

Will the CELTA help me find work in Singapore? Is it recognized by MOE?

The CELTA qualification is for teaching **students aged 16 and above**. The qualification is recognized worldwide by language schools and language-support departments of tertiary institutions. This includes Singapore, where private schools are required to have qualified language teachers working for them. The [Committee for Private Education \(CPE\)](#) was appointed by SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) Board in October 2016 to carry out its functions and powers relating to private education under the Private Education Act. You can find British Council and our CELTA course registered on the CPE website.

The Singapore Ministry of Education has a different track for training teachers to work in schools as mainstream primary and secondary teachers. This requires studying for an initial qualification at the National Institute of Education (NIE). Diploma and degree programmes require a minimum of 2 years full-time study.

However, with the influx of international students in schools in Singapore, a CELTA qualification would allow you apply to individual schools for a language learning support role.

Can British Council help me find teaching work?

As a CELTA graduate you will have access to our private Alumni site where we post requests from employers looking for CELTA-qualified teachers.

What are the minimum requirements for applying for CELTA?

You have to be at least 18 years old. You must have a level of English equivalent to a native speaker. You also need to have a level of education or experience that would allow you to enter tertiary education. Once you apply, we can advise you of your eligibility to join the course.

How can I find out whether my own English is good enough for CELTA?

If you are not sure, you can make an appointment for a free language consultation. Tutors at our Napier Road Centre are experienced in interviewing as well as in interpreting the written tests, and will advise you accordingly. At certain times, they may also be available to consult with you afterwards.

I'm not a Singaporean. Can I still apply for CELTA?

Yes.

If you are a Permanent Resident or hold a Singaporean Identity Card, employment pass, work permit, dependent's pass, or social visit pass, you can apply for any course run by our Teacher Development Centre. Your pass must extend to at least 1 day beyond the final day of the course.

If you are applying from outside Singapore, you may be able to apply for a pass from the Singapore Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) before you arrive. For example, our full-time CELTA may make you eligible for a student pass. Please contact our [TDC Administrator](#) for more information so that we could advise you further. Your application will take longer to process, so do apply as soon as you can.

If you already have a student pass, you will need to get authorization from your first-study institution to do the CELTA.

Can I come down and register for CELTA today?

You can register if you have been through the selection process and have been offered a place. You will need to bring your offer letter and accompanying documents to our Napier Road Centre. If you would like to start the selection process, [download the application here](#). The selection process can take several weeks, so it is important to apply early.

How far in advance should I apply?

You can apply up to one year in advance - there is no fixed cut-off point. However, if you leave it late, the course may already be full. We recommend applying at least three months in advance.

How quickly will I know if I have been selected for the course?

This depends on how many applications are in the queue when you apply. Once we have received your application, you can check on its progress at any time by emailing our [TDC Administrator](#). We deal with applications on a first-come-first-served basis. To give yourself the best chance of a place on the course of your choice, please apply as soon as you can.

How can I find out how many places are available?

At any one time, there may be applications at different stages of the selection process. Because we work on a first-come-first-served basis, we won't know how many of the people in the queue ahead of you will be offered a place. We can let you know if the course is full. It is still worth applying in case any last-minute vacancies arise.

How does the selection process work?

There are four stages:

1. You complete an initial application using [the online application form](#). To avoid delays, please make sure that everything we ask for is included in your application.
2. We will let you know by email or by phone whether your application can go on to the next stage. We will then send you some Language Awareness tasks to do. This is an important stage where we evaluate your ability to give students information about the English language.
3. If your tasks are acceptable, we will invite you to a group and an individual interview with our course tutors. At the interview, you will have the opportunity to find out more about the course and ask questions.
4. If your application is successful, we will let you know quickly, giving details of how to reserve your place on the course.

Do I need to buy reference books?

To help you with your Language Awareness tasks, there are limited resources in the Learning Zone at our [Napier Road Centre](#) which you can use. If you are selected for the course, we will recommend a basic set of books for you to buy.

I work in the daytime. Can I do CELTA in the evenings?

Our current CELTA courses take place in the daytime. Therefore, you may find that our full-time courses better meet your needs. The CELTA course is 125 hours long and requires 100% attendance. Self-study time doubles the amount of time you need to dedicate to the course. A full-time course means you can better separate job and study, dedicating all your time over a short period to gaining your qualification.

Is there any funding subsidy?

Our CELTA course is eligible for funding under the **SkillsFuture Credit** scheme, as well as the **Workforce Training Support (WTS)** scheme. For more details, please contact our [TDC Administrator](#)

What are my payment options for CELTA?

These will be detailed in your letter of offer. You may be asked for full payment or 50% advance payment. This will depend on how much time there is before the start of the course. If you have a credit card, you may be able to benefit from our 6-month interest-free credit scheme.

I already have an English qualification. Can I be exempted from part of the course?

Having a good educational background is a requirement of the course, so you probably meet minimum requirements. To gain the qualification, you must successfully complete both components of the course - Teaching Practice as well as Written Assignments. At present, Cambridge has not issued any guidelines on exemptions.

I'm already a teacher. Do I need to do CELTA?

You may have qualifications to teach in your national education system, but do these equip you to teach English as a Foreign Language to Adults? CELTA will train you to teach English to non-native speakers all over the world.

Should I apply for CELTA, or do a British Council Teaching Award?

Both are excellent. The training is of the same high standard and our full-time trainers conduct both types of courses.

Teaching Awards go deeper. People with no teaching experience often find that doing a Teaching Award helps them decide for themselves whether to do a CELTA. On a Teaching Awards module, you build up a relationship with trainers who are well-placed to advise you about CELTA. You sometimes meet other people who have done the CELTA and can tell you about it from their point of view.

You can spread your 50 hours of training for a Teaching Award over 18 months, developing your skills over time. There is no assessed teaching practice, but you do need to complete a number of reflective tasks and build up a portfolio of work. After being granted a Teaching Award, many of our participants have found employment overseas.

Cambridge CELTA goes wider. It is a longer, tougher course that runs over 4 weeks (full-time format) or 10 weeks (part-time format). You need to meet minimum requirements and go through a selection process. You must pass both the teaching practicum and the written assignments to gain the qualification. It requires motivation, commitment and 100% attendance. Most CELTA graduates say it is the best course they have ever done.

Is your CELTA course the same as a TEFL course?

Yes and no.

CELTA is awarded by Cambridge English Language Assessment, a part of the world-famous University of Cambridge in the UK. Quality English Language teaching institutions require their teachers to hold a CELTA qualification. The CELTA course trains you to teach English as a foreign language (TEFL), and assesses your performance. Some local and online institutions offer their own certificates, but these are not widely recognized. They do not include teaching practice with real students and are not moderated by an external assessor. We advise you to check the status of any institution you are considering with the [Committee for Private Education \(CPE\)](#).

What's the difference between EFL, ESL, TEFL, TESOL and CELTA?

They are all acronyms or abbreviations.

EFL	English as a Foreign Language
ESL	English as a Second Language
TEFL	Teaching English as a Foreign Language
TESL	Teaching English as a Second Language
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
TESOL	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Organisations may offer certificates or diplomas using any of these abbreviations. If you are considering enrolling, we advise you to compare it carefully with CELTA, especially in the areas of assessed teaching practice and external moderation.

The Cambridge CELTA is the brand name of the course from Cambridge University in the UK - an internationally-recognised qualification in Teaching English to Adults.

See more details [here](#).

Who can I talk to about CELTA?

Our Customer Service Staff at our Napier Road Centre can help you with initial enquiries. Our [TDC Administrator](#) can help you with enquiries about the selection process. If you need information on the syllabus, take a look at our website or [download the full CELTA syllabus](#).

If you still have questions and would like to talk to a tutor, please leave your telephone number with us. As our tutors are often in the training room, it is easier for them to call you back when they are free.

I want to apply for CELTA. Where do I get the application form?

The application form is available online on [our website](#). If you have any difficulty with this, please contact our [TDC Administrator](#).