CAMBRIDGE CELTA
GENERAL INFORMATION

Requirements

CELTA is an introductory course for applicants with little or no experience of teaching English to speakers of other languages. Candidates with some experience but little formal ELT training can also be considered. Applicants should be selected for the course only if they meet the following entry requirements.

Applicants must:

- be at least 18 (It is generally recommended that candidates should be aged 20 or over, but candidates aged between 18 and 20 can be accepted at the Centre's discretion)
- have an awareness of language and a competence in both written and spoken English, which will enable them to undertake the course and prepare for teaching at a range of levels
- have the potential to develop the necessary skills to become effective teachers and to complete successfully the written assignments and the assessment of teaching practice
- if English is not your first language, you need to have a minimum language level equivalent to C2 on the Common European Framework (e.g. IELTS 8, CPE grade C or CAE grade A)

Candidates should normally have, as a minimum entry requirement, a standard of education equivalent to that required for entry into higher education. Centres may, at their discretion, accept applicants who do not have formal qualifications at this level if screening indicates that they would be likely to complete the course successfully. Applicants in this category should be interviewed carefully and the evidence should be convincing. (Cambridge Centre Administration Handbook)

The CELTA Course is perfect for people who are looking for a career change, who want to live and work in some of the world's most fascinating places or who just want to teach whilst taking a gap year. CELTA can give you the training you need to adjust to a dynamic new profession.

However, if you do have experience, the course will give you new teaching methodologies and techniques. For teachers without a formal qualification, it means the opportunity to further develop your teaching skills and help you secure a better teaching position.

Application

Once we have received your application, we will assess whether you should proceed to the next stage of the application process: the application interview.

As preparation for the interview we will ask you to complete a task to help us to ascertain your fluency in spoken and written English and your current knowledge and perception of how the English language works. These tasks will take approximately 60 minutes to complete. You may be asked to explain how you might teach selected items of vocabulary. This may be conducted in a group. If you are unable to attend a face-to-face interview, we will hold an online interview.

The Course

The CELTA course covers the principles of effective teaching and provides you with a range of practical skills for teaching English to adult learners and hands-on teaching practice.
The course will help you develop:

- Knowledge of the English Language – grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation
- Awareness of the learners – their needs and motivation
- Practical ability in developing the skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing
- Familiarity with materials
- Classroom management and lesson planning skills
- Techniques and procedures in presentation and practice of new language

The timetable includes:

- 50 hours of input sessions on all basic aspects of planning and teaching
- 6 hours teaching practice for each trainee with international students at two different levels
- Daily detailed feedback and discussion and help with lesson planning
- 6 hours observation of qualified teachers
- Individual tutorials

- Grading is based on continuous assessment and you will receive continuous oral and written feedback.
- There will be regular teaching practice sessions in which you and your colleagues will observe each other teaching *bona fide* students. The sessions will also be observed and assessed by one of your course tutors and followed by feedback you will discuss each other's teaching. Your tutor will also contribute.
- Honesty, sensitivity and tact will be needed at all times. You will also need to be able to listen to evaluations of your teaching, suggestions and advice in a constructive manner.
- You will need to be able to work well in a group, and to be co-operative and supportive at all times. Inability to operate well in pair work and group work may hinder your progress. Similarly, you will also need to be able to work independently.
- You will need sound computer skills for lesson preparation, lesson plans and assignments (use of Word, Power Point, use of the internet for research, use of emails and online platforms such as online to correspond with trainers, peers and possibly teaching practice students).
- There are four assessed, written assignments to complete within deadlines spread throughout the course.
- You are required to teach for a total of six hours and to observe experienced teachers (live and on video) for a minimum of six hours. (For the semi-intensive course, these observations will be held outside the scheduled timetable by arrangement).
- One hundred percent attendance is required. Only under exceptional circumstances are candidates permitted to be absent. Cambridge will not issue a Certificate if attendance is below eighty percent. This regulation is applied whatever the reason for absence. If you withdraw from the course at any point, we regret that you will not be eligible for a refund for either part or whole of the course.

Where to stay:

We can arrange accommodation in host families, student residence or hotels.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

Full-time intensive Face to Face (4 weeks)
Contact hours from Monday to Friday approx. 8:45-17:00, plus additional study hours in the evening and weekends
2nd to 27th February 2026
6th to 31st July 2026
5th to 30th October 2026
The mornings consist of teaching practice, teaching practice preparation and feedback and tutorials, while input sessions in the form of workshops and seminars are held in the afternoons. Candidates will be expected to work on lesson planning and assignments after course hours and at the weekends.

Part-time semi-intensive Face to Face (10 weeks)
Contact hours 2 to 3 times a week in the evenings, approx. 17:00-21:00, plus additional study hours on free days/weekends
5th January to 13th March 2026

Part-time semi-intensive Online (10 weeks)
Online Contact hours 2 to 3 times a week in the evenings, approx. 17:00-21:00, plus additional study hours on free days/weekends
2nd March to 8th May 2026
5th October to 11th December 2026

The contact hours on the semi-intensive course consist of the same course components as the full-time intensive course, including input sessions, teaching practice, teaching practice preparation, feedback and tutorials. Candidates will be expected to work on lesson planning and assignments after course hours and at the weekends.

FEES

The all-inclusive course fee is **€1,500** (including Cambridge entry fee). There are no hidden extras beyond the requirement to buy a grammar book. You will have to pay an initial, non-refundable deposit of **€500** when you are accepted on the course. The balance of EUR 1000 will need to be paid four weeks before the start of the course. Please remember that we cannot refund your money if you cancel any time after 4 weeks before the start of the course.

The course may be cancelled if a minimum number of trainees is not reached. Should a course be cancelled, you will receive a full refund.