

CELTA Information and Frequently Asked Questions.

Employers around the world ask for *CELTA*. It's the practical English language teaching qualification that gives you the essential knowledge, hands-on teaching experience and classroom confidence to qualify as a teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL).

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why CELTA and not TEFL/TESOL?

- CELTA is the essential qualification that's trusted by employers, language schools and governments around the world. It is a highly regarded qualification (more so than TEFL/TESOL) as it is awarded by the University of Cambridge.
- You need a CELTA certificate to teach English in Australia and most other countries.
- It has a practical component that online courses don't offer to get you classroom ready.

Can I apply for the CELTA course?

To apply for Milner's CELTA course you must be at least 18 years of age. You also need to have passed a tertiary entrance examination (ATAR, TER, TEA), or have an adequate STAT Result (Special Tertiary Admissions Test).

*To teach in Australia you must have also completed an Undergraduate Degree.

What documents do I need to apply?

To apply for the CELTA course you must complete the application form. This must be hand written.

You must also attach evidence that you have passed a tertiary entrance examination (ATAR, TER, TEA), or have an adequate STAT Result (Special Tertiary Admissions Test) This could be in the form of:

- Proof of an Undergraduate/Postgraduate Degree (photocopies don't have to be certified).
- A statement of semester results (if you are still completing the degree).
- Confirmation of enrolment at a University (if you are still completing the Degree).
- A STAT Test (English component).

What if my University degree isn't in Teaching or Education?

That's ok! People from all different professional backgrounds can do the CELTA course. At Milner we've had Nurses, Journalists, Musicians... even a Priest has completed the course.

What if English is not my first Language?

If you are a non-native speaker you can still apply for the CELTA course but you must demonstrate that you have a high level of English. This can be demonstrated through an IELTS score of 7.5 or above, or a CAE (Certificate in Advanced English) Grade A or B.

Once I apply do I get into the course automatically?

No. To ensure you are the right candidate for a CELTA course our Director of Studies will consider your application and see if you meet the standard requirements to join the course. Then we will ask you to come in for an interview. If you are overseas or interstate we will organize a phone interview. To compliment the interview you will also complete a short language awareness task so we can assess your suitability for the course and also note any strengths or weakness you may have.

If you have shown a capability to progress through all these stages of the application process then we will notify you of your successful acceptance and send out the necessary documents.

What does the course involve?

The course is designed to teach you how to effectively teach English to adult learners over 120 hours. This includes:

- Input sessions from your Teacher Trainers on topics ranging from grammar instruction to classroom management.
- Lesson planning.
- Teaching practise on real students, (6 assessed hours in total).
- Feedback from Teacher trainers regarding your teaching practise.
- Observations of 'real' classes and experienced teachers at Milner College, (minimum 6 hours).
- Peer observation and feedback.
- Written assessments.

Is CELTA an intensive course?

Yes. While you are on the CELTA course you will also have a lot of additional study hours that will include further research, lesson planning and preparation.

Do I have to do anything to prepare for the course?

Yes. If you are accepted onto the CELTA course you will need to complete an extensive Pre-Course Task set by the University of Cambridge. This task is designed to prepare you for CELTA and includes theoretical classroom management questions and also grammar and language awareness tasks.

How many assignment are there?

There are seven assignments you need to complete on the CELTA course. They include language related tasks, research tasks, a focus on the learner assignment, and also a self-reflection essay. The assignments are graded as either a pass, fail, or resubmit.

Are there any exams?

CELTA does not have a final exam. It is a continuous assessment course (i.e. participants are assessed throughout the course), which leads to a certificate.

Do I get a final mark or grade when I finish the course?

Yes – successful *CELTA* candidates are graded as Pass, Pass B or Pass A (Pass A is the highest grade).

Pass is awarded to candidates whose overall performance in the teaching practice and in the written assignments meets the specified criteria.

Pass (Grade B) is awarded to candidates whose performance in the written assignments meets the specified criteria and who have demonstrated in their teaching practice a level of achievement significantly higher than that required to meet pass-level criteria in relation to demonstration of the criteria for teaching and professionalism.

A Pass (Grade A) is awarded to candidates whose performance in the written assignments meets the specified criteria and who have demonstrated in their teaching practice a level of ability and achievement and a level of awareness significantly higher than that required to meet pass-level criteria in relation to planning for effective teaching and demonstration of the criteria for teaching and professionalism.

Candidates who fail to meet the criteria in either of the assessed components will receive a Fail.

What students will I teach?

We advertise free English classes to new migrants, backpackers, refugees, and people that can't afford English lessons. They will be your students. Don't worry they are made aware of the fact that you are trainees!

What level of English will the students have?

Over the CELTA course you will teach two different levels of English: Elementary and Intermediate. We find students that have this level of English through a pre-test the week before the CELTA course starts.

Does CELTA have a HECS-HELP scheme?

No. The Government does not have a student loan scheme applicable to the CELTA course.

Will Milner help me find a job?

We will provide you with the website addresses of major recruiters of ELT teachers worldwide. We can also write a letter of reference for you. From time to time we also try to offer new graduates work at Milner College.

Do CELTA Certificates expire?

No. Your CELTA Certificate is valid for life, (so don't lose it!)