

Overseas Teachers

Gaining NSW Teacher Accreditation



Accreditation in NSW for overseas trained teachers

In NSW, all teachers must be accredited by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) to work as a teacher in a school.

This includes teachers trained in Australia or overseas and applies to teachers on long term, short term or casual/supply contracts as well as teachers on exchange programs.

To gain teacher accreditation in NSW, overseas trained teacher must meet:

- qualification requirements
- English language proficiency requirements
- NESA accreditation requirements.

NESA assesses the qualifications of overseas trained teacher who are either:

- Australian citizens
- permanent residents of Australia
- teachers with a valid working visa, including working holiday visas.

Teachers who currently hold full teacher registration in New Zealand or another State or Territory in Australia can apply for [mutual recognition](#) for teacher accreditation in NSW.

Accreditation requirements for overseas trained teachers

Qualification requirements

There are consistent teacher qualification requirements across Australia set out by the Australian Government.

If you completed your teacher training, you must hold qualifications assessed and confirmed by NESA as being comparable to an Australian four-year teaching degree or four-year qualification package to be eligible for Provisional teacher accreditation in NSW.

That is, you must hold teacher education qualification comparable to the educational level of an Australian Bachelor degree or higher, which includes completion of a minimum of four years full-time (or part-time equivalent) higher education (university) level study that results in qualification/s. This must include a teacher education qualification and can include other qualifications.

Some visas require you to have your qualifications assessed by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL). More information about AITSL's skills assessment is found [here](#).

Information for New Zealand trained teachers

Teachers who currently hold full teacher registration in New Zealand can apply for mutual recognition for teacher accreditation in NSW. Teachers who are granted teacher accreditation through mutual recognition in NSW will have their teaching qualifications automatically recognised.

English language proficiency requirements

There are consistent English language proficiency requirements for teacher accreditation across Australia set out by the Australian Government.

To be eligible for teacher accreditation in NSW, overseas trained teachers must meet minimum English language proficiency requirements by:

- having undertaken all of the qualifications assessed for NSW teacher accreditation in the English language in New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada or the Republic of Ireland;
- or
- achieving the minimum results specified in a NESA approved English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) no more than two years before the date of submitting an application for accreditation to NESA.

Some overseas trained teachers may be eligible for an exemption from having to pass an ELPT in some circumstances.

More information about NESA's English language proficiency requirements and grounds for ELPT exemption is found [here](#).

NESA accreditation requirements

In addition to the qualification and English language proficiency requirements, NESA also has teacher accreditation requirements that include:

- obtaining a valid [NSW Working with Children Check clearance](#)
- meeting NESA's [suitability to teach requirements](#)
- meeting NESA's [conditions of accreditation](#).

Mutual recognition of overseas trained teachers registered in or another Australian state or territory, or from New Zealand

Teachers who **currently hold full teacher registration** in New Zealand or another State or Territory in Australia can apply for [mutual recognition](#) for teacher accreditation in NSW.

Application process for overseas trained teachers applying for accreditation in NSW

Level of accreditation

There are options for initial teacher accreditation in NSW that an overseas trained teacher may apply for – Provisional or Conditional accreditation.

Provisional accreditation is for overseas trained teachers whose qualifications are comparable to an Australian four-year teaching degree or four-year qualification package. No additional teacher training is required for Provisionally accredited teachers.

Conditional accreditation is available to overseas trained teachers whose qualifications are comparable to an Australian four-year teaching degree or four-year qualification package but are considered comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree in a discipline other than teaching.

In order to apply for Conditional accreditation, an overseas teacher would need to have evidence of an offer of employment as a teacher in a NSW independent school subject to being accredited.

An overseas trained teacher who is granted Conditional accreditation will be required to complete a post-graduate teaching degree during their period of Conditional accreditation.

Online application

Applications for teacher accreditation in NSW are made via NESA's teacher Accreditation portal – [eTAMS](#).

To apply for first-time accreditation you will need to create your [NESA online account \(eTAMS\)](#).

Follow the instructions on eTAMS on how to submit your documents and complete your application. There is a \$100AU teacher accreditation fee in NSW.

Currently, you need to be in Australia to make an application for initial teacher accreditation to NESA.

Once you submit your application in eTAMS, allow up to 20 business days for NESA to finalise the assessment.

Supporting documentation

If you are an overseas trained teacher you will need to provide NESA with the following information/documentation to make your application for teacher accreditation in eTAMS:

1. personal details (name, date of birth, Australian contact details including address and mobile phone number)
2. three forms of [identification documentation](#)
3. details of your [NSW Working with Children Check clearance](#)
4. evidence of qualifications:
 - certified copies of your transcripts and awards for all completed university qualifications
 - if your original transcripts are not in English, you will need to provide a [NAATI-accredited](#) translation of your documents with your original certified documents
5. if any part of your qualifications are from a country where English is not the main language, evidence of meeting the [English language proficiency requirements](#) or the criteria for an exemption from this requirement
6. an [overseas criminal history check](#) if you have resided overseas for 12 consecutive months or more in the past 5 years
7. details of your eligibility to work in Australia (evidence of Australian citizenship or your visa)
8. if applying for Conditional accreditation, evidence of an offer of employment as a teacher from an independent school in NSW.

See more:

- NESA First-time accreditation web link: [here](#)
- Information for overseas trained teachers: [here](#)
- NSW Teacher Accreditation rules and policies (Teacher Accreditation Manual): [here](#)
- Mutual recognition of teachers from interstate or New Zealand: [here](#)