

## **Teaching qualifications in geography**

### **Age-range**

*Primary courses* focus on specific age ranges, for example 3-7 or 5-11. Those who want to teach children up to the age of compulsory education (age 5), can follow a course of early years initial teacher training which leads to early years teacher status (EYTS) which is deemed to be equivalent to QTS.

*Secondary courses* are offered at 11-16 or 11-18, although most 11-16 courses also provide some post-16 training. If you wish to teach A Level geography, you should select a course that includes training for post-16.

### **Qualified Teacher status**

All teacher training in England and Wales leads to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). University-led training offer QTS with an academic qualification. Some school-led courses also do so, while others offer QTS only. The academic qualifications vary from course to course and you should consider carefully the qualification you want to get from your training when you apply for a course.

Teacher training for FE leads to Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) which is a different qualification, but if you have QTLS status and membership with the Society for Education and Training, you will be eligible to work as a qualified teacher in schools in England.

### **Undergraduate primary qualifications**

These courses are generally three or four years and lead to:

- Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree (which includes QTS)
- Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees with QTS

### **Postgraduate qualifications**

All teacher training in England and Wales leads to QTS and makes you a “qualified” teacher, but often schools prefer to appoint teachers with a PGCE/PGDE qualification. These courses enable you to increase your professional knowledge, understanding and judgement through wider reading and through written assignments. If you want the freedom to teach outside England, some countries, and most international schools, require a university-validated postgraduate qualification.

A course can only be described as 'postgraduate' if it is pitched at masters level. The *Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)* or the *Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)* are Level 7 qualifications and provide credits towards a master's degree. To gain M-Level credits you have to successfully complete specific assignments during your PGCE.

The *Professional Graduate Certificate in Education* is a Level 6 qualification awarded in addition to QTS. It does not give M-level (masters) credits. Since this qualification also abbreviates to PGCE, some universities call it the ProfGradCE to distinguish it from the PostGradCE.

A Level 7 qualification such as the PGCE/PGDE often gives 60 M-Level credits which can contribute towards a Masters degree which is 180 M-level credits. Teachers can study part-time within the first two or three years of teaching for this. The number of M-Level credits varies between universities. Masters credits are transferable between different universities, but you should check the terms with the universities concerned. Credits are likely only to be transferable to a masters degree in education or geography education, not a pure geography.

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