

LC Classification of TESOL Qualifications

TESOL terminology

While it is acknowledged that the specific terminology used by individual qualification providers may differ, it should be understood that, for the purposes of the Languages Canada Quality Assurance Scheme, (LCQAS) the term TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages) qualifications will be used as a general term to refer to any teaching qualification that qualifies teachers of English.

Scope of the Quality Assurance Scheme

The Languages Canada Quality Assurance Scheme is not an accreditation scheme for TESOL qualifications. The scheme assesses qualifications solely for the purpose of determining whether programs meet Languages Canada Standards. (see section E: Academic Staff).

The validation and accreditation of TESOL qualifications will therefore necessarily be carried out by third parties for which LC assumes no responsibility. These third parties will be considered “reputable” for the purposes of the LCQAS if they are determined by Languages Canada to conform to accepted industry standards and demonstrate consistent and appropriate policies and procedures. This determination of reputability is at the sole discretion of Languages Canada.

First degrees

Although a degree is not always an entry requirement for TESOL qualifications, the Languages Canada Standards require that all teachers have a university degree or equivalent. A university degree obtained outside of Canada must be assessed as equivalent to a Canadian degree, as determined by WES, IQAS, ICES or equivalent Canadian body.

TESOL Qualifications

TESOL-I (Initial)

TESOL-I level qualifications are first level qualifications usually taken by teachers who wish to enter the profession.

To be considered by the scheme to be valid, the qualification must

- Be externally validated by a reputable examination body (usually a university or recognized examination board) and /or be accredited by a national or provincial accrediting body.
- Contain at least 10 hours of supervised teaching practice (ie teaching practice where a qualified and standardized assessor observes the trainee teacher teaching real students and gives feedback on his or her performance), and 10 hours of observation of professional teachers.
- Contains at least 100 hours of ELT/TESOL instruction

Examples: CELTA, Trinity CertTESOL, Certificates issued by Canadian Universities or Colleges

TESOL-Q (Qualified)

TESOL-Q level qualifications are higher level qualifications usually taken by teachers with relevant experience who wish to follow a career in ELT/TESOL.

To be considered by the scheme to be valid, the qualification must:

- Be externally validated by a reputable examination body (usually a university or recognized examination board) and /or be accredited by a national or provincial accrediting body
- Contain at least 5 hours of supervised teaching practice (i.e. teaching practice where a qualified and standardized assessor observes the trainee teacher teaching real students and gives feedback on his or her performance), and 10 hours of observation of professional teachers.
- Contains at least 250 hours of ELT/TESOL instruction

Examples: DELTA, DipTsol, Diplomas offered by Canadian Universities or Colleges

Master's degree in TESOL (or related subjects)

MA's in TESOL or related subjects can be considered equivalent to TESOL-I/Q qualifications as long as validation, teaching practice and input criteria listed above are met. Master's level qualifications are normally taken by individuals with prior qualifications and experience who wish to deepen their understanding of relevant research issues, and develop their skills and knowledge as language educators and academic leaders.