

Change to requirements for observers of teaching practice: City & Guilds teaching qualifications

City & Guilds is revising the requirements for observers of teaching practice of trainee teachers on City & Guilds qualifications. After discussions with LLUK/SVUK, the Sector Skills Council, and in consideration of the difficulties faced by centres in finding staff to conduct observations, observers are not now required also to be delivering aspects of the course. They must, however, be qualified teachers to ensure they have understanding of the activities they are observing. They must also be able, when observing and feeding back on teaching, to make the link between candidates' practice and the teaching theory explored on the course. This is particularly important in the case of Diplomas for specialist teachers (Skills for Life)

Centres must ensure that their observers are:

- fully inducted into the work of the teacher education team
- familiar with the professional standards and qualifications requirements against which they are making judgments
- included in the quality assurance arrangements of the team, with particular reference to:
 - sampling observation reports
 - taking part in standardisation activities directly related to the observation of teaching practice and its relationship to assessment of candidates
- stated on the list of centre staff involved in the qualification, held by the regional office (any additional staff must be made known to the regional office using form APU).

Feedback on observations must meet the needs for candidates to develop their practice throughout their course, as well as providing summative judgements. Observations must be related to the requirements of the qualification and fulfil the purposes of improving candidates' practice and ensuring that standards have been met. They must not relate to any performance management or review procedures required by the centre as employer. Centres should take care to avoid conflicts of interest for observers.