

Frequently Asked Questions – *Teacher Education Refresh (TER)* programmes

1. What is a *Teacher Education Refresh (TER)* programme?

The *Teacher Education Refresh (TER)* programme is a flexible mixed-mode delivery programme that can be completed while a teacher is employed. Much of it is completed online with key elements delivered face to face.

It is a course of study and supervised practicum of between 12-16 weeks, focused on what teachers need to know and be able to do to teach successfully in the current education environment. The programme covers a wide range of topics including learning communities, working with priority learners, cultural competencies, curriculum, assessment and planning, and has a strong focus on inquiry learning.

Teachers can access the *TER* programme nationwide and the practicum may be completed in teachers' own settings or settings near to where they live.

2. Who has to complete the *TER* programme?

Two groups of teachers are required to complete the *TER* programme:

- a) Teachers who want to apply for another provisional practising certificate six years or more after becoming registered; and
- b) Teachers who completed a teaching qualification six years ago (or more) and want to apply for registration for the first time.

3. Why do these teachers have to complete the *TER* programme?

Provisionally certificated teachers are required to complete two years of teaching employment while undertaking an induction and mentoring programme and being appraised using the *Practising Teacher Criteria* before they can be recommended for full certification.

Provisionally certificated teachers who have not completed this process six years or more after being registered have not been able to meet the *Practising Teacher Criteria*, and are likely to have had limited or interrupted opportunities to teach in an ongoing role.

Qualified but unregistered teachers are likely to have only very minimal teaching experience within the compulsory education system since they completed their qualification. This is

because for most teaching positions in New Zealand it is a requirement to be registered and have a current practising certificate.

The *TER* programme will bring these teachers up to date with shifts in the education system that have occurred over the last six years and ensure they are well prepared to teach successfully now in New Zealand schools and early childhood settings.

Ensuring that teachers either demonstrate meeting the *Practising Teacher Criteria*, or complete the *TER* programme within a specified timeframe will provide the profession and wider public with greater assurance about teacher competence and lead to improved outcomes for ākonga.

It is also a legislative requirement that a practising certificate is only issued to teachers who meet the requirements for certification. The Council needs independent, verifiable evidence of this when a teacher has graduated so long ago and is yet to complete satisfactory teaching experience to be issued with a full practising certificate.

4. Who runs the *TER* programme and where are they?

The Council has appointed three providers to deliver a Curriculum that was developed and is owned by the Council. The approved providers are Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand (formerly Te Tari Puna Ora o Aotearoa New Zealand Childcare Association), the University of Waikato and University of Auckland Uniservices.

Each provider caters for specific groups so there is sufficient coverage across sector, medium and location:

Provider	Sector	Location	Medium
Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand	ECE	Delivers nationally	English and Māori medium settings
University of Waikato	Primary and Secondary	Delivers nationally for teachers in Māori medium settings Delivers south of greater Auckland for teachers in English medium settings	English and Māori medium settings
University of Auckland Uniservices	Primary and Secondary	Delivers to greater Auckland and north	English medium settings

5. When do I have to complete the *TER* programme?

If you have already been registered for six years or more, and you want to apply for a provisional practising certificate, you will need to successfully complete the *TER* programme before submitting your application.

If you are unsure how long you have been registered for, contact the Council.

If you completed your teaching qualification six or more years ago you must successfully complete the *TER* programme before you apply for registration. If you qualified overseas and have been employed as a teacher outside of New Zealand, contact the Council to discuss your situation.

6. How much does it cost?

The *TER* programme will cost between \$3750 and \$4000, depending on which provider you choose.

7. I've been teaching since I was registered and granted provisional practising certificate, can any of this be recognised?

If you have completed one year of teaching in a position of at least 0.5 FTTE during the last three years, and you participated in an induction and mentoring programme during that time, the *TER* provider can undertake a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process. This may result in exemption from some assessments or parts of the programme. Contact the *TER* provider for further advice and information.

8. My professional leader and I don't think that I need to complete the programme because I have had regular and recent teaching employment. Can I discuss my situation with the Education Council?

Yes. You can contact the Council by emailing TER@educationcouncil.org.nz to provide further information about your recent employment. Please provide a copy of your CV including recent professional development and details of all of your teaching employment as well as any further study you have completed since you were registered and issued with your provisional practising certificate. If you have or will very soon meet the requirements to be issued with a full practising certificate, you may be able to apply for full certification.

9. I don't need to complete the *TER* programme for my certification, but I'd like to for professional development. Can I enrol in the programme?

You can; however please note that priority for entry will be given to those who need to complete the programme for certification purposes. Contact the *TER* provider for further information.

10. Can I complete another type of professional development course instead of doing the *TER*?

No, for provisional certification purposes you must complete the *TER* programme through one of the Education Council's approved providers. The *TER* programme has been specifically developed to deliver a Curriculum that is owned by the Council and focuses on a refresh of teachers' initial teacher education programme.

11. I'm not teaching at the moment. Do I need to complete the *TER* programme and apply for a provisional practising certificate anyway?

You can enrol in the *TER* programme at a later date, but you must successfully complete it before you apply for another provisional practising certificate. You must hold a current practising certificate to be employed in a teaching position in schools, kura, kindergartens and in many positions in early childhood education settings for more than 10 days in any calendar year.

12. I'd like to complete the *TER* programme now but don't plan to return to teaching for another few years. How long after completing the *TER* programme can I wait before I have to reapply for certification?

When you apply for a provisional practising certificate, the Council will ask for evidence that you have either completed the *TER* programme or have graduated from an approved initial teacher education programme within the previous six years.

Contact information

Education Council

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Phone: 04 471 0852

Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand

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www.ecnz.ac.nz/study-with-us/TER/

University of Auckland Uniservices

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Phone: 09 623 8899 ext 48485

<http://www.kohia.auckland.ac.nz/en/kohia/teacher-education-refresh-programme.html>

University of Waikato

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<https://education.waikato.ac.nz/qualifications/choose-a-subject/teacher-education-the-faculty/teacher-education-refresh-programme/>