

What is CELTA?

CELTA is an initial qualification for people with little or no previous teaching experience, and for existing teachers with little or no formal training.

How does CELTA relate to TEFL/TESOL?

'TEFL' or 'TESOL' are terms often used to describe qualifications for English Language teachers. CELTA, one the best known and most widely taken initial TESOL/TEFL qualifications of its kind, was previously known as CTEFLA and before that as the 'RSA certificate'.

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Who is CELTA for?

Employers around the world ask for *CELTA*. It's the practical English language teaching qualification that gives you the essential knowledge, hands-on teaching experience and classroom confidence to qualify as a teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL). *CELTA* is great for recent graduates, people who are changing career, or teachers who want to gain a formal qualification and may want to progress to qualifications such as Delta.

With CELTA, you show employers that you:

- have gained essential knowledge of the principles of effective English teaching
- have developed a range of practical skills for teaching English to adult learners
- have demonstrated your ability to apply your learning in a real teaching context
- are ready to begin working in a variety of ESL teaching contexts around the world.

Types of CELTA course

You have a lot of flexibility with CELTA. You can choose to take your course:

- full-time – usually 4–5 weeks
- part-time – from a few months to over the course of a year
- online – combining online self-study with hands-on teaching practice.

To find out more about the online course, visit Cambridge CELTA Course Online

Where to take your CELTA course

You can take your CELTA course at one of over 300 approved centres in more than 60 countries. There are almost 900 CELTA courses running every year.

Find your nearest Teaching Qualifications centre here

About the course

The *CELTA* course gives you the essential skills and knowledge you need to teach English to adults and older teenagers.

You get hands-on teaching practice and observation of experienced teachers, applying your learning in the classroom with English language learners.

CELTA courses are run by approved centres, based on specifications produced by Cambridge Assessment English. All courses have a minimum of 120 contact hours.

CELTA course topics

You will cover five main topics as part of your *CELTA* course:

- Learners and teachers, and the teaching and learning context
- Language analysis and awareness
- Language skills: reading, listening, speaking and writing
- Planning and resources for different contexts
- Developing teaching skills and professionalism.

How you will be assessed

You will be assessed throughout the course. There is no final examination. An external assessor, appointed by Cambridge Assessment English, moderates each course.

There are two types of assessment – Teaching Practice and Written Assignments. To get the *CELTA* certificate, you must pass both assessments. There are three passing grades:

- Pass 'A'
- Pass 'B'
- Pass

Teaching Practice

You will teach for a total of six hours, working with classes at two levels of ability. Assessment is based on your overall performance at the end of the six hours.

Written Assignments

You will complete four written assignments that focus on:

- analysing and responding to learner needs
- analysing language for teaching purposes
- teaching language skills
- reflecting on classroom teaching

Who accepts CELTA?

This popular teaching qualification is:

- accepted by organisations which employ English language teachers throughout the world
- widely used as a benchmark of basic teaching skills and quality by:
 - English language schools
 - the voluntary sector
 - non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
 - other educational institutions

- regulated by Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) at Level 5 on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Is CELTA right for me?

- Are you aged 18 or over?
- Do you have a standard of education equivalent to that required for entry into higher education?
- Is your English good enough to teach at a range of levels? (Minimum CEFR Level C1–C2 or above.)

If the answer is yes, choose a centre and apply for the course.

If you do not have formal educational qualifications at the level indicated above, centres may still accept you if you can demonstrate that you would be likely to complete the course successfully.

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CELTA centres in Switzerland with contact details

Baden: TLC International House Baden (CH079)

IH Baden
Bahnhofstrasse 44
5400 Baden

Tel: 056 205 51 78
E-Mail: nancie.gantenbein@ihbaden.ch
Internet: www.ihbaden.ch

Basle: academia Schweiz (CH031)

academia Schweiz
Schifflande 3
4051 Basel

Tel: 061 260 20 20
Email: celta@academia-basel.ch
Website: www.academia-basel.ch

Geneva: Bell Language School (CH230)

The Bell Language School, Switzerland
16 Voie Creuse
1202 Geneva

Tel: 022 749 16 16
Email: teachertraining@bell-school.ch
Website: www.bell-school.ch

St Gallen: CEL-Cambridge English Languages (CH010)

Cambridge English St. Gallen
Oberstrasse 222
9014 St.Gallen

Tel: 071 278 00 40
Email: info@CambridgeEnglish-stgallen.ch
Website: www.celta.ch

Zurich: Flying Teachers (CH030)

Zurich Flying Teachers GmbH
Universitätstrasse 86
8006 Zürich

Tel: 044 350 33 44
Email: cambridgeenglish@flyingteachers.com
Website: www.flyingteachers.ch

Some CELTA FAQs

I don't have a degree. Can I still apply for a place on a CELTA course?

Yes. A degree is not a pre-requisite qualification.

I don't have A-levels or their equivalent. Can I still apply for a place on a CELTA course?

Yes: see above (page 3).

I'm not a native-speaker of English. Can I still apply for a place on a CELTA course?

Yes. Both native and non-native speakers of English are eligible - and both must show that their command of English and their language awareness are sufficient for the demands of the course and for language teaching. Your minimum CEFR Level must be C1–C2 or above.

What happens when I apply?

All centres require you to complete a detailed application form. They also require you to complete a selection task or tasks, either ahead of the interview or at the interview itself. All applicants must be interviewed: in exceptional cases, a Skype or telephone interview may be arranged (at the applicant's expense if by phone).

Can I still work part-time while doing a part-time CELTA course?

Yes, but centres will discuss this with you at your interview to ensure that you understand the CELTA workload and have realistic expectations about the course.

How many study hours per week are necessary outside the actual attendance?

It is impossible to give a precise figure, as people vary in their study habits and in their ability to work, concentrate, study and prepare. Remember that you need time to prepare your next lesson in teaching

practice, study time to research and write the four assignments, plus general study and review time throughout the course. On part-time courses, you also need time to complete the 6 hours of external observation - and travelling time for this will need to be added too.

If I fail the course, can I retake only the failed components of the course?

No, you would have to retake the entire course.

What is the pass rate?

For Switzerland, the overall combined pass rate in 2018 (latest available data) was 92%: with 66.5% Pass, 23% Pass B, and 2.5% Pass A. The remaining 8% comprised both fails and withdrawals.

How does Cambridge maintain standards if there is no written exam?

Every centre must be approved by Cambridge Assessment English: new centres on an annual basis, and established centres every 3 years. Every course is moderated by an external assessor, appointed by Cambridge Assessment English, who comes for a day towards the end of the course. S/he moderates the selection procedures, the course records, the candidates' portfolios of TP and assignments, and also observes TP and TP feedback to ensure that the tutors are applying the assessment criteria, are grading TP to the right standards, and are giving appropriate feedback to trainees. This is followed by a detailed discussion of the candidates' provisional final grades. The final recommended grades must also be approved by the assessor.

The assessor's report is submitted to Cambridge Assessment English and also the centre's JCA (Joint Chief Assessor), who reads the reports on every course at every centre under her/his jurisdiction. Any recommendations in the assessor's report must be addressed by the centre, and the JCA checks that recommendations are indeed being acted upon. If a centre fails to meet or observe requirements, standards and assessment criteria, its approval to run courses is withdrawn by Cambridge English.

Why are some courses limited to only 12 candidates?

This is for two main reasons. Firstly, so that the tutors can devote sufficient attention to the individual trainees. Secondly, because TP is very time intensive: 12 candidates require a total of 72 hours of TP class time with the learners, plus further time for feedback and preparation with the tutors.

What are my job prospects?

Many language schools and adult education institutions now require their teachers to possess a suitable qualification – some specify CELTA. Others may specify the SVEB Certificate: see below for details. As CELTA is an accepted equivalent to the SVEB Certificate, it will satisfy this requirement. Without CELTA, you would almost certainly be asked to obtain the SVEB Certificate. Many companies also prefer their in-house or out-sourced language teachers to be appropriately qualified.

CELTA, the SVEB Certificate and eduQua

Adult education and training institutions in Switzerland who wish to have the eduQua certificate of quality must meet certain conditions. Among these is the requirement that staff teaching more than 150 hours per year should possess the SVEB Certificate. See the 2012 eduQua Handbook (page 23) for details at: https://alice.ch/fileadmin/Dokumente/Qualitaet/eduQua/de/eduQua_Handbuch_2012.pdf

However, other qualifications can be accepted as an alternative to the SVEB certificate, provided that they are ‘analog’ - to use the German word employed by eduQua and SVEB.

CELTA is ‘analog’

CELTA is accepted as ‘analog’, and therefore a teacher holding CELTA meets eduQua requirements when an institution is undergoing the eduQua certification process. This process is carried out by one of the Swiss certifying organizations authorized to approve eduQua accreditation.

So why is there a CELTA/SVEB Certificate add-on or “bridge” module?

As already stated, CELTA is accepted as “analog”, that is to say, CELTA is *horizontally* equivalent to the SVEB Certificate and meets the needs of an eduQua audit. However, CELTA is not *vertically* integrated into the SVEB suite of certificates: in other words, if a CELTA holder wanted to take a SVEB Level 2 course, s/he would have to possess the SVEB Certificate. CELTA itself would not be sufficient. Moreover, a teacher may also welcome having an official Swiss qualification to supplement the internationally-recognised CELTA certificate.

Hence the development of the add-on/bridge module, which combines with CELTA and gives the teacher the SVEB Certificate.

Requirements:

- CELTA certificate, **passed within the last 5 years**
- successful completion of an approved add-on/bridge module course
- 150 teaching hours within a two-year period (50 hours can be one-to-one or one-to-two lessons)
- SVEB administration fee

The CELTA/SVEB Certificate add-on/bridge module is available only from institutions and tutors approved by SVEB to run the module. These are Bell School (Geneva), Cambridge English St Gallen, Flying Teachers (Zurich), and IH Baden.

What does the add-on module cover?

The add-on module covers two principal areas: individual and group dynamics, and the adult learner in a Swiss context. The module developed for IH Baden and Bell School, Geneva lasts for 12 contact hours and includes a pre-course and a post-course written assignment.

Links to eduQua & SVEB

The following sites are available in German, French and Italian: a limited number of pages on the sites are also available in English.

eduQua home page: <https://alice.ch/en/services/eduqua/>

eduQua handbook:

https://alice.ch/fileadmin/Dokumente/Qualitaet/eduQua/de/eduQua_Handbuch_2012.pdf

SVEB: <https://alice.ch/en/teaching-as-a-profession/>

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