

CELTA Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I have heard that the course is very intensive – is this true?

A: Yes! On the full-time face to face and online courses, you should be prepared to devote five days a week (including evenings) to the course, and to spend a considerable part of each weekend on course-related work. On the part-time/online course, you should be prepared to spend time during the week on course-related work and also a considerable part of weekends.

Q: Would I have to attend all the course hours?

A: Yes! You need to attend 100% of the course. We understand if a candidate has to go to the doctor's or attend an interview but we strongly advise you not to miss any sessions. It is also strongly advised that you have no other commitments outside the course if you're considering the full-time course.

Q: What is the course timetable?

A: The course is divided into methodology sessions and teaching practice with feedback.

- On the **full-time** course, the timetable is:
09:00-13:00: seminars and guided lesson planning
14:00-17:00: teaching practice and feedback
- On the **part-time/online** course, the timetable is as follows:
Input: online on the CELTA platform
Teaching practice: all day Saturday

Q: What happens in the input sessions?

A: A variety of sessions, such as methodology, language awareness, phonology, language and skills, lesson planning and professional development.

Q: When would I start teaching?

A: Full-time course: Day 1; part-time course: Week 2 nb: *the first teaching practice is not observed and not assessed*

Q: Who would I be teaching?

A: Groups of up to 15 adult students of English.

Q: Am I observed?

A: Yes, your tutor will observe you and assess your teaching. Some of your colleagues will also observe you and complete an observation task which you will refer to in feedback.

Q: What is feedback?

A: Following teaching practice, you have the opportunity to reflect upon and discuss your teaching with your colleagues and your tutor. This part of the course is extremely important because it should help you to develop an increasing awareness of your strengths and areas for development as a teacher, and you will be given action points to address in future teaching practice lessons.

Q: What teaching method would I be expected to use?

A: The IHC is an introduction to the theory and practice of English Language Teaching and introduces participants to a variety of current procedures and techniques in the field. Methods will depend on what is appropriate and most useful to the level, age, size and composition of your class.

Q: What else would I be expected to do outside the timetabled hours?

A: You should expect to spend time:

- On the part-time course, you may also have observations outside the timetabled hours. This is arranged with your tutor to suit your schedule.
- Liaising with colleagues in your teaching practice group in order to produce a cohesive timetable of lessons for your students.
- Planning your own lessons: although you may be teaching for relatively short periods, it is quite normal to spend up to six hours preparing your lesson.
- Working on written assignments: these are four assignments which are all course-related and of a very practical nature. They are internally assessed and externally moderated by International House Assessment Unit.

Q: How would I be assessed on the course?

A: Assessment on the course is continuous and integrated, taking into account teaching skills and written assignments, with each assessed component contributing to the overall grade. Participants are given feedback by the tutors on their teaching and have at least two tutorials during the course at which they discuss their progress. All tutors working on the course discuss each participant's final grade and their decisions are unanimous.

Q: What are the possible grades?

A: Pass A, Pass B, Pass, Fail. A very small number of candidates fail and it is likely that they would be warned of this possibility at their tutorials; the vast majority achieve a Pass grade.

Q: I am not a native speaker of English: is this course appropriate for me?

A: You should have a very high C1 or C2 level of English. Non-native English speakers may be asked to complete some English language tasks to assess their level of English at the interview stage.

Q: If I pass the course, will I be able to find full-time work easily?

A: The CELTA is very highly regarded worldwide and newly qualified teachers with a CELTA will find it easier to find work than teachers with other qualifications. There are many opportunities in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, South East Asia and South America. In Ireland, The UK, Malta, Canada and The US, there are many possibilities in the summer months (July and August), and less full-time work is available in the winter. Working in different countries will have different requirements in terms of visas etc. Towards the end of the course, you will be given some general advice on looking for work. There are 160+ IH schools around the world and the recruitment office at IH World Organisation can give free career advice and information to IHC candidates. We often receive requests for teachers from schools. At IH Galway, we often recruit directly from our teacher training courses if the candidates are eligible to work in the EU.

Q: I don't have a degree: will this be a problem?

A: You don't need to have a degree to complete a CELTA course. In some countries, a degree is required in order to get a work permit; in others, other third level qualifications may be acceptable for work permit purposes. You are advised to consult individual embassies and consulates for accurate information and advice. In Ireland, QQI/ACELS-recognised schools can only employ teachers who hold pass degrees or the level 7 equivalent on the QQI Framework of qualifications.

Q: When do I find out my result?

A: You will receive your provisional grade within two weeks following the completion of your course.

Q: How much do I need to know about grammar before the course?

A: You will complete a pre-course task and you should also do some background reading. Beyond that, you will be expected to research from recommended sources for grammar lessons.