



Cambridge International Award in Teaching and Learning

Frequently asked questions

What is the Cambridge International Award in Teaching and Learning?

The Cambridge International Award in Teaching and Learning is an introductory professional development programme. It provides a rigorous foundation in teaching and learning for novice teachers or more experienced teachers who need preparation for teaching in a Cambridge school. It is a practice-based programme that equips teachers with the skills and understanding to pursue a successful and enriching career in Cambridge schools.

What does the Award involve?

Participants must have a school-based mentor to support them through each of the three Award phases:

1 Explore: Candidates explore key teaching ideas through pre-reading and start thinking about their approach to teaching and learning. With their mentor they observe and reflect on a lesson taught by a more experienced colleague. They also get to know each other and their trainers. They begin keeping a reflective journal.

2 Engage: Trainers use active learning techniques to help candidates develop their understanding of key theories and aspects of professional practice. There is the opportunity to practise, discuss and apply learning. Collaborative micro-teaching of a lesson segment is an important learning experience in this stage. Candidates also meet one to one with a trainer to help them reflect on their teaching and learning so far. They use their reflective journal to record their learning journey.

3 Experience: Candidates try out their learning in the classroom. There is a particular focus on planning, teaching and reflecting on a lesson. Candidates also reflect on their learning over the whole programme and consider their next steps as they work on their portfolio submission.

How is the Award delivered?

The Cambridge International Award provides professional development for groups of teachers in a particular centre or context. It is designed and delivered according to the needs of your school and its teachers.

The programme is designed in consultation with a lead trainer from Cambridge International to align with the syllabus learning outcomes. The lead trainer supports the whole programme and particularly the delivery of the Engage phase.

The Award programme is iterative so that over time, your school can take ownership. In the first iteration, a programme for 60 candidates may need three Cambridge trainers plus a dedicated programme leader from within your school. In future iterations, as your school's own programme team becomes more experienced, we will scale back this support until your school runs the programme. The annual Cambridge Professional Development Qualification (PDQ) quality process will still apply.

How do we become an Award delivery centre?

A Cambridge regional representative will guide your school through the initial process. They will take you through the questions on the application form to understand your training needs. You will need to think about who will become the programme leader from within your school. This should be an individual who has been teaching for at least five years and has experience of delivering training to adults. Ideally, they should also have a recognised teaching qualification. The programme leader will take part in an online training course to introduce them to the Cambridge PDQs and to help them design their outline programme.

Each candidate will also need an in-school mentor to support them as they engage with the Award.

Your school will then have a conversation with the team in Cambridge. This will make sure we fully understand your needs, so that we can write a formal agreement that both parties can sign.

How much time does a teacher have to give to this each week?

The amount of time required by the teacher increases over the course of the programme. However, as it is practice-based, teachers will find that it begins to fit within their weekly teaching schedule, with some additional work outside the classroom. On average a teacher can expect to spend around 3 hours per week in the Explore phase, around 40 hours (including the face-to-face sessions) during the week of the Engage phase and around 5 hours per week (including practice-based work) during the Experience phase.

Please be aware that these are approximate timings. You can design a schedule that suits your school's needs in consultation with the Lead Trainer from Cambridge International.

How long does the Award take to complete?

The Cambridge International Award for Teaching and Learning takes approximately three months to complete.

How does the Award fit with the Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications (Cambridge PDQs)?

Cambridge PDQs are benchmarked by UK NARIC to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They are also benchmarked to the educational systems in South Africa and Australia for equivalence. The Cambridge International Award in Teaching and Learning is benchmarked to FHEQ Level 4. Candidates may progress to the Cambridge International Certificate, which is also benchmarked to FHEQ Level 4, and to the Cambridge International Diploma, which is benchmarked to FHEQ Level 5.

This means that teachers and leaders who achieve a Cambridge International Certificate or Diploma are well prepared for their next step in the professional development pathway. Their Cambridge International Certificate or Diploma has value as they progress to relevant Level 6 and 7 programmes.

How is the Award assessed?

Participants receive formative assessment from their trainers to support their learning throughout the programme. They begin creating their digital portfolio of evidence from the very beginning. The portfolio provides the opportunity for the teacher to develop rich evidence of their developing practice, learning and reflection. The portfolio is submitted to us for summative assessment and examined by Cambridge PDQ examiners to the learning outcomes and assessment criteria set out in the Award syllabus. The Cambridge International Award in Teaching and Learning is certificated with Distinction and Pass grades available.

How much does the Award cost?

The price of the Award is based on the number of candidates and the number of trainers needed to support them. The programme requires at least two trainers for up to 40 candidates and a further trainer for every 20 candidates after that, up to a maximum of 80. There is a cost per trainer and you can request additional services to enhance your programme. We will agree these costs up front and sign them off as part of the formal agreement.