



Support for Overseas-Trained Teachers

Frequently Asked Questions

This document answers some common questions raised in our webinars for OTTs. You can find the recording of our February 2026 webinar, as well as the slides with links to further info on our website [here](#) (or copy+paste this address into your browser: www.ppta.org.nz/communities/nets/support-for-overseas-trained-teachers)

If you have further questions or a specific situation you want advice on, please contact your Field Officer - you'll find their contact details [on our website](#).

FAQs: Click on the subject or question below to get more info.

General

Am I part of the Network of Establishing Teachers if I have taught for more than 10 years overseas?

Overseas Trained Teachers' time allowance

Now that I have the OTT time allowance, do I have to spend 2.5 hours per week with a mentor?

Why hasn't my school given me this time allowance?

Can I get this allowance in my second teaching position if my first teaching position in NZ was part-time?

Can I get this allowance in my second teaching position if my first teaching position was fixed-term?

Can I get this allowance if I did casual relief teaching before my first teaching position?

What's the difference between the beginning teacher time allowance and the OTT time allowance?

Can I get both the beginning teacher time allowance and the OTT time allowance?

Registration and certification

What happens if my qualifications do not meet the requirement for registration?

How long do I have to wait before I can apply for full certification?

How do I find out if I have enough evidence to apply for full certification?

Do I need to have my qualification and work experience documents certified or verified?

Overseas Relocation Grants

Can I apply for this grant if I've only found out about it after the 90 day deadline?

What if I am in a part-time position during my first 90 days of teaching in NZ?

What if I am in a fixed-term position during my first 90 days of teaching in NZ?

Can I use this grant to cover my family's costs?

What if I relocated to New Zealand before becoming a teacher?

Salary Assessments



Support for Overseas-Trained Teachers

Frequently Asked Questions

General

Am I part of the Network of Establishing Teachers if I have taught for more than 10 years overseas?

Yes, the Network of Establishing Teachers is for teachers in their first 10 years of teaching in New Zealand. You can “join” the network by adding it as a special interest group on your PPTA membership. You can update this on [MyPage](#) or in the PPTA App.

Overseas Trained Teachers’ time allowance

Now that I have the OTT time allowance, do I have to spend 2.5 hours per week with a mentor?

Your time allowance can be spent however you feel is most useful, in agreement with your mentor and/or principal. You could add your 2.5 hours per week up to one day per fortnight or even one week per term. You could use your hours to meet with your mentor, observe other teachers or attend a professional development course. As long as you agree on how to use this time with your employer, the use of this time allowance is flexible.

Why hasn’t my school given me this time allowance?

Your school may not be aware of this entitlement, since this time allowance is not automatically allocated to the school. Ask your principal if you receive this time allowance. If not, show them the relevant clause in your Collective Agreement.

Can I get this allowance in my second teaching position if my first teaching position in NZ was part-time?

No, you can only get this allowance for your first teaching position in NZ and this position must have been full-time.

Can I get this allowance in my second teaching position if my first teaching position was fixed-term?

No, you can only get this allowance for your first teaching position in NZ. You could have received this allowance in your first position if your fixed-term was for more than 2 terms, but you can’t now claim it in your second position.



Support for Overseas-Trained Teachers

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I get this allowance if I did casual relief teaching before my first teaching position?

Yes, as long as your relief was casual (hourly or daily relief when needed). If you signed an employment agreement/contract for relief or did the same hours/days of relief every week, this may be defined as your first teaching position.

What's the difference between the beginning teacher time allowance and the OTT time allowance?

Beginning teacher time allowance	Overseas trained teacher time allowance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Full-time teachers: 5 hours per week in first year, 2.5 hours per week in second year- Part-time teachers (above 0.5FTTE): 2.5 hours per week in first year- For teachers in their first two years of teaching (whether NZ-trained or overseas-trained)- Automatically given to your school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Full-time teachers: 2.5 hours per week for 2 terms- No allowance for part-time teachers- For teachers within their first year of teaching in NZ- Needs to be applied for by the school

Can I get both the beginning teacher time allowance and the OTT time allowance?

No, but you may receive the beginning teacher time allowance as an overseas-trained teacher if you haven't done any teaching before arriving in NZ.

Registration and certification

What happens if my qualifications do not meet the requirement for registration?

You will need to be issued with a Limited Authority to Teach (LAT) if you cannot be registered. You cannot teach without being registered or having a LAT. For more information about LATs, see [here](#).



Support for Overseas-Trained Teachers

Frequently Asked Questions

How long do I have to wait before I can apply for full certification?

Beginning teachers are required to hold a provisional practicing certificate have mentoring and induction for at least 2 years before applying for full certification. However, sometimes overseas teaching experience can be taken into account to reduce this 2 year period.

When you were issued your provisional practicing certificate, you would have received a letter from the Teaching Council. This letter will stipulate whether you need to complete 1 or 2 years of teaching in NZ before applying for full certification.

How do I find out if I have enough evidence to apply for full certification?

It's a very good idea to be checking in with your Head of Department, mentor, or principal about your progress towards full certification. You should be gathering evidence about how you have met each of the 6 teaching standards. This could be in a portfolio or in a Google doc with links to your evidence.

For more information about the sort of evidence you could be gathering, we recommend you check in with your mentor/HoD/principal. There is also more information about this offered at our Mahi Tika Provisionally Certified Teachers course. Find out more [here](#).

Do I need to have my qualification and work experience documents certified or verified?

For your International Qualifications Assessment, NZQA requires you to upload original documents, rather than certified copies. More information about NZQA requirements for qualification documents can be found [here](#). Once you have your International Qualifications Assessment, your documents for your salary assessment (including your qualifications and IQA documents) will need to be certified. Any statements of service from previous work experience also need to be certified. Education Payroll's requirements for certified documents can be found [here](#).

Overseas Relocation Grants

Can I apply for this grant if I've only found out about it after the 90 day deadline?

No. You must apply for this grant within your first 90 days of the start date of your first teaching position in NZ (this will be the date on your letter of offer).



Support for Overseas-Trained Teachers

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I am in a part-time position during my first 90 days of teaching in NZ?

Unfortunately, you are not eligible for the overseas relocation grant since you must be in a full-time position and within your first 90 days of teaching in NZ to be eligible.

What if I am in a fixed-term position during my first 90 days of teaching in NZ?

If your position is for 12 months or longer, you may be eligible. You must still apply for the grant in your first 90 days of teaching in NZ.

If your fixed-term employment agreement is for less than 2 terms, you are not eligible for this grant.

Can I use this grant to cover my family's costs?

Yes, as long as the family members are dependent on you. There are many costs that this grant can cover. Please see [here](#) for the list of expenses that can be covered.

What if I relocated to New Zealand before becoming a teacher?

To be eligible for the Overseas Relocation Grant, you need to be applying within 6 months of relocating to New Zealand and within 90 days of starting a full-time teaching position of a year or more.

Salary Assessments

This FAQ document does not have further information about salary assessments or salary scales. Questions about salary assessments/scales are often highly individual and require a lot of information from you before an answer can be given. For these specific questions, we recommend you contact your Field Officer using [these details](#).