

The Education Workforce Council

Returning to Practice

April 2015

1.0 About this document

1. During the course of their career, many education practitioners may choose not to practise for an extended period of time. This may be for a number of reasons, such as to pursue another job, to undertake further study, to travel, to take parental leave or to carry out caring responsibilities.
2. In practice, such persons may find it difficult to make a return to practice. For example:
 - they lack confidence or feel out of touch with new developments;
 - they experience difficulty in securing posts because their knowledge and skills are not as up to date as other candidates for jobs;
 - places on appropriate refresher courses are limited or non-existent.
3. When such persons seek to return to practice, it is important that they are fully prepared and their knowledge and skills are up to date, not only for the benefit of the individuals they will teach but also for their own benefit.
4. If you are a qualified teacher or an FE Lecturer who is seeking to return to practice following an extended break, then the criteria set out in this booklet apply to you.

2.0 Returning to practice – to whom do the criteria apply?

5. The Returning to Practice criteria differ depending on which category or categories of registration you are applying for.
6. If you are applying for registration in the Registered Teacher category (with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)) and gained QTS more than 5 years ago but have not worked as a qualified teacher in the UK, a European Economic Area (EEA) country or overseas in the **last five years**, the Returning to Practice criteria apply to you.
7. If you are applying for registration in the registered FE Teacher (Lecturer) category and have not worked as an FE Teacher (Lecturer) in the UK, a European Economic Area (EEA) country or overseas in the **last five years** or, you do not have at least three years relevant industrial, professional or business experience gained in the last 5 years then the Returning to Practice criteria apply to you.
8. If you are applying for registration in the FE Teacher (Lecturer) category and are currently undergoing or about to commence training on a post-compulsory initial teacher training course at an accredited provider in Wales or England you are exempt from the requirements of the Returning to Practice scheme.

3.0 What do I need to do to complete Returning to Practice?

9. In returning to practice, the Council takes the view that you, as an individual, are best placed to identify which areas of your knowledge and skills need to be refreshed.
10. However, the Council requires that **the period of updating** that you must undertake shall consist of **at least 10 full days** (or equivalent).
11. This period can be made up of any combination of supervised practice, formal study or self-directed study you choose (see section 4 for further details). Our only requirement is that any self-directed study makes up no more than half of the period. For example, this could comprise:
 - 4 days of supervised practice, 3 days of formal study and 3 days of self-directed study;
 - 6 days of formal study and 4 days of supervised practice;
 - 10 days of supervised practice,

This is not an exhaustive list. The above are examples only to show how **flexible** the arrangements can be.

4.0 The activities that make up your period of updating

12. Updating your knowledge and skills are your own responsibility. The areas which you feel you need to refresh will be best determined by you and are likely to depend on a number of factors, including:
 - your prior experience;
 - any relevant developments in your subject, phase or pedagogically during the time you were out of the profession;
 - areas where you feel you lack knowledge or confidence.
13. You do not have to complete your period of updating full-time, however all of the updating must be completed no longer than twelve months before applying for EWC registration in the relevant category of registration.

4.1 Supervised practice

14. **If you are applying for registration in the category of registered teacher**, any supervised practice must be under the supervision of an EWC registered teacher. This can involve, for example employment as a Teaching Assistant in a school, provided that you undertake the required number of hours “specified work” of a teacher, under supervision. Supervised practice can be undertaken at more than one school.

15. Your supervisor must:

- be registered with the EWC in the category of Registered Teacher;
- have been registered with the GTCW continuously from 1st April 2012 until 31st March 2015;
- have completed the statutory Induction period if they are required to do so under Section 17 of the *Education (Wales) Act 2014*.
- not be subject to any disciplinary proceedings by an employer or prohibited or suspended from practicing by the Council from one or more categories of registration, or prohibited or suspended by any of its equivalents in the United Kingdom or Ireland

16. The EWC does not set out detailed criteria as to what tasks “supervised practice” should entail or the amount of supervised practice you might require. This is best negotiated between you and your supervisor, based on your needs and the amount of time your supervisor is able to spare. However, we would expect supervision to fall within one or more of the 4 areas defined in regulation 17 of the *The Education Workforce Council (Main Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2015* as being the “specified work” of a teacher:

- planning and preparing lessons and courses for pupils;
- delivering lessons to pupils . This includes delivery via distance learning or computer aided techniques;
- assessing the development, progress and attainment of pupils;
- reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils.

17. **If you are applying for registration in the category of FE Teacher (Lecturer)** any supervised practice must be under the supervision of an EWC registered FE Lecturer and can take place at more than one college.

18. Your supervisor must:

- be registered with the EWC in the category of FE Teacher (Lecturer);
- not be subject to any disciplinary proceedings by an employer or prohibited or suspended from practicing by the Council from one or more categories of registration, or prohibited or suspended by any of its equivalents in the United Kingdom or Ireland

19. The EWC does not set out detailed criteria as to what tasks “supervised practice” should entail or the amount of supervised practice you might require. This is best negotiated between you and your supervisor, based on your needs and the amount of time your supervisor is able to spare.

4.2 Formal study

20. Formal study is a period of structured study provided by an organisation or individual. This can include distance learning or e-learning. It must be relevant to your practice.

21. Examples of formal study which you might choose to follow include:

- relevant personal or professional courses;

- “return to teach” programmes run by Initial Teacher Training Institutions;
- relevant continuing professional development (CPD) activities, for example training days run by schools, colleges or others, observation within a school or college or time spent with an advisor or expert (industry or other);
- relevant modules run by Initial Teacher Training Institutions, including Local Authority Advisory Services or other organisations;

This is not an exhaustive list. The above are examples only to show how **flexible** our arrangements are.

22. The EWC does not accredit specific courses or activities, as you will be best placed to determine which types of formal study are most appropriate for you in updating your own knowledge and skills.

4.3 Self-directed study

23. Self-directed study is a period of learning which you can structure to your own needs, using books, journal articles, websites or any other means of research. However, as stated earlier in this document, self-directed study cannot make up more than 5 days of the 10 day period.

24. You may find it particularly helpful to undertake self-directed study, if for example:

- you want to refresh your subject or phase knowledge;
- you wish to return to a different phase / setting or teach a different subject;
- opportunities for formal study or supervised practice are more limited;
- you need to fit your updating around other commitments, such as an existing job or parental responsibilities.

5.0 How do you submit details of your updated knowledge and skills?

25. Forms are available from our website www.ewc.wales or the Qualifications and Registration Team.

26. You are advised to read the forms and accompanying guidance before you start to update your knowledge and skills.

27. You will need to submit the relevant form with your registration application forms.

28. We will check the information you send us to ensure that you have completed the required number of days. We may also contact the organisations / individuals referred to on your form to check the information you have provided.

6.0 Further information

29. Further details are available from:

Contact	The Qualifications and Registration Team
Address	The Education Workforce Council, 9 th Floor, Eastgate House, 35-43 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0AB
Telephone	029 20460 099
Email	registration@ewc.wales
Website	www.ewc.wales