

Cambridge CELTA

Based on the University of Cambridge site : <http://www.cambridgeesol.org/exams/celta/>

CELTA – The Certificate in Teaching English Language to Adults is an introductory course for candidates who have little or no previous English language teaching experience. It may also be suitable for candidates with some experience but little previous training.

Today, it is the most popular international qualification for those who want to have a career in ELT. It is usually recognised and accepted by language schools around the world.

CELTA courses are designed by individual centres based on specifications produced by Cambridge ESOL. They are available at over 286 approved centres in 54 countries, providing almost 900 CELTA courses every year.

You can take CELTA full time (typically four to five weeks), or part time (from a few months to over a year). It is also possible to study for CELTA online with the Cambridge CELTA Course Online.

Continuous assessment

You will be assessed throughout the course, with no final examination. An external assessor, appointed by Cambridge ESOL, moderates each course. There are two components of assessment:

- Teaching practice - You will teach for a total of six hours, working with classes at two levels of ability. Assessment is based on your overall performance at the end of the six hours.
- Written assignments -You will complete four written assignments: one focusing on adult learning; one on the language system of English; one on language skills; and one on classroom teaching.

To be awarded the certificate you must pass both components. There are three grades – Pass, Pass 'B' and Pass 'A'.

Course aims

The course enables candidates to:

- acquire essential subject knowledge and familiarity with the principles of effective teaching
- acquire a range of practical skills for teaching English to adult learners
- demonstrate their ability to apply their learning in a real teaching context.

Entry Requirements

Candidates will need :

- A standard of education equivalent to that required for entry into higher education. Non-native speakers should have a C2 or high C1 level with an A or B pass.
- **To be aged 18 or over, with an awareness of language and a competence in English, both written and spoken**, that enables them to follow the course and complete all assessed elements successfully. In many centres the minimum age is 20.

Syllabus overview

- The syllabus consists of five specific topic areas:
- Learners and teachers, and the teaching and learning context
- Language analysis and awareness
- Language skills: reading, listening, speaking and writing
- Planning and resources for different teaching contexts
- Developing teaching skills and professionalism.

Course programmes

Programmes are designed by individual centres using the syllabus and course objectives.

Courses will have a minimum of 120 contact hours including:

- input
- supervised lesson planning
- teaching practice (six assessed hours)
- feedback on teaching
- peer observation
- observation of experienced teachers (minimum six hours)
- consultation time.

How does Teaching Practice work ?

Teaching practice is an integral part of the course. You will teach at 2 different levels, sometimes 3.

Teaching practice is usually organised in small 'teaching groups' of 5-6 trainees.

You will usually teach classes of volunteer students.

Your tutor will organise feedback sessions where your teaching will be evaluated.

Trainees are expected to work with the other members of their groups outside classes to plan their practice lessons.

Candidates will need to dedicate a minimum of 80 hours for the required reading, research, pre- and post-session tasks, assignments and lesson preparation.