



# Blended Learning Essentials: Accreditation pathways

# Welcome

This is a short guide for course participants interested in accreditation pathways for Blended Learning Essentials Part 1: Getting Started, Part 2: Embedding Practice, Part 3: Developing Digital Skills, and Part 4: Digitally-Enriched Apprenticeships.

Full program: <https://www.futurelearn.com/programs/blended-learning-essentials>

As a course participant you have a number of ways to gain professional recognition and accreditation for participating in the course and as a next step in your professional development.

Some accreditation pathways are more suited for participants who complete all parts of the course but most options are available to participants regardless of which parts of the course have been completed or in which order.

This guide provides information on the different pathways:

- FutureLearn Certificate of Achievement;
- The course is accredited by the CPD Certification Service;
- Accreditation via professional bodies for participants who seek wider recognition of their professional practice;
- Paths to post-graduate qualifications for participants whom the course inspires to further study.



# FutureLearn Certificate of Achievement through upgrading

## Summary

By upgrading your FutureLearn course you receive additional benefits, including a [Certificate of Achievement](#) when you become eligible. This is available in both digital and printed formats, to help you demonstrate your learning.

## What are the benefits of upgrading Blended Learning Essentials?

*Unlimited access to the BLE course* for as long as it exists on FutureLearn means you can return to the materials at any time to revisit blended learning in your own practice.

To help demonstrate your learning, a *Certificate of Achievement* will be sent to you when you become eligible.

*Access to tests:* Where tests are included on a course, validate your learning by accessing this step.

Your Certificate of Achievement will give you official evidence, to show to your current or future employer, including:

- an outline of what you've learned and how long it took;
- the logos of the university and other organisations associated with your course;
- and the lead educators' signatures.

The majority of FutureLearners who achieve a Certificate add it to their LinkedIn profile, CV or resumé, or use it as evidence of their participation and validation of test results. Your digital Certificate will be a permanent web page, with a unique address, so you can: add your Certificate to LinkedIn with one click; share it with friends or employers via social media or email; and include it in your CV or resumé with ease.

Key facts	
Suitable for	<i>All participants</i>
Issued by	<i>FutureLearn on behalf of the UCL Institute of Education and the University of Leeds</i>
Cost of upgrade	£62
More info	<a href="https://about.futurelearn.com/about/faq/?category=certificates-and-statements">https://about.futurelearn.com/about/faq/?category=certificates-and-statements</a>

# Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS)

## Summary

Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) is a professional status that you can gain by successfully completing professional formation.

Professional formation is a post-qualification process that enables you to demonstrate the effective use of skills and knowledge in your professional practice that is required to achieve QTLS status. Professional Formation is underpinned by the [Professional Standards](#) which includes promoting the benefits of technology and supporting learners in its use.

You can register for QTLS from 3 September to 31 October. You would be working towards sending us your completed on-line application by the end of February for review in March and notification of the outcome in April 2019. The next opportunity to register runs from 3 December to 31 January.

Please see [here](#) for more information about the eligibility criteria and [here](#) for an overview of the professional formation process. More details about the evidence you would be required to include in your application can be found in our [Guidance for Applicants](#).

## What are the benefits of gaining QTLS status?

- More than 21,000 have achieved QTLS status since its introduction in 2008
- QTLS status is recognised in law as equal to QTS for teaching in schools
- Career progression: QTLS status demonstrates your commitment, skills and knowledge to employers
- Recognition of your status as a professional teacher or trainer
- Valuable continuing professional development (CPD) that builds confidence and enhances your skills
- Members with QTLS can use these initials as a designation.

Key facts	
Suitable for	<i>Teachers or trainers with an initial teacher education qualification at minimum of Level 5, e.g. the Diploma in Education and Training (DET)</i>
Issued by	<i>Society for Education and Training</i>
Cost	£485.00 and SET <a href="#">membership fee of £69.90</a>
More info	<a href="#">SET Website - QTLS</a>



## Certified Membership (CMALT)

CMALT stands for Certified Membership of the Association for Learning Technology (ALT). Established in 2004, CMALT is one of the longest established accreditation schemes specifically for practitioners seeking recognition for their existing skills and experience in learning technology.

CMALT is portfolio-based and requires each portfolio to cover 4 core areas (including implementation of technology, communication and teaching/training), and also allows participants to choose a specialist option that fits with their particular role, thus providing real flexibility.

In order to provide a clear route to CMALT accreditation for course participants, we have mapped the curriculum of the course to the CMALT framework (see the [website](#) for full info).

### What are the benefits of gaining CMALT?

CMALT is a peer-based professional accreditation scheme developed by the Association to enable people whose work involves learning technology to:

- have their experience and capabilities certified by peers;
- demonstrate that they are taking a committed and serious approach to their professional development.

Once you have CMALT, you receive a full range of benefits including:

- Inclusion on the list of Certified Members;
- Inclusion on the CMALT Consultants Register;
- Option to become a CMALT Assessor;
- Use of CMALT as post-nominal letters;
- Access to members-only discussion list and resources and events discounts.

Key facts	
Suitable for	<i>All participants who have Learning Technology as part of their role and have some existing experience</i>
Awarded by	<i>Association for Learning Technology (ALT)</i>
Cost	<i>Course participants who register before 31 December 2018 are eligible for a discounted rate, £119. CMALT membership fee £79.</i>
More info	<a href="https://www.alt.ac.uk/membership/certified-membership/blended-learning-essentials-and-cmalt">https://www.alt.ac.uk/membership/certified-membership/blended-learning-essentials-and-cmalt</a>

## CPD Certification Services

The CPD Certification Service was established in 1996 as the leading independent CPD accreditation institution operating across industry sectors to complement the CPD policies of professional and academic bodies.

The CPD Certification Service provides support, advice and recognised independent CPD accreditation compatible with global CPD principles.

This course has been certified by the CPD Certification Service as conforming to continuing professional development principles. Participants who complete both parts of the course qualify for this, with participants completing “Getting started” achieving 20 hours part 2, “Embedding practice”, 12 hours of CPD time, “Developing Digital Skills”, 8 hours of CPD time, and “Digitally-Enriched Apprenticeships”, 8 hours of CPD time.

### What are the benefits of CPD?

There are many benefits to Continuing Professional Development at all levels. For individuals, organisations and industry as a whole, CPD is essential to keep skills and knowledge up to date. The regular implementation of CPD enables progressive, structured improvement.

#### *Benefits of CPD - Individual*

An individual benefits from Continuing Professional Development by regularly focusing on how they can become a more competent working professional. Regularly updating knowledge and skills helps individuals remain competent and effective within their role. Training and learning undertaken increases confidence and overall capability. CPD is generally based around individual requirements to compliment career aspirations.

CPD enables you to adapt positively to changes in work/industry requirements. Planning CPD helps you to be more efficient with time, and recording CPD properly provides evidence of professional development (CPD records can be useful for supervision and appraisal meetings).

Key facts	
Suitable for	<i>All participants of parts 1, 2 and/or 3</i>
Awarded by	<i>CPD Certification Services</i>
Cost	<i>See website</i>
More info	<a href="http://www.cpduk.co.uk/">http://www.cpduk.co.uk/</a>

## MA in Education and Technology

Professionals responsible for teaching and learning in today's society must be increasingly knowledgeable about using technology in practice. The MA in Education and Technology at the UCL Institute of Education (based at the UCL Knowledge Lab) will provide you with the practical and research skills you need to design, use and evaluate technology in formal and informal learning.

You will develop your analytical and research skills by undertaking a report or dissertation. The research can be qualitative, quantitative or a combination of both, during which you may explore any area of education and technology of interest.

<b>Key facts</b>	
Suitable for	<i>All participants seeking post-graduate qualifications</i>
Awarded by	<i>UCL Institute of Education</i>
Cost	<i>See website</i>
More info	<a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe/courses/graduate-taught/education-technology-ma">http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe/courses/graduate-taught/education-technology-ma</a>



## Digital Education MA

The MA Digital Education is a two-year online distance learning course designed for professionals (for example, teachers or learning technologists) wishing to further their expertise in the area or change the direction of their career.

The programme will allow you to understand theories of learning underpinning effective use of digital tools; have skills to use and evaluate technologies that are currently available and be able to look towards future developments in the field.

You will benefit from learning about the theories and practices of digital education whilst being a digital learner yourself so you can relate them to your own experience.

The dialogic online delivery of this master's programme – including regular group discussions which could connect you to professionals in other countries with new perspectives – provides opportunities to receive expertise from academic staff and also to learn from fellow professionals.

In a field where research can often overstate conclusions from short-term interventions, you will learn to approach research critically and develop skills to carry out research and evaluations in your own professional settings both during and after the programme.

<b>Key facts</b>	
Suitable for	<i>All participants seeking post-graduate qualifications</i>
Awarded by	<i>University of Leeds</i>
Cost	<i>See website (full-time/part-time)</i>
More info	<a href="https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/d981/digital-education-ma">https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/d981/digital-education-ma</a>





## Leadership and Digital Education MA

This specialist master's is designed for experienced educators who want to gain an insight into educational policy issues of current global significance and their implications for the effective leadership of educational institutions as well as wishing to understand, use and support digital tools in education.

Given the increasing interest in education leadership and digital education this programme will allow you to build a range skills and knowledge which can enhance your professional development. You will have the opportunity to apply and reflect on this new knowledge in relation to both your own learning and to your professional contexts.

With a combination of online and face-to-face teaching, you will be campus based with access to all of the university's facilities and resources while also gaining practical experience of being an online distance learner. This experience of online learning will enhance your learning on the subject and also enable you to be a more effective leader or deliverer of online education.

<b>Key facts</b>	
Suitable for	<i>All participants seeking post-graduate qualifications</i>
Awarded by	<i>University of Leeds</i>
Cost	<i>See website (full-time/part-time)</i>
More info	<a href="https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/i530/leadership-and-digital-education-ma">https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/i530/leadership-and-digital-education-ma</a>

Blended Learning Essentials full program:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/programs/blended-learning-essentials>