

Clarification of observation requirements for the Education and Training qualifications

Pearson BTEC Level 4 Certificate

Pearson BTEC Level 5 Diploma

Observation requirements

Teaching practice observations within both the Certificate and Diploma programmes should be appropriately spaced throughout the whole programme and take into account the trainee teacher's progress.

Learning Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) guidelines recommend that trainee teachers should be able to achieve teaching of a 'good' level (i.e. Ofsted grade 2) by the end of the programme. As grading of observations can be viewed as intimidating by trainee teachers, grading should be used only latterly in the programme. This gives trainee teachers time to practice and develop skills. If trainee teachers fail to demonstrate at least some grade 2 characteristics, a further observation will be required, once appropriate feedback and support has been given.

Grading Observations

The *Initial Teacher Education (ITE) inspection handbook (Ofsted 2012)* suggests that for outcomes for trainee teachers to be judged as being at a good level (grade 2) much of their teaching should show aspects of 'good' and/or 'outstanding' teaching. Trainee teachers are therefore required to achieve a 'good' standard of teaching by the end of their programme. The required proportion of the observed practice that demonstrates 'good' practice is given in the sections below.

Full information on grading characteristics can be found in the specifications. When using this please note that the grade characteristics are for guidance only and should not be used as a literal checklist.

Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training

The requirement for observations of teaching practice for this qualification is a minimum of three observations, totalling a minimum of three hours. Any single observation must be a minimum of half an hour. Shorter observation times will require a higher number of observations.

Centres may choose observations of equal length throughout the programme, or may choose to vary the length of observations. For example:

The requirement is that **at least one hour** of observed and assessed practice, linked to the mandatory units, should demonstrate at least grade 2 characteristics.

Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training

The requirement for observations of teaching practice for this qualification is a minimum of eight observations that total a minimum of eight hours. Any single observation must be a minimum of half an hour. Shorter observation times will require a higher number of observations.

Centres may choose observations of equal length throughout the programme, or may vary the length of observations. For example:

Equal Length Observation Example	
Number	Duration
8	60 minutes
<i>or</i>	
16	30 minutes
<i>or</i>	
12	40 minutes

Varied Length Observation Example	
Number	Duration
4	60 minutes
<i>and</i>	
8	30 minutes

The requirement is that **at least four hours** of observed and assessed practice, linked to the mandatory units, should demonstrate characteristics of a grade 2 lesson, as a minimum.