency exams, we require you to take our tests. We will not except test results from another source.

I gained my qualifications abroad; will these be acceptable?

To ensure candidates meet the entry requirements, copies of their school leavers qualifications & Degree certificate should be emailed to Bromley Schools Collegiate. We can then establish they are comparable to GCSEs and UK Degree level. Alternatively, if you have had your qualifications compared by ECCTIS (UK NARIC), please send us a copy of the report.

I have taught abroad, does this count towards the experience I need?

Teaching experience gained abroad can be included towards the required two years teaching experience, as long as the employing school is registered with COBIS (Council of British International Schools), teaching the English national curriculum. We would require a copy of the timetable taught to support your application.

I currently live outside of the UK, can I apply?

Unfortunately, we only accept candidates who live locally to our offices in the U.K which are based in Southeast London.

I would like to apply to complete the Assessment Only Route over the year.

The option to complete the Assessment Only Route over the year is not available. The route is three consecutive months in duration and candidates cannot exceed this time.

My school has two weeks off for half term, will two extra weeks be added to the timeframe to complete the route?

No time will be added to the three consecutive month timeframe which begins from the date of your initial assessment. All school breaks and inset days will be included.

I teach in a special provision school; can I still apply for the Assessment Only Route?

Yes, you can apply. We will need the following further information to support your application and to confirm eligibility with the SCITT Director:

- The class sizes you teach
- Whether you teach the national curriculum along with the range and scope of your teaching
- A copy of your teaching timetable

Where can I complete my second school experience?

Your second school experience must be within the same age range you wish to qualify and in a mainstream school.

I have only taught in KS1, is this OK?

Candidates can apply for the Assessment Only Route for the primary age ranges 3-7 or 4-11. You will be required to have whole class teaching experience across 4 year groups and a second school experience within the age range you wish to qualify.

For further information email administrator@gradteach.uk

