



National Teacher Certification

Program outline



Welcome to the National Teacher Certification program

We know there is no greater influence on how well our young people learn at school and preschool than the quality of the teaching they receive. That's why we're committed to supporting teachers to be the best they can be.

This program supports you to reach the Highly Accomplished or Lead Teacher career stage, recognising and rewarding your high-quality teaching practices aligned with the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST).

By becoming certified, you're demonstrating your commitment to professional growth, supporting colleagues and improving educational opportunities for all learners.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the program, you'll:

- be an Australian citizen or have a permanent residency visa
- be fully registered, working in either a permanent role or a 1-year contract in the year you intend to complete certification
- have 2 most recent satisfactory annual performance reviews that demonstrate your contributions to the profession
- be in an authentic teaching role where you're currently planning, teaching, assessing, and reporting.

Pre-assessment

Make sure you're ready to start by:

- completing the [AITSL's Teacher Self-Assessment Tool](#), reflecting on your practice and engaging in a certification discussion with your preschool director, principal, or their delegate for their endorsement
- completing the pre-requisite: [Introduction to the National Teacher Certification process](#)
- registering for the [National Teacher Certification program on plink](#).

Professional learning days

Day 1: Getting a head start on your portfolio of evidence

You'll deep dive into the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers so you can:

- identify evidence of your practice aligned to either the Highly Accomplished or Lead Teacher career stage
- select quality evidence of your practice
- understand the compulsory elements of a certification portfolio
- explore how to effectively structure a portfolio. You can submit your portfolio of evidence for assessment in 2 modules with the option of a third module if required.

Day 2: Elevating your annotations

You'll refine your understanding of the alignment between the Standards, your evidence and annotations so you can:

- understand and apply the lexical patterns of the career stages
- write high-quality annotations that are succinct, purposeful and aligned to the relevant career stage of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers
- identify focus area descriptors requiring further evidence
- develop your reflective practice to facilitate ongoing critical reflection.

Day 3: Crafting your evidence stories

You'll work collaboratively to:

- understand how to craft your evidence stories applying the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers to your evidence of practice
- refine your annotations and align your evidence sets to evidence stories
- share your evidence and annotations with a certification facilitator to identify strengths and areas for improvement
- prepare your first evidence set.

Applied Learning

Throughout the program, you'll complete several applied learning tasks that will support you to build a portfolio of evidence. You'll be supported by peers and facilitators to develop, refine and complete your portfolio and successfully achieve certification.

Applied learning tasks
Peer discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work collaboratively with others in the field • respond to reflection questions during professional learning days and online check-ins • provide constructive warm and cool feedback to peers during annotation and evidence sharing activities.
Project: planning your portfolio of evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use AITSL and department resources to plan, set goals and annotate your evidence • submit your Stage 1 portfolio of evidence via the modular approach.
Support network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify a broad support network of colleagues to assist as referees, observers and critical peers.

Application process

Modular submission process

As part of the program, you'll receive tailored support from the National Certification Team. You'll also have access to up to 5 release days to participate in professional learning days and to create your portfolio.

To prepare your portfolio of evidence for Stage 1 assessment, you'll:

- collect a draft evidence set to use on day 1 and 2
- attend days 1, 2 and 3 and MS Teams check-in
- submit your Stage 1 portfolio via the modular submission approach.

Stage 1 assessment: Modular submission

When you've collected your evidence, you'll submit your portfolio via the modular submission process to the National Teacher Certification team. You will be able to submit your portfolio electronically via MS teams. Next, 2 nationally trained assessors will assess your portfolio against the [Australian Professional Standards for Teachers](#).

Your cumulative submission will include:

- Stage 1 evidence submission form
- a context statement that addresses your teaching and school context
- annotated evidence of your teaching practice, to be updated with each subsequent module
- the certification [HAT mapping tool](#) or [LT mapping tool](#) to align your evidence to the 37 focus area descriptors at the relevant career stage
- two most recent satisfactory annual performance development reviews
- at least 1 classroom observation report (this needs to be from your preschool director, principal or their delegate)
- Stage 1 referee contact details—you'll need 3 to 5 referees
- A referee verification form to verify up to 15 focus area descriptors. This form recognises any prior learning or evidence of practice from the last 5 years, where you have demonstrated meeting the focus area descriptors at the Highly Accomplished and Lead career stage.

You will be able to access relevant forms and templates via MS teams once registered for the professional learning days.

Stage 2

Assessment: Half day visit

Once you've successfully completed Stage 1, you'll proceed to the Stage 2 assessment. Stage 2 consists of a visit to your school or preschool by an assessor who'll engage in:

- a pre-observation discussion
- an observation of your practice.

This will be approximately 60 minutes in total.

The assessor will have a professional conversation with your preschool director, principal or their delegate to talk about your practice and the impact you have on learners and colleagues. If further evidence is required, you may nominate 2 additional colleagues to have a further discussion with the assessor.

To prepare for the Stage 2 visit, you'll need to:

- complete the Stage 2 assessment schedule
- email the schedule to orbis@sa.gov.au **10 working days before the visit.**

Accreditation

Teachers who are successfully certified at the Highly Accomplished or Lead Teacher career stage are:

- nationally recognised for 5 years
- registered as a Highly Accomplished or Lead Teacher on AISTL's database
- recognised by the Teacher Registration Board as a Highly Accomplished or Lead Teacher through an annotation on the Register of Teachers and registration certificates.

As a nationally certified teacher you can apply for advertised HAT or LT roles. Additionally, your current school or preschool can choose to create a HAT or LT role and translate a certified teacher into that role. In South Australia, HAT or LTs receive additional remuneration when they are appointed to a dedicated HAT or LT role.

Withdrawal information

While we want to provide you with the support you need to complete the certification process, we understand that life happens. We'll try to be as flexible as possible and work with you to develop a support plan to help you achieve certification. If you need to withdraw, please contact us to discuss, you can email us at orbis@sa.gov.au.

Engaging.
Empowering.
Purposeful.
Collaborative.
Exemplary.



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