

Frequently Asked Questions

AITSL Teacher Migration Services and Support

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Getting your application ready

Does AITSL offer a fast track assessment service?

No, AITSL does not provide a fast-track assessment service. If an assessment outcome is needed by a specific date, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure a complete application is submitted well before the required date.

What documents can I upload for the identity requirements?

Other identity documents that can be submitted are birth certificates, national identity cards or official photo bearing documents such as student IDs and driver licences. If the document is not in English, include a translated version in English.

Do I need an agent to apply for an assessment?

No, there is no requirement to use an agent when applying for a skills assessment.

Do supporting documents need to be submitted at the same time as an application?

Yes, AITSL requires a complete application to be lodged for assessment. If further information needs to be requested, this will result in delays to the assessment process.

What documents should NOT be provided with my application?

Only the documents that are required in the occupation checklist and Application Guide should be provided as part of your AITSL application. Providing additional documents will not assist your application and can slow down the assessment process. Examples of documents that should not be provided with applications include:

- Short courses (less than one year full-time study), professional development programs or incomplete qualifications
- Year 12, secondary or high school certificates
- Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) certificates
- Induction certificates
- Curriculum vitae
- Reference letters
- Employment statements (this is only required for Skilled Employment Statement applications)

Will AITSL provide updates about the assessment?

The dashboard in the Applicant portal will show you when your application has been successfully submitted, when it is under assessment and when it has been finalised.

If AITSL needs to contact you, AITSL will post a message in your Applicant portal. You will receive an email to your nominated email address asking you to log in to the Applicant portal and review your messages.

How long does an assessment take?

The majority of assessment-ready applications are completed within 4 weeks, some may take up to 6 weeks to complete. However, processing times can be impacted by the volume and complexity of applications received. Significant delays may occur during peak periods, which may impact your migration goals; please ensure you submit your application early to avoid disappointment. Additionally, if an application is incomplete, if there are incorrect documents or information provided is inconsistent with available information, this will also delay the processing of your application.

Can an application be withdrawn? Will a refund be issued?

Yes, an application can be withdrawn. To withdraw an application, AITSL needs to receive a request in writing (email) from the applicant.

AITSL can only issue a partial refund (AUD861) if the assessment of the application has not commenced. No refund will be issued if assessment of the application has started.

Do I need to provide information about how COVID-19 affected my initial teacher education qualification study?

No, AITSL no longer requires additional evidence that outlines how your study was or was not affected by COVID-19. However, AITSL reserves the right to request additional information about Covid arrangements during the assessment process.

Applicant Portal

How do I upload my documents?

Scan your documents in at least 300 dpi resolution. Ensure that your documents are in the correct format. The Applicant portal will only accept pdf, jpeg, jpg, png, bmp and tiff file formats. Don't forget to click **upload** once you have attached your document. There will be a green uploaded message when you have successfully uploaded a document.

How do I add a document after I have submitted my application?

Once you have submitted your application, you will not be able to add documents. You will receive notification if you are required to submit additional documents and be given access to upload documents in the [Applicant portal](#).

How do I get technical help with using the Applicant portal?

You can contact AITSL on the following channels

Email: migration@aitsl.edu.au

Existing applications: Via the applicant portal message centre

Criteria and requirements

What are the criteria and requirements?

For information about criteria and requirements for the different teacher occupations, please visit the [Applying for a skills assessment](#) webpage and download the Application Guide and the checklist specific to the occupation you wish to nominate. Please also read our downloadable fact sheets to support your application process.

Can I get advice from AITSL on whether I meet the criteria?

No. We do not provide a pre-assessment service. AITSL compares an applicant's qualifications against the assessment criteria in place at the time they apply. Without a complete application including a full set of evidence, AITSL is not able to provide an assessment.

What should I study to gain a successful assessment?

Assessment criteria may change over time to reflect current Australian teaching standards and Australia's immigration policy. As such, AITSL advises against making educational choices solely based on hoping to achieve a particular migration outcome.

I have been working as a teacher, does experience count in meeting the criteria?

No, the AITSL skills assessment for teachers is a qualifications-based assessment. Work experience undertaken before or after the completion of an initial teacher education qualification will not be considered as part of the skills assessment.

Which school teacher occupation should I apply for?

AITSL cannot direct or recommend an applicant to choose a particular occupation. Applicants should choose the school teacher occupation for which their teaching qualification/s is most relevant.

What is the difference between Special Needs Teacher and Special Education Teacher (nec)?

A Special Needs Teacher has a specialist qualification for teaching students in early childhood, primary, middle and secondary school, with learning difficulties or other special needs.

A Special Education Teacher (not elsewhere classified) has a specialist qualification in a distinct field/s of special education not covered by these three occupations; special needs teacher, teacher of the hearing impaired or teacher of the sight impaired.

Qualifications

What is an initial teacher education (ITE) qualification?

An initial teacher education qualification is the qualification required to teach in a school classroom or educational setting. It must include at least one year of full-time study (or part-time equivalent) and be specific to the stage of schooling of the nominated occupation.

The qualification must include a program of professional studies in education including discipline-specific curriculum, pedagogical studies, general education studies and supervised teaching practice relevant to the age range of the students for the occupation you have nominated.

What qualifications can AITSL consider?

For teaching qualifications, AITSL is able to consider qualifications comparable to the educational level of an Australian Bachelor degree (Australian Qualifications Framework Level 7) or higher.

For non-teaching qualifications, AITSL is able to consider qualifications comparable to the educational level of an Australian Advanced Diploma / Associate Degree (Australian Qualifications Framework Level 6) or higher.

AITSL does not have a list of accredited programs for skills assessment purposes and does not assess short courses (less than one year full-time study), professional development programs or incomplete qualifications.

Do I have to include all my higher education qualifications in my application?

Applicants should include details of all completed higher education qualifications. Please refer to the occupation checklists for the documents to include for each qualification.

Can incomplete qualifications be considered as part of the assessment?

No, AITSL cannot consider study that has not resulted in a formal academic qualification.

My course is not on AITSL's accredited list. Could my course be recognised?

AITSL Teacher Migration Services and Support does NOT have a list of accredited programs for the purposes of skilled migration. The [accredited programs list](#) on the AITSL website is a record of programs accredited as an initial teacher education program by the teacher regulatory authority in each state/territory.

Can AITSL download my award certificate and transcript from my university portal?

No, it is your responsibility to download these documents from the university portal and upload them to your application. Do not change the file name. Changing the file name disables verification features and will result in delays to the assessment process.

Does an initial teacher education qualification need to be relevant to the nominated school teacher occupation?

Yes, the skills assessment requires an applicant to have completed at least one year of initial teacher education study relevant to the nominated occupation.

I have Montessori qualifications. Can I use them as evidence of initial teacher education?

No, Montessori qualifications in general are not recognised by AITSL as meeting the professional criterion as it is considered a specialised method of teaching.

Can Teaching English Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) qualifications be considered as initial teacher education qualifications?

No, AITSL completes assessments for the purpose of migration for school teacher occupations only. If your qualification is in TESOL, TEFL or ESL you may need to refer to the [Skilled Occupation List \(SOL\)](#) from the Department of Home Affairs for an appropriate occupation and the relevant assessment authority. Please note that some initial teacher education qualifications may have ESL or TESOL as a specialist subject area.

Early Childhood Teachers

Who is the assessing authority for the Early Childhood Teacher occupation?

As of 7 December 2024, the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) has taken over the delivery of the skills assessments for the ECT occupation. If you require a new ECT skills assessment, you must now submit your application directly to ACECQA. AITSL no longer accepts ECT applications.

How will this change impact my current application with AITSL?

Applicants with applications that are under assessment with AITSL are not affected by this change. Your application will be assessed against AITSL's assessment criteria and finalised by AITSL. If you receive a skills assessment certificate, this certificate will remain valid for 2 years from the date of issue.

If you require a skills assessment for the Early Childhood Teacher occupation from 7 December 2024, you will need to submit your application to ACECQA.

I require a skills assessment for the ECT occupation. Should I apply to AITSL or ACECQA?

AITSL is no longer the assessing authority for ECT occupation and is unable to accept new skills assessment applications. You will need to submit your application to ACECQA.

Where can I find out more information about the skills assessment process for the ECT occupation?

You can find out more information about the changes to the skills assessment process for the ECT occupation by:

- referring to AITSL's skills assessment [fact sheet for the ECT occupation](#)
- contacting [ACECQA](#) directly.

Can I withdraw my application with AITSL for a refund and submit a new application to ACECQA?

Where assessment of your application has not yet commenced, you may withdraw your application and AITSL will issue a partial refund (AUD 861). Where assessment of your application has commenced, you may withdraw your application. However, no refund will be issued.

To submit your application to ACECQA, please visit their [website](#).

I have received a suitable ECT skills assessment outcome from AITSL. Is it still valid, or do I need an ACECQA assessment as well?

There is no need to have your skills assessment re-assessed by ACECQA if your AITSL outcome has not expired. An AITSL skills assessment certificate is valid for two years from the date of issue.

I have a suitable ECT skills assessment from AITSL. Can I submit an application for a Skilled Employment Statement?

As of 7 December 2024, AITSL no longer accepts new applications for skills assessments or requests for Skilled Employment Statements for the ECT occupation. For enquiries relating to the ECT occupation, please contact ACECQA directly.

Teacher registration

Is teacher registration required for an AITSL skills assessment?

AITSL skills assessment does not require an applicant to obtain teacher registration. However, Australian teacher registration may be considered during the assessment process.

If you wish to work as a teacher in Australia, you will need to gain registration with the teacher regulatory authority in the relevant state/territory. A complete list of authorities is available [here](#).

I am a registered teacher in Australia, do I need to apply for an AITSL skills assessment?

An AITSL skills assessment is for skilled migration purposes only. It is separate to teacher registration requirements. If, as part of your migration you require a skills assessment for a school teacher occupation, you will need to apply to AITSL. Please confirm with the [Department of Home Affairs](#) whether you require a skills assessment for your migration.

Although many of the requirements for teacher registration and an AITSL skills assessment are similar, you still need to submit all the evidence outlined in the occupation checklists and Application Guide. This may differ from the documents you submitted for teacher registration.

I have received a suitable skills assessment outcome for a teacher occupation. Do I need teacher registration too?

To teach in Australia, you need teacher registration. The registration and employment of teachers in Australia is the responsibility of the relevant state and territory authorities.

Contact details of the state and territory regulatory authorities can be found at [Migrate to Australia links](#).

I have teacher registration in New Zealand. Do I still need to undergo a skills assessment?

An AITSL skills assessment is for skilled migration purposes only. It is separate to teacher registration requirements. The Trans-Tasman mutual recognition agreement only applies to teacher registration. Visit the [webpages of state and territory regulatory authorities](#) for further information.

If, as part of your migration you require a skills assessment for a school teacher occupation, you will need to apply to AITSL. Please confirm with the [Department of Home Affairs](#) whether you require a skills assessment for migration purposes.



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