

Frequently asked questions

What are the different categories of registration?

Until the *Teachers Registration Act 2000* is amended the correct terms for registration categories are 'provisional registration' and 'registration'. For clarity this document refers to the two categories of registration as 'provisional registration' and 'full registration'.

What is provisional registration?

To teach in Tasmanian school teachers must:

- have appropriate qualifications; that is, a four-year undergraduate pre-service teacher education course, a two-year postgraduate pre-service teacher education course or a one-year postgraduate pre-service teacher education course
- have appropriate teaching experience and competence
- be of good character.

If the teacher meets the requirements for Tasmanian teachers, registration is initially granted on a 'provisional' basis as a transition period to full registration. This applies to recent teacher education graduates from universities in Australia, teachers applying for registration after a career or work break, and may apply to some teachers applying for registration from interstate or overseas.

Provisional registration can be held for a period of up to three years with an option to extend for another year, in the first instance. This induction period provides teachers with the time to consolidate their teaching practice, and apply professional knowledge, values and relationships to their teaching prior to applying for 'full' registration.

What is full registration?

Full registration means that the standards of professional practice as a teacher in Tasmania have been met. The Competence Standard from the *Tasmanian Professional Teaching Standards Framework* describes the teaching standard for this purpose.

To move from provisional to full registration teachers are required to demonstrate:

- that their professional teaching practice meets the Competence Standard
- competent teaching for at least one full-time equivalent year of teaching (185 FTE days of teaching)
- that they meet the requirements for a good character check
- that they have met any additional requirements that may have been attached to their provisional registration, for example for proof of English language proficiency or upgraded qualifications.

Some teachers have additional conditions attached to their registration. They must meet these before proceeding to full registration.

The requirement for competent teaching is demonstrated by teachers providing evidence of meeting the standard from their everyday classroom teaching. This evidence is assessed by a school-based panel of professional colleagues who recommend the teacher for full registration.

Teachers who are successful in meeting all requirements are granted full registration by the Teachers Registration Board and continue to be eligible to teach in Tasmanian schools and other states within Australia.

Why do some teachers have conditions attached to their provisional registration?

Some teachers have additional conditions attached to their provisional registration set by the Board. These are in addition to the requirements that apply to all teachers, that is to teach for 185 days FTE and to have good character checks and police clearances. Teachers with additional conditions are notified in writing of their specific requirements when they receive their Provisional Registration package. These may include the requirement to upgrade teacher qualifications or to provide evidence of meeting English language requirements.

Certified evidence of meeting all conditions needs to be provided with the application to change category of registration.

What is an LAT?

If a school has a vacancy for which a suitable registered teacher cannot be found, the *Teachers Registration Act 2000* provides that the Board may grant a Limited Authority to Teach (LAT) to an unqualified person to teach for a nominated period, if the Board is satisfied that the nominated person :

- has the appropriate skills/experience that an available registered teacher does not have
- is ineligible for teacher registration
- is of good character.

LAT applications are initiated by the employer, who must argue the case for employment. Employment cannot commence before the application is approved by the Teachers Registration Board.

Why do I need another good character check and police clearance when I had one last year?

The TRB needs to be certain clearances are current and that there are no recent disciplinary or inability proceedings relating to your employment as a teacher. Likewise the TRB needs to ensure that there have not been any charges or convictions for indictable or other offences incurred since the last check.

How old can the evidence be?

To ensure that it is current, the unit of work should have been planned and taught in the previous three terms of teaching and should provide evidence of ability to manage all facets of the teaching and learning cycle.

What happens if I gain recommendations for some but not all of the units?

Credit gained for individual units during assessment can be 'banked' for up to two years until applicants have to reapply or change schools. After that time current evidence of competence should be presented.

What happens once I lodge my application with the TRB?

Once all registration requirements have been met the Board grants registration. You are advised as soon as practical of your change of category and receive a new certificate reflecting the change. Your current status is also reflected on the publicly available register.

How does this process work for relief teachers?

All teachers seeking full registration are required to demonstrate that their teaching practice has met the Competence Standard. The evidence provided by relief teachers might be slightly different, but still needs to be a valid demonstration of teaching competence. An application for registration from a relief teacher needs to be assessed by a panel which includes a TRB nominee. To do this, either forward the application for external assessment by the TRB, or request TRB representation on a school panel.

As there is no pressure to change category, relief teachers may choose to wait until they have an ongoing teaching appointment.

How does this process work for teachers who change schools within a year?

All teachers seeking full registration need to demonstrate that their teaching practice has met the Competence Standard. The evidence provided by might be slightly different, because evidence may be gathered different schools and teaching appointments. Demonstrating an ability to successfully teach in different settings should strengthen an application.

Evidence of competence achieved can be carried forward for up to two years. After that current competence would again need to be demonstrated.

How does this process work for teachers working in settings other than registered schools?

All teachers seeking full registration need to show that their teaching practice has met the Competence Standard. The evidence provided might be slightly different, but still needs to be a valid demonstration of teaching competence.

This process is designed for teachers working in government and registered schools in Tasmania. Non-school settings may not be able to provide all the professional experiences necessary to meet the Competence Standard. Teachers should talk to the Board about their individual situation before proceeding.

How does this process work for experienced educators not based in a classroom?

The process of demonstrating teaching competence is designed for classroom teachers working in registered schools in Tasmania. Non-school settings may not be able to provide all the professional experiences necessary to meet the Competence Standard. Educators should talk to the Board about their individual situation.