

Assessment only route – Selection stages

Stage 1 - Applying

A. Expression of interest - Initial Application

- Complete the expression of interest form. Mersey Boroughs will contact you by email and will then either ask you to complete the full application form, ask for further details or explain why this route is not suitable for you.

B. Formal Application

- The application should include as much detail as possible about your teaching experience (which can include paid employment and unpaid/voluntary roles) to allow us to judge your suitability for this route.
- You will need to provide evidence of how you meet the selection criteria, together with details of a school willing to host the assessed placement. This is usually your employing school but in exceptional circumstances you do not need to be working in a school. In this case a school may 'sponsor' you and provide an appropriate assessed placement.
- References: Two references needed. One from your current employer (e.g. Head Teacher). S/he will need to confirm in the reference that they are supportive of your application; that they will continue to support you whilst you undertake your studies and that they commit to providing you with a suitable mentor. The second reference should be from the head of the school where you taught previously.
- A sponsoring school may also offer you financial support to enable you to undertake the route.
- The application will then be judged against the application criteria. If successful candidates will move onto stage 2.

Stage 2 – Initial Assessment

C. Candidates will then be invited to prepare a portfolio of evidence demonstrating the degree to which QTS standards are met.

D. Formal Eligibility interview: For DfE compliance the candidate will be required to bring their original GCSE examination and degree certificates, photo ID (passport or a driving license.) and their original DBS clearance documentation.

As with all ITT trainees, assessment only candidates are required to have passed the QTS skills tests for English and mathematics via Learn Direct before assessment can be undertaken. It is expected that by the date of interview, candidates will have completed both tests or can provide evidence of the tests booking dates.

Before the panel interview the candidate will be required to present their portfolio of evidence showing how each standard is currently met and short literacy and numeracy tests will be taken. During the interview the candidate will be asked about their recent and past teaching experience as well as making a short presentation to the interview panel.

E. Following the formal interview tutors from MBITT and candidates will arrange an appropriate date for the suitability and approval visit which will take place in the supporting school. The school will need to confirm that the school-based mentor and/or the candidate's line manager will be available to work with the tutor to jointly verify evidence claims and establish suitability for the AO route. During the visit the candidate will be observed teaching at least one lesson.

Stage 3 – Recommendation for Progression to the Assessed Phase with Development Targets;

The initial assessments will normally lead to a recommendation that the candidate is ready to progress to the Assessed Phase and an appropriate start date for the programme will be agreed.

The recommendation will include any appropriate professional development targets for the candidate to address prior to and during the placement. If a significant gap in evidence against the QTS Standards is identified candidates will be required to defer the assessed placement until they are able to provide further evidence.

F. Observation of teaching prior to formal assessment

Normally a twelve week period of assessed teaching practice will be undertaken in the "sponsoring" or 'employing' school. It cannot be more than 12 weeks. Candidates will be required to maintain a full file of evidence of planning, assessment and evaluation. The candidate will need evidence of 10-12 lesson observations graded against OFSTED criteria with full written feedback.

During the formal assessment period one or more lesson observations will be undertaken jointly by a member of the MBITT QA team who is external to the school and the candidate's mentor. They will observe the candidate teaching, provide feedback on progress, scrutinise documentation and discuss the candidate's progress. A member of the MBITT QA team will visit the candidate on at least 2 occasions during the formal assessment stage.

During the Formal assessment phase the candidate will continue to develop their portfolio of evidence with additional documents also addressing any targets set at interview.

Stage 4 – Final Review and Recommendation for QTS

The final assessment will be in three parts:

1. Firstly the school will review the candidate's portfolio of evidence and verify that all standards have been met.
2. Secondly the school will consider the candidate's professional practice against OFSTED standards and grade the candidate accordingly.
3. Finally MBITT will review the candidate's evidence/ portfolio of evidence and conduct a face to face structured discussion to discuss this evidence and to

examine the candidate's professional knowledge for teaching. The candidate will have a final cross moderation observation of their teaching carried out by a different member of the MBITT team to provide an additional element of Quality Assurance.

Providing all the QTS standards are met to a satisfactory standard the candidate will be recommended for the award of QTS. The candidate then goes on to complete a career entry development profile and move into their NQT year.