

## Teaching Qualifications - Full, Provisional and Non-Practising Registration

### 1. Purpose

This policy outlines the teaching qualification requirements for registration in the categories of Full, Provisional and Non-Practising Registration with the Teacher Registration Board (TRBWA).

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to all applications for registration, with the exclusion of applications for Limited Registration which is covered by a separate policy.

The policy applies to all TRBWA staff and Board members involved in the registration and regulation of teachers in Western Australia.

### 3. Definitions

“accredited initial teacher education programme”

A program which is accredited, for the purposes of a national accreditation scheme for initial teacher education programmes by the TRBWA or another Australian teacher regulatory body.

### 4. Policy

#### 4.1 Qualification Requirements

Section 15(a) of the *Teacher Registration Act 2012* (the Act) details the qualification requirement for Full Registration:

A person is eligible for Full Registration as a teacher if the person —

- (a) has a teaching qualification —
  - (i) from an accredited initial teacher education programme; or
  - (ii) that the Board recognises as equivalent to such a qualification

The qualification requirement for Non-Practising Registration (intention to teach) is the same.

Under the Act, the qualification requirement for Provisional Registration is also the same. However, and importantly, a person is *only* eligible for the grant of Provisional Registration, if the Board is satisfied that the person has met the Professional Standards for Teachers in Western Australia at the graduate level (Graduate Standards).

The Board considers that the *only* way it can be satisfied that a person meets these Graduate Standards is if the person has graduated from an Australian accredited initial teacher education program or a program approved by the New Zealand Educational Council. Such programmes are published on the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) and New Zealand Education Council websites.

In effect, therefore, a person who does not hold one of these qualifications will not be eligible for the grant of Provisional Registration.

It should be noted that, generally, only undergraduate initial teacher education programs of at least 4 years in duration and postgraduate initial teacher education programs of at least 1 year in duration are acceptable for Full, Provisional or Non-Practising Registration.

## 4.2 Qualifications in Teaching Recognised as Equivalent to an accredited ITEP

For Full and Non-Practising Registration, the TRBWA will also accept qualifications in teaching that are *equivalent* to an accredited ITE program. The Board will generally recognise a qualification in teaching as equivalent to an accredited ITE program where it meets at least one of the following four criteria:

1. A qualification awarded on completion of a higher education course of initial teacher education that –
  - a) is of at least 4 years' full-time duration or part-time equivalent duration;
  - b) has at least one year (full-time or part-time equivalent) of professional teacher education subjects (including supervised teaching practice).
  - c) includes at least 45 days satisfactory supervised teaching practice undertaken at a primary or secondary school or other recognised educational venues; and
  - d) is comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree.
  
2. A qualification awarded on completion of a higher education course of initial teacher education that –
  - a) requires entrants to have a higher education qualification of at least 3 years' full-time duration or part-time equivalent duration and that is comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree;
  - b) has at least one year (full-time or part-time equivalent) of professional teacher education subjects (including supervised teaching practice).
  - c) is of at least 1 year's full-time duration or part-time equivalent duration;
  - d) includes at least 45 days satisfactory supervised teaching practice undertaken at a primary or secondary school or other recognised educational venues; and
  - e) is comparable to an Australian Graduate Diploma.

In relation to 2(a) above the equivalency requirement will be met where either:

- the person *holds* a 3 year higher education qualification that is comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree; or
- the person demonstrates that the *admission requirements of the qualification* are generally a 3 year higher education qualification that is comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree

It is not necessary for a person to hold a 3 year higher education qualification comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree, as long as the general admissions requirements of the course require this. In this way, those who have graduated from a program who gained entry through an alternative pathway, or whose Bachelor level degree was as a result of less than 3 years full time study due to recognised prior learning, would not be unduly disadvantaged.

This reflects the fact that the assessment of equivalency is focused on the Graduate Diploma level qualification, not the qualifying degree.

3. A combination of qualifications consisting of:
  - a) a teaching qualification that is:
    - (i) of at least 3 years' full time duration or part-time equivalent duration; and
    - (ii) has at least one year (full-time or part-time equivalent) of professional teacher education subjects (including supervised teaching practice).
    - (iii) comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree; and
    - (iv) includes at least 45 days satisfactory supervised teaching practice undertaken at a primary or secondary school or other recognised educational venues; and

- b) a course that is:
  - (i) of at least 1 year's full-time duration or part-time equivalent duration; and
  - (ii) is comparable to at least an Australian Graduate Diploma.
- 4. Where an applicant has previously been registered by the TRBWA in the categories of Full, Provisional or Non-Practising Registration, or by the Western Australian College of Teaching (WACOT) in the categories of Registered Teacher or Provisionally Registered Teacher, the TRBWA will recognise that applicant's qualification as equivalent to an accredited ITEP.

For qualifications which *prima facie* do not meet the one of the above criteria, the Board will consider reasons from applicants as to why their qualification(s) should be recognised by the Board as equivalent to an accredited ITEP.

A qualification in teaching equivalent to an accredited ITEP is considered to be a formal academic teaching qualification.

In cases where a qualification in teaching meets all the requirements for equivalency, except the requirement for 45 days satisfactory supervised teaching practice at a primary or secondary school or other recognised educational venues, the Board may consider teaching experience *in lieu* of the practicum requirement.

#### **4.3 Request for Qualification Advice**

A prospective applicant may, prior to submitting a full application, and upon payment of the requisite fee, submit a qualification advice request to the TRBWA. The TRBWA will assess the qualification(s) in order to determine whether it is considered to be equivalent to an accredited ITEP using the criteria referred to in section 4.2 above.

#### **4.4 Qualification Assessment on Renewal of Registration**

'Renewal of registration' is defined by the TRBWA as an application made during a period of registration to renew registration in the *same category*. For renewal of registration generally, the TRBWA is required to be satisfied that a person *continues to hold* a teaching qualification for Full or Provisional Registration. Although the TRBWA may require the submission of documentary evidence of the qualification, the TRBWA may also accept a declaration from the applicant that they continue to hold the qualification.

#### **4.5 Overseas Qualifications**

Overseas qualifications will not appear on the AITSL accredited list, and will therefore not be an accredited ITEP. The TRBWA will, however, assess an overseas qualification for equivalency as detailed in section 4.2 of this policy.

The TRBWA will note a Skills Assessment Certificate from AITSL of an applicant's qualification(s) undertaken for Department of Immigration and Citizenship purposes, where the assessment states that the applicant is suitable for the nominated occupation of early childhood (Pre-primary School) teacher, Primary school teacher, Middle school teacher and Secondary school teacher. However, the TRBWA will complete its own assessment to determine if the qualification(s) is equivalent to an accredited ITEP.

#### **4.6 Mutual Recognition**

The TRBWA will recognise, under the principle of mutual recognition, teacher registration from New Zealand and other states in Australia. Teachers from these jurisdictions will be deemed to meet the qualification requirements for registration in WA and will generally be registered in an equivalent category as a teacher in Western Australia.

A teacher from another jurisdiction will be eligible for registration in Western Australia in a category that reflects the type of registration held in the primary jurisdiction. The equivalency of the occupations may be maintained, where appropriate, through the imposition of conditions.

More information on applications for registration under mutual recognition may be found in *the Mutual Recognition Policy*.

## 5. Supporting information

- *Teachers Registration Act 2012*
- *Teacher Registration (General) Regulations 2012*
- *Mutual Recognition Policy*
- *Limited Registration: Qualification and Skills Policy*
- *Professional Standards Policy*
- *Accreditation of Initial Teacher Education Programs in Australia: Standards and Procedures (April 2011)*

## 6. Change History

Approved	Version	Details	Approved By
19/6/2013	1	New Policy Issued	Board
19/9/2013	2	Amendment following September 2013 Board meeting	Board
18/12/2013	3	Amendment following December 2013 Board meeting	Board
20/05/2014	4	Amendment following May 2014 Board meeting	Board
01/12/2015	4.1	Amendments to reflect that only graduates of ITE programmes within the last 5 years can demonstrate meeting the Graduate Standards.	Director
Next Review Date		19/6/2016	