

FAQs – TEACHING AWARDS

What's the difference between a Foundation module and a Specialist module? Do I have to do both?

Foundation modules focus on the type of learner you want to teach. They give you basic skills for teaching different groups of learners. Specialist modules give you in-depth training in specialist areas of English teaching, such as grammar, vocabulary or phonics. If you are working towards a Teaching Award, 20 credits need to come from one or more Foundation modules

What's the difference between a Teaching Award and an Adults Award?

We have a suite of 4 Teaching Awards; the Adults Award is one of them.

What courses do I need to do to obtain a Tutor's Award?

You need to do the Core modules *How to Be an Effective Tutor* and *Know it-Teach it: Text Types*, plus other modules of your choice to make a further total of 30 credits.

I want to do a second Teaching Award. Can I use the same modules to count towards a second Award?

Each Award requires 50 separate credits. Choose the Award that best suits your teaching goals. There will be enough modules for you to do a second Award should you wish.

What's a Text Type?

A text type is a way of describing different texts. We use text types as the basis for teaching English using whole texts. In line with many other countries, the current Singapore MOE syllabus is based on text types.

I want to teach young children. Which modules do you recommend?

Decide which age group you would like to work with. For Pre-school or very young children, you can start with *How to Teach English: Pre-School* as your foundation module. Your trainer can help you plan the rest of the Award. For teaching ages 6-16, then go for *How to Teach English: Young Learners*.

What's the difference between Know it -Teach it: Phonics and Know it -Teach it: Pronunciation?

Pronunciation helps you correct your students' spoken English. It is for teaching students of any age. Phonics is a system for teaching young children to read and spell.

What does '50 credits' mean?

It is based on 50 hours of participation on face-to face modules. To gain the credit, you also need to do a pre-course task and submit a satisfactory reflective journal.

I'm on the waitlist for Know it -Teach it: Grammar. There are still no spaces. What should I do?

If you are working towards a Teaching Award and there is space on a different module, we suggest you register for that. If not, book up early for the next run of the module, places fill up fast.

Who recognises this Award?

All our courses are registered with the Council for Private Education. Your Award comes with the British Council assurance of quality in teacher training and employers look upon this favourably. With the Award and its accompanying portfolio, you will certainly be more attractive to any employer. Quality teaching institutions in Singapore sponsor their staff to do a Teaching Award. Good results on the Award programme will strengthen your application for further study, when applying for CELTA, for example.

What if I only want to do one module?

You can take any module as a stand-alone course. You will be given certificate for 80% attendance on each module. Although working towards a full Teaching Award is optional, many participants go on to complete this.

What extra support will I have?

Our Napier Road Learning Zone is fully stocked with English Teaching resources for consultation and loan. If you sign up for 10 weeks or more, you can ask for a loan card, so you can borrow resources too.

Do I have to complete my reflective journal even if I am not working towards a Teaching Award?

Yes, the reflective journal is still a requirement of the course, but you don't have to complete reflections for the final sessions, or complete the summary.

What do I do with my Reflective Journal at the end of the course?

Complete the final reflections and keep your journal, along with the pre-course annotated by your trainer. You will need to submit these when you apply for your Teaching Award.

If I have to miss a session, can I skip the Reflective Journal entry for that session?

If you are working towards a Teaching Award, you need to complete an entry from each session, even if you were absent that day. Your trainer will save the session notes for you, or you can ask a classmate to make a copy of theirs for you. It's a good idea to pair up with a 'buddy' so you can help each other out if this happens.

I've paid for a module. Can I change my mind?

We will consider requests for changes on a case-to-case basis. It is important to let us know as soon as possible. Our policy on refunds is described in our Customer Charter

How do I best combine my courses?

From 2014, you have far more flexibility to design your own Award. Here are some examples

Jean	Joe
<p>Jean is a Marketing Executive who wants to take an active part in her young children's development, especially in English. She can spare one evening a week to come for training. She chooses <i>How to Teach English: Pre-School</i> (20 credits) as her Foundation module. When this is finished, she signs up for a second module, and so on. For her Specialist modules she chooses <i>Know it-Teach it: Phonics</i> (10 credits), <i>Grammar and Vocabulary in the Early Years</i> (10 credits) and <i>Supporting Learning in the Early Years</i> (10 credits). With her 50 credits, she submits her portfolio for an Early Years Award.</p>	<p>Joe is a salesman looking for a career change. His goal is to build up credentials in teaching English, to help him move into a skills training role, or teach English overseas. He takes two modules each term, starting with <i>How to Teach English: Adults</i> (20 credits). To help him teach business vocabulary, he also signs up for <i>Know it-Teach it: Vocabulary</i> (20 credits), and <i>Know it-Teach it: Pronunciation</i> (10 credits). With enough modules for a Teaching Award, he decides to add <i>How to be an Effective Tutor</i> (10 credits), to help him teach one-to-one and in small groups. With his 60 credits, he submits his portfolio for an Adults Award.</p>