

Subject: Circular Number: 2006/21  
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Subject:

**QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS IN  
INSTITUTIONS OF FURTHER AND  
HIGHER EDUCATION**

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**Audience:**

- Governing Bodies and Principals of Institutions of Further and Higher Education

**Summary of Contents:**

This Circular provides guidance on the qualifications required to teach in Institutions of Further and Higher Education.

**Enquiries:**

Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:-

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**Status of Contents:**  
Information /Advice

**Related Documents:**

Circular 1997/27

**Superseded Documents:**

2001/18  
2002/12  
2001/4

**DE Website:**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Circular takes effect on 1 January 2007 and applies to appointments from and after that date. The requirements for post-entry training of permanent lecturers and associate lecturers appointed on or after 1 September 1994 are set out in Department for Employment and Learning [formerly the Department of Education] Circular 1997/27. This includes the requirement to hold a PGC(FHE) or PGDFHE which is a post entry training requirement.

## 2. Qualifications/Courses

- 2.1 The attached Annex lists qualifications and courses approved under Article 70(1) of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (as amended) for teaching in institutions of further education. It should be noted that:
- (a) teachers who hold other qualifications and who are already recognised as qualified teachers in institutions of further education will continue to be so recognised;
  - (b) a Postgraduate Certificate in Further and Higher Education [PGC(FHE)] or a Postgraduate Diploma in Further and Higher Education [PGD(FHE)] or an equivalent qualification is not in itself an approved qualification for teaching in further education; holders of the Certificate or Diploma must also have a qualification acceptable under the terms of this Circular;
  - (c) the list is not meant to be exhaustive; the Department should be consulted about the admissibility of other qualifications held by applicants for teaching posts.
3. An applicant for a teaching post who holds a qualification which does not comply with this circular should not be appointed until the Department has confirmed that the qualification held is admissible.
4. When making appointments, colleges should bear in mind that examining and validating bodies may require teachers to hold specific qualifications as a condition of their approval of a particular course in a college. Principals/Directors should also bear this in mind when assigning teaching duties.
5. When assigning duties in practical subjects, Principals/Directors should give careful consideration to qualifications as they relate to safety.
6. Circular 2001/18 is withdrawn and ceases to have effect after 31 December 2006



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**MERVYN GREGG**

Teachers' Pay and Administration Branch

## QUALIFICATIONS AND/OR COURSES APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR TEACHING IN INSTITUTIONS OF FURTHER EDUCATION

### Introduction

1. General education and experience requirements.
  - 1.1 New teachers must have attained the standard of general education listed in paragraph 2 below **plus** 3 years (full-time or equivalent) **relevant** industrial, professional or business experience after the age of 18 years unless the qualifications or course of study successfully completed is listed in Schedule A.
2. Candidates must have a pass in:
  - 2.1 GCSE English (at least Grade C) **or** Essential Skills Level 2 (or higher) in Communication; **and**
  - 2.2 GCSE Mathematics (at least Grade C) **or** Essential Skills Level 2 (or higher) in Numeracy, **or** NICATS Access Maths Modules.

in addition to at least one of the qualifications listed in Schedules A to C below.

The Department will consider qualifications equivalent to those listed in 2.1 and 2.2 above but candidates must have a relevant specific qualification in English / communication **and** in mathematics / numeracy

### SCHEDULES

#### *Schedule A: University Degrees*

- A.1 A degree obtained at a university in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.
- A.2 A degree obtained at any other university provided the Department accepts the standard and content of the degree as equivalent to that of degrees at A.1 above.
- A.3 Any qualification deemed by the Department to be equivalent to a university degree.

#### *Schedule B: Vocational Qualifications : Foundation Degrees /Higher National Diplomas/Certificates*

- B.1 A qualification in the specialist vocational area in which the applicant is to teach and at a level which is, at least, level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework (revised September 2004) and/or deemed by the Department to be equivalent to a Higher National Certificate or Foundation Degree.

***Schedule C: Health and Social Care***

- C.1 First Level Registered Nurse.
- C.2 Diploma in Social Work **or** Certificate of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW) **or** Certificate in Social Services (CSS).