

Table 11

Steps to becoming a teacher

NB. This table is no longer being updated.

Table 11.1 Steps to becoming a primary school teacher

- The **consecutive** model: a programme of professional education training is undertaken once an undergraduate degree has been obtained.
- The **concurrent** model: teacher training is combined with a degree which results in the award of a Bachelor of Education degree or similar.
- The **combined** model: a joint degree in education and a specific subject.
- **Length of training** for the consecutive route includes the time taken to obtain a first degree. On-the-job training tends to last one to two years.

	Length of training	Type of training available			On-the-job training	Probationary period	Registration necessary
		Concurrent	Combined	Consecutive			
England	Between 3 and 5 years	•		•	•	1 year	•
Ireland	3/4 years	•		•		1 year	•
N. Ireland	Between 3 and 5 years	•		•		1 year	•
Scotland	4 years	•		•		1 year	•
Wales	Between 3 and 5 years	•		•	•	1 year	•
France	5 years			•		1 year	•
Germany	5 years	•				2.5 years	•
Hungary	4 years	•	•				
Italy	4 years	•				1 year	•
Netherlands	4 years	•				Discretionary	
Spain	3/4 years	•				3 months to 1 year	•
Sweden	3 to 5.5 years	•				1 year	
Switzerland	3 years	•					
Australia	Between 4 and 5 years	•	•	•		Three months to 1 year	•
Canada	4/5 years	•	•	•		In some provinces	•
Japan	4 years	•				1 year	•
Korea	4 years	•					
New Zealand	Between 3 and 4 years	•		•		2 years	•
Singapore	2 to 4 years	•		•		1 year	
South Africa	4 years	•		•			•
USA	4/5 years	•	•	•	•	1 to 3 years	•

Notes

- England** Traditionally the concurrent route has been chosen by those intending to be primary school teachers and the consecutive by those intending to teach in secondary schools.
- Ireland** Generally the concurrent route has been chosen by those intending to be primary school teachers and the consecutive by those intending to teach in secondary schools.
- N. Ireland** Traditionally the concurrent route has been chosen by those intending to be primary school teachers and the consecutive by those intending to teach in secondary schools.
- Wales** Traditionally the concurrent route has been chosen by those intending to be primary school teachers and the consecutive by those intending to teach in secondary schools.
- **Germany** Training consists of two phases: 3 to 4 years of university studies followed by 1.5 to 2 years of preparatory 'on-the-job' training.
- **Spain** New arrangements for teacher training were announced following the Organic Law of Education (LOE). This will increase the length of training from 3 to 4 years.
- Singapore** A two-year qualification only entitles the holder to teach in a primary school. Although there is no formal registration process, teachers are appointed by the state or its local arm and thus are informally registered. They must also serve a three-year teaching bond.
- **South Africa** Although the concurrent and consecutive training models exist, the concurrent is preferred. Teachers must register with the South African Council for Educators (SACE).
- **USA** The concurrent programme usually lasts for 4 years. The probationary period may last between 1 to 3 years depending on the State.

Table 11.2: Steps to becoming a lower secondary school teacher

NB. This table is no longer being updated.

- The consecutive model: a programme of professional education training is undertaken once an undergraduate degree has been obtained.
- The concurrent model: teacher training is combined with a degree which results in the award of a Bachelor of Education degree or similar.
- The combined model: a joint degree in education and a specific subject .
- Length of training for the consecutive route includes the time taken to obtain a first degree. On-the-job training tends to last one to two years.

	Length of training	Type of training available				Probationary period	Registration necessary
		Concurrent	Combined	Consecutive	On-the-job training		
England	Between 3 and 5 years	•		•	•	1 year	•
Ireland	4 /5 years	•		•		1 year	•
N. Ireland	Between 3 and 5 years	•		•		1 year	•
Scotland	4/5 years	•	•	•		1 year	•
Wales	Between 3 and 5 years	•		•	•	1 year	•
France	Between 5 and 6 years			•			•
Germany	6+ years	•				2.5 years	•
Hungary	4/5 years	•	•				
Italy	5 years			•		1 year	•
Netherlands	4 years	•	•	•		Discretionary	
Spain	Between 5 and 7 years		•	•		1 year	•
Sweden	Between 4.5 and 5.5 years	•				1 year	
Switzerland	4 years	•					
Australia	4 5 years	•	•	•		Three months to 1 year	•
Canada	4/5 years	•	•	•		In some provinces	•
Japan	4 years	•				1 year	•
Korea	4 years	•		•			
New Zealand	Between 4 and 6 years	•	•	•		2 years	•
Singapore	4/5 years	•		•		1 year	•
South Africa	4 years	•		•			•
USA	4/5 years	•	•	•	•	1 to 3 years	•

Notes

- England** Traditionally the concurrent route has been chosen by those intending to be primary school teachers and the consecutive by those intending to teach in secondary schools.
- Ireland** Generally, the concurrent route has been chosen by those intending to be primary school teachers and the consecutive by those intending to teach in secondary schools.
- N. Ireland** Traditionally the concurrent route has been chosen by those intending to be primary school teachers and the consecutive by those intending to teach in secondary schools.
- Wales** Traditionally the concurrent route has been chosen by those intending to be primary school teachers and the consecutive by those intending to teach in secondary schools.
- France** Six years of training generally leads to an Agrégation, with which teachers work in lycée. Only a handful of 'professeurs agrégés' teach in lower secondary schools.
- **Germany** Training consists of two phases: 3 to 4 years of university studies followed by 1.5 to 2 years of preparatory 'on-the-job' training.
- **Spain** Following the introduction of the LOE (legislation passed in 2006), some changes may be made to the organisation of teacher training for this phase.
- **South Africa** Although the concurrent and consecutive training models exist, the concurrent is preferred. Teachers must register with the South African Council for Educators (SACE).
- **USA** The probationary period may last between 1 to 3 years depending on the State.

Sources/Further information

For more detailed information on the content of these tables, see the following sections and subsections of the full archive:

Table 11.1 Steps to becoming a primary school teacher

Initial Teacher Training ⇒ 7.2 Second phase, compulsory primary education ⇒ 7.2.2 Types of training courses and institutions

Table 11.2 Steps to becoming a lower secondary school teacher

Initial Teacher Training ⇒ 7.3 Third phase, compulsory lower secondary education) ⇒ 7.3.2 Types of training courses and institutions
or 7.4 Fourth phase, post-compulsory upper secondary education (in schools) ⇒ 7.4.2 Types of training courses and institutions.