

An introduction to the Masters in Teaching and Learning 2009/10



A guide for newly qualified teachers



developing people, improving young lives

Welcome



"I am delighted to present information about the Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL) – the first national

qualification of its type which aims to put children and young people at its heart and to help teachers be the best they can possibly be. Meeting the individual learning needs of every child and removing barriers to learning means that it is important that schools continue to develop and support the work of teachers at all stages of their careers. A wide range of experts – including the school workforce social partnership – have helped to design the principles that lie behind the MTL, and the qualification is now ready to be brought to you by schools and higher education institutions (HEIs) working formally together as providers. All that is needed now is for you to bring your enthusiasm and drive to make the best of this great opportunity which, ultimately, should go towards making this country the best place in the world for children to grow up."

> **Graham Holley,**
Chief Executive,
Training and Development
Agency for Schools (TDA)

A new opportunity

If you are a newly qualified teacher (NQT) taking up a teaching post in the North West or in a National Challenge or other challenging school in the academic year 2009/10 you will have an exciting opportunity. As part of a wider offer of professional development in schools, you will be the first in the profession to have the chance to take a national masters level qualification developed specifically for practising teachers. The MTL is a Government funded, hands-on, classroom-based qualification developed in order to help you extend your teaching skills and abilities.

Being the best for children

Research suggests that it is teacher quality which has the biggest impact on how well pupils perform – one study has suggested that children progress up to three times faster with highly effective teaching.* Ofsted has indicated that the quality of teaching in England is already high and that we have the best ever generation of teachers. The Government is committed to maintaining this achievement and to investing in developing teachers' knowledge and skills, which is essential to raising even further standards of achievement for all pupils and narrowing the attainment gap. The MTL is the first national, professional post-QTS qualification of its type which has been developed for teachers and which puts developing teachers' practice at the centre.

This investment in the professional development of teachers is crucial in order to build on current high standards and make sure young people are equipped for the challenges they face in an increasingly competitive world. Teaching and learning needs to be the best it can be for young people, both now and in the future.

Why you should undertake the MTL

It is recognised that the early years can be among the most challenging of a teacher's career. Already there are structures in place to support you through your induction year. The new MTL is designed to integrate with and build on induction, offering you support from day one and for the duration of your masters, to help you develop your skills.

As you begin your career, you have an opportunity to become part of the first group of MTL candidates. You will help to forge a path for others to follow and your CV will always show that you seized the initiative and became one of the first teachers in England to gain an MTL qualification.

Research suggests that early in a teacher's career is the best time for you to improve your practice.**

You will be gaining a masters-level qualification, which will help you to improve your skills in applying evidence and insight to your teaching and develop your skills towards being the best teacher you can be, drawing on the wealth of teaching talent which exists in your school.

“Our aim is that every teacher over time should have the new MTL. It will raise the status of teachers and ensure that they get the recognition they deserve.”

> Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families



What is different about the MTL

There are other postgraduate programmes currently available which contain elements similar to the MTL, however, the MTL is the only national masters programme for teachers, delivered locally, which combines all of the elements below.

Focus on children and young people

The MTL has been designed for you to focus on engaging children in learning more effectively. In this way, what you study and how you study it will go beyond your own professional development and your insights should be of benefit to the school and children too.

Based in your school

The majority of what you do will be in your classroom and relevant to your day-to-day work as a teacher. You will work with your coach to identify needs relevant to you and your school context and apply evidence and educational theory to real-life situations, which will help inform and consolidate your learning.

Personalised, flexible programme

The three-phased structure of MTL means that content, pace and assessment can be personalised and flexible to meet your needs.

Alignment with induction

Induction is a statutory requirement and the MTL will be carefully designed to work alongside induction.

HEI and school collaboration

The MTL programme you undertake will have been developed by HEIs and schools working together. So, it will combine access to evidence and research with the realities of the school context.

Your trained in-school coach

An experienced teacher, either from your own or a nearby school, will act as a coach, providing you with ongoing support. Your coach is integral to the delivery of MTL. He/she will help and encourage you, as well as facilitate relevant learning opportunities with other teachers, and steer you to examine and challenge your learning. You will also be assigned a tutor from an HEI. Your tutor will assess your progress and will be jointly responsible with your coach for ensuring you get the most from the MTL programme.



When the MTL will be available from

The MTL will become available to the first cohort of eligible teachers in the 2009/10 academic year.

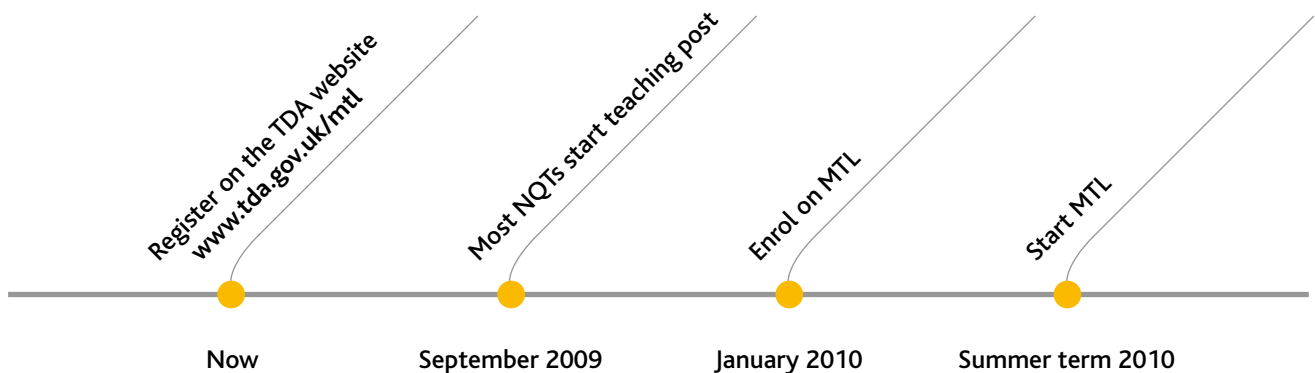
Who will be eligible?

Those eligible in 2009/10 are:

- NQTs in all primary and secondary schools in the North West
- NQTs in National Challenge schools, and in other secondary schools facing challenging circumstances in all other Government Office regions***



Timeline



Why the MTL is being introduced

The MTL is being introduced in recognition of the high quality of education currently offered to children and young people in England and the fact that, in today's world, as the learning needs of pupils are becoming increasingly challenging, complex and diverse, the demands on teachers' knowledge and skills is increasing. By developing an ethos of shared learning, the impact of the MTL will be felt beyond the classroom and should benefit the school community as a whole. Initially it is being offered to NQTs. In time, ministers expect all teachers to have an opportunity to undertake the MTL.



How it will work

The qualification is flexible and can be adapted to match personal and school circumstances. The idea is for the MTL to reflect your learning needs and your school's context and to be completed at a manageable pace.

The MTL is largely classroom-based. That is because the best teacher learning draws on, and is supported in, the context of the classroom and school. However, there may be some opportunities to learn in other settings. You will be expected to complete some study in your own time, although this will be kept to an absolute minimum. The important thing is to develop and apply your learning as part of your job.

Who will pay for the MTL

The MTL is Government-funded. Funds will be available to cover all tuition costs and the cost of you and your coach being away from the classroom.

“It gives you the opportunity to carry on your training; you don't just stop when you become an NQT. You still have to move, because obviously education is constantly moving.”

> Trainee, Manchester

What the MTL will cover

The MTL is delivered in three phases.

These are:

1. Core provision – after initial diagnosis you will develop your skills of enquiry and use of evidence
2. Core provision – you will broaden and embed your knowledge, skills and understanding through four areas of content:
 - teaching and learning, including personalised learning and assessment for learning
 - subject knowledge for teaching, curriculum and curriculum development
 - how children and young people develop, including behaviour management and inclusion
 - working with others in and beyond the classroom
3. Specialist programme – you will deepen your professional knowledge and understanding and strengthen your skills in specialist areas.

The MTL is expected to take approximately three years to complete.

The qualification you will get at the end of it

You will get an MTL which is fully accredited at masters level. NQTs who sign up now will be among the first to achieve the MTL. Headteachers have already indicated that they welcome the MTL and value it as a qualification.

Who has developed the MTL

The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA), working in collaboration with experts in the education sector, those in the social partnership and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) have set out the principles on which the MTL is based. These can be found in the national framework for MTL which providers are using as the basis for developing their MTL programmes.

Where you can find out more

All the latest news about the MTL is available on the TDA website www.tda.gov.uk/mtl. You can register your interest on the site to receive full details about enrolling for the new qualification as soon as they are available. We also intend to run live, online events – look out for these. Details of other funded continuing professional development opportunities are also available.

“The key thing in any profession, and certainly in teaching, is you never stop learning. You can always sharpen up and be doing things better.”

> Headteacher, Manchester

Frequently asked questions

Will I have to remain in the same school for up to five years while I finish my MTL?

No. If you move schools before completing your MTL you will be able to complete it at your new school.

How much additional study will I be required to do outside my normal classroom work?

You will be expected to complete some study in your own time, although this will be kept to an absolute minimum.

How will I know if I'm ready to do the MTL, it seems like a big commitment in my first year.

We know that the early years can be among the most challenging of a teacher's career and a time when many teachers feel under pressure and would value additional support. The MTL will boost significantly the support available to teachers in the early years of their career. All MTL participants will have an in-school coach supporting them throughout their period of study. In this way, the MTL is designed to provide support beyond your first induction year and to provide a structure to help you develop and learn.

A large percentage of teachers who currently access TDA funding for postgraduate study do so during their first two years in the classroom – suggesting that early in your career is a good time to undertake structured professional development. For the first cohort in 2009/10, work on the MTL will not begin before the summer term, and you will not have to do any additional work in your first year if you do not wish to; you can pick up the MTL in subsequent years, and work to your own pace provided that you complete your MTL within the first five years of your career.



* Sanders and Rivers, 1996, Cumulative and Residual Effects on Future Student Academic Achievement

** McKinsey, 2007, How the World's Best Education Systems Stay on Top

*** 1. National Challenge Schools – see www.dcsf.gov.uk/nationalchallenge

2. Other secondary schools in challenging circumstances

These are secondary schools where 30 per cent or more of pupils are eligible for free school meals; and where the leadership is rated good or better by Ofsted, or judged by external advisers to now be effective and to have good capacity to improve to this level.

NQTs at these schools are only eligible for the MTL if they are offered the package for attracting new teachers into challenging schools. This package was announced in the New Opportunities White Paper, published on 13 January 2009. See www.tda.gov.uk/challenge

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