

QTS DIRECT – ASSESSMENT ONLY ROUTE

Faculty of Science, Environment, Education and Arts

Academic Level:	N/A	Credits:	N/A
UCAS Code:	Not applicable		
Awarding Body:	University of Cumbria		
Delivery Site:	School based (Candidates' own schools)		
Programme Length:	Full Time		
Mode of Delivery:	Blended		
Pattern of Delivery:	Full time		
	Total weeks of assessment:	Minimum 5 weeks, maximum 12 weeks	
	Delivery pattern:	20 days assessed practice during period of study	
	Standard semester dates:	No	
PSRB:	Department for Education		
	Date of accreditation: September 2026	Accreditation period:	
Programme Webpage:	https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/academic-departments/institute-of-education-arts-and-society/teaching-and-education/qts-direct-assessment-only-route/		

Entry Criteria

The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the [Applicant Information](#) pages of the University website for more information. For [RPL](#), please refer to the University website. Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the [programme webpage](#).

PROGRAMME AIMS AND OUTCOMES

Programme Aims

By the end of this programme learners will be able to:

1. to develop the unqualified teacher's ability to demonstrate the professional attributes, knowledge and understanding and skills, appropriate to the chosen age phases and subject/s necessary to meet the current Standards for the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)
2. to ensure that candidates can evaluate their own professional practice sufficient to support successful transition to their induction period as an ECT (Early Career Teacher)

Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

This is an Assessment Only route to QTS rather than a taught course. As such, the focus is on processes of gathering, presenting and reflecting on evidence of meeting QTS Teachers' Standards.

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

K1. understanding relevant legal frameworks, including those for safeguarding, equality and diversity

K2. confidence in the subjects, skills, knowledge and concepts you teach and having a clear understanding of how all pupils make progress

K3. knowledge and understanding of the range of pedagogical choices appropriate for the pupils in the chosen key stages/age phases

K4. understanding of how teachers contribute to the well-being of pupils and of the variety of influences affecting them

K5. understanding of assessment, planning, monitoring, promoting good outcomes for pupils

K6. understanding of classroom/behaviour management - strategies that ensure a good and safe learning environment

K7. evaluation of your professional practice and evidence of acting upon advice and feedback which results in improved educational experiences for pupils

K8. reflection on your professional practice and identification of future professional development needs

Rigorous scrutiny of evidence and competences will be put in place to ensure you can demonstrate the requisite skills, knowledge and understanding.

Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes

This is an Assessment Only route to QTS rather than a taught course. As such the focus is on processes of gathering, presenting and reflecting on evidence of meeting QTS Teachers' Standards.

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

S1. the ability to work independently and with others to ensure learners across the ability range make progress;

S2. the ability to sustain the range of professional competences that engage pupils in learning in and beyond the classroom;

S3. planning, assessing, monitoring, giving feedback;

S4. positive professional relationships, communicating with others, including parents, as appropriate;

team working and collaboration;

S5. engaging with professional development and using feedback, reflection and current descriptors to identify and secure progress towards the achievement of Qualified Teacher Status;

S6. classroom/behaviour management, establishing clear expectations relating to the promotion of positive attitudes to learning and self-discipline and safe learning environments.

Rigorous scrutiny of candidates' evidence and competences will be put in place to ensure they can demonstrate the requisite skills, knowledge and understanding.

PROGRAMME FEATURES

Programme Overview

The unique feature of the programme is its assessment only characteristic.

The University of Cumbria is able to assess suitably qualified and experienced candidates for Qualified Teacher Status without the need for any training and while continuing to teach in their own school. The route is available to unqualified teachers in maintained or independent schools which teach the English curriculum in primary, or secondary, age ranges.

The University of Cumbria is one of the largest providers of initial teacher training in the UK. We have adapted our rigorous assessment strategies so that candidates can gain QTS in their current school by interview, portfolio and assessed practice. Use of technology will ensure that candidates can participate and be supported throughout from wherever they teach.

The start date is flexible - candidates can apply for this route at any point throughout the year with assessments being carried throughout Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms. The route is specifically designed to be straightforward and supportive for busy teachers to achieve QTS. The whole process can be completed in one term. There is a maximum time limit per assessment of 12 weeks.

Learning and Teaching

Teaching

There is no teaching on this programme, it is an Assessment Only route to QTS.

Digital Capabilities

The assessment includes the creation of a digital portfolio to provide evidence that you are meeting the Teachers Standards in both age ranges within your chosen age category for assessment.

Tutor and Mentor

You will be allocated a university assessor and school mentor. Your assessor will have contact with you throughout your assessment. Your school mentor will help you to prepare for and complete your assessment, e.g. e-portfolio and assessed practice. The school mentor and university assessor will provide lesson observation and feedback to support your learning and professional development.

Induction and support

A Handbook with separate proformas will guide you through the process. The university also provides support through the programme's VLE (PebblePad) which contains guidance and useful documents. Potential candidates are invited to an online information session prior to application (register via the webpage). Lines of communication are kept open throughout the assessment process via technology, email, telephone and the e-portfolio.

Assessment

There are three phases to the Assessment Only QTS Direct route; Preparation of e-portfolio of evidence to show you are meeting the Teacher Standards, Initial Assessment Interview and Assessed Practice. The whole process is outlined below:

Phase 1: Preparation for Initial Assessment of e-portfolio of evidence

You will complete an e-portfolio of evidence drawing on your current and previous teaching experience in preparation for the Initial Assessment Interview. The portfolio will provide evidence of meeting all aspects of the Teachers' Standards and will draw on evidence from both age ranges within the chosen age category for assessment.

Phase 2: Initial Assessment Interview

Your university tutor will meet with you (usually in person, in school) to carry out the initial assessment interview, together with your school mentor. The process will include a lesson observation, review of your portfolio of evidence and subject knowledge audit, a brief presentation and professional discussion. The Initial Assessment Interview will normally lead to a recommendation that you are ready to progress to the 4-week Assessed Practice, either immediately, or after a period of preparation but in all cases within a 12-week timescale. The recommendation will include any appropriate professional development targets for you to address during the Assessed Practice.

Phase 3: Assessed Practice

A 4-week assessed teaching practice will be undertaken in your own school supported by your school mentor. You will continue to add to your e-portfolio and will maintain detailed evidence of planning, assessment and evaluation. A weekly lesson observation with written feedback will be required from your mentor. Towards the end of the Assessed Practice, your university tutor will join your mentor again to observe you teach, scrutinise the Assessed Practice documentation and complete your assessment in the tripartite QTS Review Meeting.

Upon successful completion of the route your award of QTS will be presented at the university's Assessment Board, which will formally record your QTS and notify the DfE to complete your registration on the national database of qualified teachers.

Feedback

You will receive feedback while you are preparing your e-portfolio. Your tutor can feedback in real time on an e-platform on each stage of your portfolio, to inform you if you need to add further evidence.

Graduate Prospects

Gaining Qualified Teacher Status enables successful candidates to secure teaching positions locally, throughout the UK and abroad.

MODULES

Module			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
PLCC9029	QTS Direct - Extending Professional Practice [towards QTS]	n/a	Qualificatory

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student Support
The <u>Student Enquiry Point</u> is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes: • <u>Careers and Employability</u> • <u>Chaplaincy</u> for faith and spiritual wellbeing • <u>Mental Health and Wellbeing</u> • <u>Digital Skills</u> • <u>Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD)</u> • <u>International Student Support</u> • <u>Library</u> • <u>Money Advice Service</u> • <u>Safeguarding</u> • <u>Skills@Cumbria</u> • <u>Sports and Fitness Facilities</u> • <u>University Student Accommodation</u> As a student at the University of Cumbria you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University. The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at www.ucsu.me. You can email at any time on studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk

Course Costs
Tuition Fees

Course fees can be found - <https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/academic-departments/institute-of-education-arts-and-society/teaching-and-education/qts-direct-assessment-only-route/>

Exceptions to the Academic Regulations

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes with the following permitted exceptions due to the requirements of the Recommendation of QTS:

- Non-standard programme length

External and Internal Benchmarks

DfE (2012) *Teachers' Standards*, crown copyright: DfE (latest terminology update 2021)

DfE (2025) Assessment Only Route to QTS Criteria and supporting advice

Disclaimer

This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for a range of delivery modes, delivery patterns, and delivery sites. This level of potential flexibility does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University to offer the programme by all modes/patterns and at all locations in every academic cycle. The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage:

<https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/academic-departments/institute-of-education-arts-and-society/teaching-and-education/qts-direct-assessment-only-route/>

Date of Programme Specification Production	August 2026
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