



There's an easier way of dealing with the changes in the further education sector

Your questions, answered.

You've heard about the changes in the further education sector, but it's worth checking how you or your colleagues are really affected. Here you'll find the answers to the most frequently asked questions about the changes to the professional development of teachers, tutors and trainers. If we haven't covered it here, you can talk to a trained professional from the sector for some confidential and impartial advice by calling our Information and Advice Service. It's there to answer any questions you may have on an individual basis, in confidence, about these changes or about your career in lifelong learning. You can also email them at advice@lluk.org.

What are the changes?

A new professional status was introduced for all those who teach in the further education sector, be it in further education colleges, in the workplace, a training centre or in an adult and community setting. To begin the journey towards achieving this professional status, those who deliver learning are required to register with the Institute for Learning and undertake a specified number of hours of continuing professional development a year.

Some teachers, tutors or trainers may also need to work towards a teaching qualification, although many will be able to use qualifications or experience they already have towards achieving the status.

There are a number of guides available from Lifelong Learning UK which provide more detail. Visit www.lluk.org/feworkforcereforms.htm

What does 'professional status' actually mean?

Achieving professional status means being able to teach or train to a benchmark standard so the skills of the teacher/tutor/trainer are officially acknowledged and recognised across the sector. It's referred to as having 'license to practice' or being a 'licensed practitioner', and is awarded when teachers, tutors or trainers attain Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status if they carry out a full teacher role, or Associate Teacher Learning and Skills (ATLS) status if they're an associate teacher.

To find out more about teaching roles, visit www.lluk.org/feworkforcereforms.htm or simply contact our Information and Advice Service.

Does this relate to me?

Yes, if you teach in an FE college, because you're bound by the 2007 regulations, which state that all teachers, tutors and trainers have to register with the Institute for Learning and carry out continuing professional development.

All new FE college teaching staff (after 1st September 2007) must be trained to a standard that allows them to achieve the professional status (either QTLS or ATLS).

Likewise, if you started teaching in the workplace, in a training centre, or in an adult and community setting after 1st September 2007, then the changes also apply to you if your organisation receives funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for training delivery.

However, your organisation may decide that all teaching staff, regardless of when they started teaching, need to gain licensed practitioner status. So they might expect all their teachers to attain QTLS or ATLS as part of their staff development policies.

If you are still unsure whether the changes apply to you, or you carry out another role other than a teacher, tutor or trainer (such as an assessor), then contact the Information and Advice Service to find out whether you are affected.

Why have yet more new qualifications been introduced? I've been teaching for years — doesn't my experience count anymore?

Yes, it most certainly does. The qualifications are only for new staff who joined the sector after 1st September 2007. If you have been teaching for a number of years, you could have your previous experience recognised and put towards achieving the status by going through a 'recognition route'. Similarly, you can see if the teaching qualifications you already have could count towards the status, by looking at the Tariff database. These are available from Standards Verification UK.

For more information on the Tariff database and the 'recognition routes', contact Standards Verification UK (www.standardverification.org).

How do I register with the Institute for Learning?

Simply visit the IfL website at www.ifl.ac.uk. There is information on registering and on continuing professional development.

What do you mean by 'professional development' and how much do I have to do?

Broadly speaking, continuing professional development (CPD) means teachers maintaining, improving and broadening their knowledge and skills in their teaching, theoretical knowledge and subject specialism.

And CPD doesn't just mean more courses. It covers all sorts of activities, for example, work shadowing, peer mentoring, internet research, reading a book or simply talking to a more experienced colleague. Basically, any activity you do to update your knowledge of a subject you teach, or to develop your teaching/training skills.

Of course, you'll be required to keep more than just a log of your activities. You'll have to reflect on what you've learnt, and show how you can apply it to your role as a teacher, tutor or trainer.

Full-time teachers/tutors/trainers will be required to do up to 30 hours a year of CPD, while those who work part-time start on a minimum of 6 hours of CPD per year. It all depends on how many hours you work. To find out exactly how many you'll be required to do, visit the IfL website www.ifl.ac.uk

Is there anyone who can help me with this and tell me more?

Yes, simply phone or email our Information and Advice Service with any questions about your career in the further education sector. You can also get more information from the Institute for Learning (www.ifl.ac.uk) or Standards Verification UK. (www.standardsverificationuk.org)

Making change easier

Call our Information and Advice Service

020 7936 5798

between 9.00am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Email **advice@lluk.org**

Or visit **www.lluk.org/changes/**
for more information.

