

CELTA – Frequently asked questions

What does CELTA stand for?

CELTA stands for a Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults. This certificate will qualify you to teach general English to multilingual adult groups in private language schools and in the state sector in some countries.

What is the difference between TEFL, TESL, TESOL and ELT?

Here is our attempt to clarify but we warn you it can be confusing! **TEFL** means Teaching English as a Foreign Language and **TESL** means Teaching English as a Second Language and this usually refers to adults studying in their own countries or in the UK/an English speaking country who want to use English to travel, improve job prospects or just as a hobby. Both can be used as general acronyms for the profession but **ELT** (English Language Teaching) is the common umbrella British term. **TESOL** means Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and in the UK this refers to students whose primary aim is to function in the UK/an English speaking host-country where they anticipate living on a permanent basis. However, confusingly, in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand the acronyms TEFL and TESOL are used interchangeably. Two English Language Teaching qualifications are widely recognised and respected internationally. These are the **Cambridge English Language Assessment CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults)** and **Trinity College TESOL**.

What is the difference between the Cambridge CELTA and Trinity College TESOL?

In many ways the courses are similar. Both include supervised teaching practice with genuine non-native speakers, observation of experienced teachers and sessions on methodology. Both are usually 4- week, intensive courses, but some centres offer part-time courses, usually lasting 3 or 6 months. The **Cambridge English Language Assessment (CELTA)** is the older and more established of the two qualifications. Although employers worldwide accept both Cambridge CELTA and Trinity TESOL, some still prefer CELTA.

What are the job opportunities for someone with a CELTA qualification?

Excellent, especially if you want to work overseas, particularly in Eastern Europe and the Far East. There are jobs available in Western Europe and South America, but for these you often need at least one year's experience. There are several agencies to help you find work abroad, and many useful websites.

In the UK there are good opportunities for newly qualified teachers to work mainly from Easter to September. Our CELTA course includes advice on finding work, what to expect in a teaching contract and how to apply for jobs abroad.

How much will I be paid as a CELTA qualified teacher?

Rates of pay vary from country to country. Apart from work in the Middle East, teaching English is not a well-paid profession by Western standards, but you can usually live pretty well by local standards, especially in Eastern Europe and Asia. Good schools will offer a package including free accommodation, medical insurance, flight allowance, visa support etc, which is worth quite a lot extra. In Western Europe you are less likely to be offered such a package; the popular destinations don't work so hard at attracting teachers!

Generally expect only to be paid for classroom time, not lesson preparation time.

How do I apply for a CELTA course?

There is a two-stage application procedure for the CELTA course. There is a language awareness task with the application form, and then an interview. Allow plenty of time to research and do the pre-interview task in full as this is part of the selection process and shows you the kind of knowledge you will need to build before, during and after the course. At the interview the teacher trainer will discuss the application form, language task and the course with you in more depth, and give you a chance to ask any questions about the course or ELT as a career.

Do I need a degree to do a CELTA course?

No. The usual requirements are 2 A-levels or equivalent. However, if you do not have a degree you will not be able to get teaching work in some schools and some countries (e.g. Japan). If you are a more mature applicant, we also take into account your career/jobs and experience and your performance on the pre-interview task.

If I take the CELTA, will I be qualified to teach children (young learners)?

No, not specifically. Both CELTA and Trinity TESOL courses qualify you to teach adults. There is, however, a session with hints and tips for coping with young learner's classes and many schools expect you do teach some young learner classes. If you want to specialise in teaching children, you can do the **TKT Young learners course**, which is part of a modular series of qualifications testing your knowledge in a specific area of language teaching. (See the Cambridge website www.cambridgeenglish.org for details).

What's the age range of candidates?

There is no age limit; people from the age of 20 can apply to do the course (in exceptional circumstances we may accept 18 year olds). As well as graduates, more and more people in their 40's, 50's and 60's are doing the course. Generally the course will consist of a mix of all ages and backgrounds.

How good does my grammar have to be?

As a native speaker you are unlikely to have studied the grammar system and this is an area you will need to develop. We expect you to research and use reference material for the pre-interview language awareness task and on the course in the planning of grammar lessons. Your language awareness should continue to develop as you gain more experience beyond the course.

Can non-native speakers apply to do the course?

Yes. You will need to demonstrate your ability to use English to a very high standard. Ideally you will need to have a recognised English Language qualification: Cambridge Advanced English (CAE) grade A, Cambridge Proficiency English (CPE) or IELTS 8.0. Alternatively, if you have been resident in an English speaking country for an extended period of time either studying at a university or working, this would also be considered.

What's the pass rate?

The pass rate is very high because our selection procedure is thorough. We only accept candidates we think have a very good chance of passing and you are well-supported during the course.

There are so many centres - why choose LSI Brighton?

We are a long established centre (running Celta courses since 1989) with a permanent team of highly experienced trainers. We pride ourselves on our positive and supportive atmosphere and the fact that we gain most of our CELTA candidates by personal recommendation.

Further Career Options What is a DELTA?

The **DELTA** is the Cambridge Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults. You need a minimum of 2 years teaching experience to be accepted on the course. For many CELTA qualified teachers it is the next step if they decide to make a career in ELT. See the Cambridge website (address above) for more details.