

Professional Formation leading to Qualified or Associate Teacher Learning and Skills (Q/ATLS)

The licence to practise as a Qualified or Associate Teacher Learning and Skills (Q / ATLS) will be conferred by the Institute for Learning through the process of Professional Formation, defined in the Regulations (2007) as:

“The post-qualification process by which a teacher demonstrates thorough professional practice:

- a.) the ability to use effectively the skills and knowledge acquired whilst training to be a teacher
- b.) the capacity to meet the occupational standards required of a teacher”.

Professional Formation enables teachers to collect evidence which shows how the overarching professional standards are embedded within their teaching practice, taking into account subject currency and expertise, teaching and learning, reflective practice and Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

This process is not limited in time, other than the regulatory requirement which applies only to new teachers who have qualified since September 2007, to achieve Q / ATLS within five years of employment, but it will depend on the individual circumstances of each teacher, for example, in terms of their length of experience and hours of teaching, etc.

In this way the Institute for Learning is taking a flexible, pragmatic approach because of the diversity within the sector and in order not to disadvantage any teachers or employers.

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Once achieved, the licence will be annually renewable through a requirement to remain in good standing through CPD and adherence to the Code of Professional Practice.

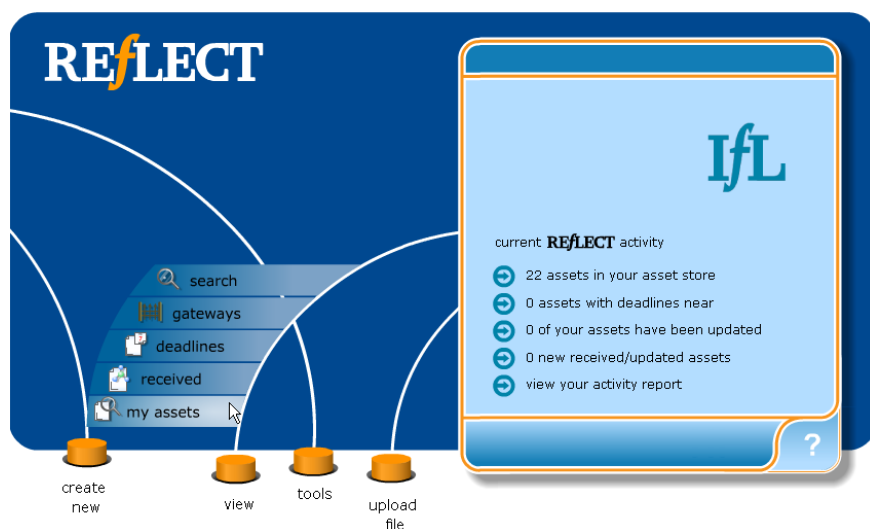
Professional Formation is made up of two forms of evidence, namely, mandatory and personalised elements.

Mandatory elements are standardised and would be very similar for most applicants:

- an approved initial teaching qualification (CTLLS or DTLLS) or equivalent
- numeracy and literacy skills at or above Level 2, or equivalent
- supporting testimony from an appropriately qualified person
- declaration of suitability

Personalised elements are unique to each applicant and follow the standard CPD cycle:

- subject currency and expertise
- teaching and learning
- self-evaluation
- professional development planning
- reflective practice



It is expected that the evidence for Professional Formation will be presented in the specially designed account within REFLECT, which is the personal online learning tool of the Institute.

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Quality assurance will be ensured through the Code of Professional Practice and the requirement to remain in good standing through CPD that safeguards the future practice of those awarded professional status of Q / ATLS and IfL recommends that all new teachers should be subject to observation of teaching and learning as part of the employer's self-evaluation cycle within 24 months of the award of Q / ATLS status.

The formation account will provide evidence of how the professional teaching standards are being met in practice and it will be a flexible and personalised developmental process, based on a light touch self-assessment model. In essence, teachers will tell their story through a professional formation account, drawing on supporting evidence from a variety of sources, including peer review.