

## Discretionary Pathway Applications

When an application is being considered through the Discretionary Pathway the applicant provides material and evidence to enable the members of the Panel to make a professional judgement that on the weight of evidence supplied the applicant is, amongst other things, **satisfactorily trained to teach**.

Applicants who apply through this pathway are sent a communication outlining the type of material to provide.

This material is considered using the following decision-making framework.

Evidence	Preferably
a) Appropriate tertiary qualification(s) awarded by a recognised institution	Comparable to Level 7, 8 or 9 on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) as assessed by NZQA. This is recorded on the Qualifications Assessment Report. Qualifications comparable to Level 6 will be considered on an exceptional basis only.
b) Relevant teacher education visible within these qualifications eg. Pedagogy/professional studies/curriculum teaching etc.	At least 1000 hours of teaching professional studies. Information for this is found in the academic transcripts. The hours are usually identified by a standard code identifying credit value equalling hours of study. In New Zealand it is accepted 10 hours of work equates to one credit (it is commonly accepted to be 1/3 face to face, 2/3 independent study) ie 120 credits = 1200 hours
c) Supervised teaching practicum of at least 10 weeks in reasonable blocks of time	Significant amount of this completed in the compulsory education sector (0-20 year age group)
d) Relevant recent teaching service in the public education service of the country of origin	Significant amount of this completed in the compulsory education sector (0-20 year age group) and there is evidence of this service being appraised as satisfactory.
e) References/testimonial and comments related to <i>Standards for the Teaching Profession/ Graduating Teacher Standards</i>	These should be on institution letterhead. If the applicant has held a senior position (HOD/senior management) and supplied satisfactory appraisal material they could be considered for the category of certification of Tomua OS (counting one year of overseas mentoring)
f) Professional development activities undertaken	Reflect continuing education and professional development.
<i>NB: where a person has completed their qualification containing elements of teacher education was completed more than five years ago and the applicant does not have service acceptable to the Council (usually two years within the last five years) then will generally be required to complete the Teacher Education Refresh (TER) Programme. A judgement as to whether a person has acceptable service will be assessed based on their appraisal documentation, support from professional leaders and professional development completed.</i>	

To make these judgements primary and secondary documents are considered, including analysing academic transcripts for subjects (especially their relevance to New Zealand curriculum documents), hours of study (especially of pedagogical subjects), background material about providers and programmes, and making further requests for information from NZQA and other Australasian Teacher Regulatory Authorities (ATRA) assessment officers.

To gain registration applicants need to have qualification(s) that contain sufficient elements of tertiary level professional teaching studies and satisfactory teaching practice.

Once the Panel is satisfied that sufficient evidence has been provided to make a decision to decline, approve or approve an application with conditions, the recommendation will be confirmed.

If the Panel can make a judgement, but a requirement has not been met (or where sufficient evidence has not been provided to make an assessment) then a decision can be made to grant registration and a practising certificate subject to a particular condition being met. Typically, conditions will relate to the language competency requirements, an applicant completing the TER programme (or information being

provided that enables the assessment of whether this is required) or satisfactory overseas police clearance certificates being provided.

Panel members and representation

The Panel must be made up of at least four Council staff members for a decision to be reached. Two of the four must be senior staff members and there needs to be at least one member of at least two different teams (eg. the Registration and Teacher Education teams) participating in the meetings.

Further notes

The granting of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in the United Kingdom is not comparable to an initial teacher education qualification required for teacher registration in New Zealand.

Employment-based pathways which do not lead to the award of a qualification by an accredited institution (as recognised by NZQA) will not be recognised as satisfactory for Initial Teacher Education for the purpose of teacher registration (as agreed by the Council in 2007).

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