

# Cambridge English

## CELTA

Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

### Frequently Asked Questions

The following are a selection of frequently asked questions. Please read them carefully and if your question is not answered here, check our website or contact us. For further information please visit the [Cambridge English](#) website.

#### Why should I do the CELTA?

There are many reasons for choosing CELTA.

1. It is one of the few courses which has a high level of practical, classroom training. You actually have to teach, and be observed teaching, 'real' learners of English as a foreign or second language.
2. The trainers have to be highly trained, qualified and experienced, and approved by Cambridge University.
3. To maintain standards internationally, centres that offer the courses have to go through a rigorous 'quality control' check by external assessors appointed by Cambridge. Approved centres have to be re-approved every year. Few other courses require this.
4. Although there have been some changes in content and course requirements, the CELTA, in one form or another, has been around for over 25 years.
5. It is the most widespread EFL qualification: there are nearly 300 approved centres world-wide. Over 10,000 teachers take the course each year.
6. More and more institutions worldwide require their teachers to have the CELTA.
7. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, virtually everyone who has taken the course has said they would recommend it to their friends and colleagues.

#### What's the difference between TEFL and CELTA?

CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) is the name of the initial qualification. TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) is the name of the profession. There are many TEFL courses, but the CELTA is one of only two (the other being the Trinity TESOL) which are widely recognized and respected by language schools worldwide.

#### I have heard that the full-time CELTA is very intensive - is that true?

Yes. For the full-time course you should be prepared to devote five days a week (including some evenings) to the course, and to spend usually one day of each weekend on course-related work. You should have no other commitments other than the course itself for the entire month.

**How many trainees are there on the course?**

Courses run with a minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 participants.

**Do I need to have teaching experience before I start the course?**

No. Previous teaching experience is not required. It can be useful, but we do not presume that you have this as we will train you for your first job.

**Can I do the course if my first language isn't English?**

We welcome applicants to the course whose first language is not English. If this is the case, you will need to demonstrate that you have an advanced level of English (equivalent to CAE grade A or CEFR C1). This will be assessed during the interview and application process.

**Do I need to have a degree to do the course?**

No. It is recommended that you have educational qualifications that would allow entry to Higher Education, but your previous work experience and performance at the interview will also be taken into consideration.

**What is the interview process?**

The interview has three stages. Firstly, you will be asked to complete some language awareness tasks. The interviewer, a CELTA course tutor, will then follow this up by asking you to comment and expand on your answers. The tutor will also ask you about your teaching experience, any foreign language learning you may have done and your motivation for doing the course and describe what the course consists of and answer any questions you have. At the end of the interview the tutor will ask you to do a short written task. Once this is completed the tutor will decide if we are able to offer you a place on the course.

**What is the pre-course activity? How much time and preparation is involved?**

The pre-course task involves about 12-15 hours of work. Although it is not assessed, it is useful as initial preparation for the course, especially the sections on Language Awareness and Phonology. We will send it to you once you have confirmed your place with an initial payment.

**How would I be assessed on the course?**

Assessment on the course is continuous and integrated, taking into account teaching skills, written assignments and professionalism, with each assessed component contributing to the overall grade. Trainees are given feedback by the tutors on their teaching and have at least two tutorials during the course. All tutors working on the course discuss each trainee's progress before deciding on the final grades.

**What are the possible grades?**

There are three pass grades - Pass, Pass B and Pass A. A small number of candidates fail the course. If you are in danger of failing, your tutor will write you a letter telling you what you need to do to pass. The majority of trainees achieve a Pass grade.

### **Is it easy to find a job after getting the CELTA?**

Work is plentiful in language schools throughout South America, Asia and Central and Eastern Europe. In Western Europe, the UK, the US, Australia and New Zealand there is more competition. Schools in the UK, for example, are more likely to offer work to teachers with at least a couple of years of experience. Consequently, most newly qualified teachers initially work overseas. Towards the end of the course you will be given some general advice on job seeking. There is also the possibility of employment in the Instituto Chileno Británico de Cultura.

### **Why should I choose a Cambridge Centre in Chile?**

We are serious about teacher training. We are the only institute in Chile to offer the CELTA. All our trainers have undergone extensive teacher trainer courses themselves. We are a well-equipped, friendly school situated in the heart of Santiago and you will have access to a range of teaching materials, the student library and free use of the computer room and Internet.