

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?

The programme has three phases during which each participant must have a school-based mentor to support them.

1 Explore: candidates explore key teaching ideas through pre-reading and they 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 chance 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 Cambridge International Award in Teaching and Learning delivered?

The Cambridge International Award in Teaching and Learning is delivered in two different modes according to a centre's or the teachers' needs:

Cambridge-led programmes are delivered by Cambridge Trainers with the Explore and Experience phases supported online. These programmes are useful in providing professional development for teachers from a wide variety of contexts and can be accessed by individual teachers with the support of their school.

Centre-based programmes are delivered in consultation with a Lead Trainer from Cambridge International who supports the design of the whole programme and the delivery of the Engage phase. These programmes provide professional development to groups of teachers from a specific centre or context.

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 in relation to a centre-based programme as this will be designed to suit the centre's needs in consultation with the Lead Trainer from Cambridge International.

How long does the Cambridge International Award for Teaching and Learning take to complete?

The Cambridge International Award for Teaching and Learning takes approximately 3 months to complete.

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

Cambridge PDQs are benchmarked to the Framework for Higher Educational Qualifications (FHEQ) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. 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 achieving a Cambridge International Certificate or Diploma are well prepared for their next step in the professional development pathway and their Cambridge International Certificate or Diploma has value as they progress to relevant Level 6 and 7 programmes.

How is this 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 start of the programme. The portfolio provides the opportunity for the teacher to develop rich evidence of their developing practice, learning and reflection. The portfolio is submitted to Cambridge International for summative assessment and examined by Cambridge Professional Development Qualification examiners to the learning outcomes and assessment criteria set out in the Cambridge International Award for Teaching and Learning syllabus. The Cambridge International Award in Teaching and Learning is certificated with Distinction and Pass grades available.

I'm a school leader and would like to offer this to my teachers. How do I do this?

Please use our Expression of Interest form available on our website to register your interest and a representative from our regional team will contact you.

How can teachers take the Cambridge International Award in Teaching and Learning?

Cambridge-led programmes are available as open programmes in particular countries and scheduled several months ahead: these are advertised in our training events calendar and local schools receive advance notice so they can plan for their teachers to enrol.

Centre-based programmes are run in a school, training centre or university with quality assurance by Cambridge International.

It is possible for individual Cambridge teachers to engage with the programme with their school's backing; interested teachers should email us at info@cambridgeinternational.org to register their intent.