



Teacher Registration Qualifications Policy



Purpose

This policy sets out the framework for the assessment of qualifications for registration with the ACT Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) under the *ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act 2010* (the Act). The policy supports the intention of the Act that only suitably qualified teachers work in ACT schools.

Application

This policy applies to any person applying for registration under the Act and to any approved teacher applying for renewal of their approval under the Act.

Legislative reference

The legislative basis for the principles and directions set out in this policy is provided by the following parts of the Act:

- Part 4 – Registration and permits to teach
- Part 8 – Notification and review of decisions.

Other relevant legislation includes:

- *ACT Teacher Quality Institute Regulation 2010* (as amended 2019)
- *Mutual Recognition Act (Australian Capital Territory) Act 1992*
- *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997*.

Related TQI policies:

- *Teacher Registration and Permit to Teach Policy*.

Qualification assessment

Prescribed qualification requirement

- A course of pre-service teacher education consisting of at least four years of higher education study including an accredited pre-service (initial) teacher education program or an accredited graduate pre-service teacher education program, or
- A course of teacher education provided by a university or higher education provider; and that the TQI is satisfied is equivalent to the above.

Recognised qualifications

TQI will recognise qualifications awarded by an Australian accredited higher education provider. A higher education provider is a body that is established or recognised by or under the law of the Australian Government, a State, the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory.

Initial teacher education programs will be recognised where the program has been accredited by any Australian teacher regulatory authority.

Overseas higher education and initial teacher education programs will be recognised where they have been awarded by institutions listed in the Australian Government: Australian Education International, Country Education Profiles (AEI CEP) or a list or directory recommended in the CEP for that country. Where a qualification is provided from a country not included in CEP, UK NARIC will be referenced as the authoritative source of appropriately accredited institutions in that country.

Equivalent program structures

Teacher education will consist of recognised programs of at least four years of higher education study leading to the award of a degree in education/teaching or a combination of undergraduate study and graduate initial teacher education study that lead to the award of a school teaching qualification as outlined below.

- A recognised academic degree or equivalent diploma of at least three years duration (full-time or equivalent) together with another recognised course of at least one year (full-time or equivalent) initial primary and/or secondary teacher education, such as a Diploma in Education/Teaching, Graduate Entry Bachelor of Education or Master of Teaching or;
- A recognised four year (full-time or equivalent) Bachelor of Primary Education, Bachelor of Education Early Childhood and Primary or Bachelor of Secondary Education qualifications or;
- A recognised four year (full-time or equivalent) primary or secondary teaching double degree such as a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching (Primary or Secondary) or equivalent qualifications.

TQI will also accept

- A recognised two or three-year (full-time or equivalent) **post-Year 12** initial course of primary or secondary teacher education, such as a Trained Teachers Certificate or Diploma of Teaching, together with further recognised awarded higher education qualifications to a total combination of four or more years (full time equivalent).

Teaching and/or tertiary qualifications documentation:

Certified final academic transcripts for each qualification are required to support a registration application. Transcripts must include the name of course, year of completion, name of institution, state or country in which it was undertaken, length of course (full-time

equivalent) and evidence that the qualification has been completed. Where it is not possible to obtain final academic transcripts at the time of submitting an application, TQI may accept the degree testamur if it can be established that the award meets registration requirements, on the condition that the applicant submit the required transcript at a later date.

Overseas qualifications

Qualifications obtained in a country other than Australia (unless current teacher registration with another Australian State/Territory or the New Zealand Teachers Council is evident) will be assessed based on information sourced from the AEI CEP and/or UK NARIC.

Where teachers have met the requirements described in AEI CEP or UK NARIC for eligibility to teach in schools in the country in which they gained their qualification, these requirements will be assessed to determine comparability to one of the program structures in 4.3.

If qualifications are not described in AEI CEP or UK NARIC, applicants must provide certification from the University or the country's Education Department or appropriate authority, indicating that the program of study was a program accredited as a higher education program in that country by the appropriate authority.

If the overseas qualifications include initial teacher education, the above certification must confirm the program was a higher education program approved for the award of a school teaching qualification. A statement must also be provided to show that the program of initial teacher education required supervised school teaching practice and document the number of days or hours required. These qualifications will be assessed on a case by case basis and may be referred to the Teacher Professional Registration Committee (TPRC) for consideration. The TPRC will consider whether the qualifications have sufficient recognised higher education study and initial teacher education comparable to one of the program structures in 4.3.

Supervised practice teaching

All applicants must provide evidence of completion of school teaching practice undertaken as part of their initial teacher education program. For programs commenced prior to 1 January 2013, a statement confirming at least 45 days of supervised teaching practice in a school setting must be provided on Final Academic Transcripts or in the form of a letter from the higher education institution. Programs commenced on or after 1 January 2013 will require teaching practice comparable to that prescribed by the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (*AITSL on Accreditation of Initial Teacher Education Programs in Australia - Standards and Procedures*).

Where initial teacher education programs have been completed and evidence of the required teaching practice cannot be provided, post qualification school teaching evidence may also be considered where appropriate post qualification supervisor assessment reports are provided.

Where initial teacher education programs have been completed in a country other than Australia or New Zealand prior to 1 January 2013, TQI will consider teaching practice days stated in the AEI CEP for the award of the teaching qualification. If the teaching practice does not meet the above requirements, evidence of post qualification teaching in a school may also be considered where appropriate supervisor assessment reports are provided.

Other qualification pathways

Teaching qualifications that have been obtained through alternative pathways, such as recognition of vocational training, may be considered appropriate where a recognised University degree is awarded that would otherwise require the equivalent of four years higher education study.

Degrees awarded by Colleges of Advanced or Further Education will be accepted where it can be demonstrated that the institution was an accredited institution for the award of higher education degrees at the time the award was issued.

Record keeping

TQI record keeping is regulated by the *Territory Records Act 2002* and is managed in accordance with policies and guidelines issued by the ACT Territory Records Office.

Privacy

TQI has issued a Territory Privacy Principle 5 (TPP 5) notice for the collection of personal information, in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2014*.

The notice is available on the TQI [website](#) and outlines:

- when personal information is collected and how it is used
- when personal information may be disclosed and the legislative authority for that disclosure
- the impact if you do not consent to supplying TQI with the information requested
- what to do if you believe that TQI has not handled your personal information correctly.

To request a copy of the TPP 5 notice in another format, please contact TQI.

Policy information

Approved by

The ACT Teacher Quality Institute Board.

Approval date

Current policy as approved by the Board on 23 March 2021

Publication of policy

This policy will be published on the [TQI website](#) and made available in printed format on request. The version of the policy on the TQI Portal website can be regarded as the policy in force at that time.

Review and changes to policy

This policy will be reviewed every three years from the date of approval, or earlier if required. All changes to the policy are approved by the TQI Board.