# Technology Teacher’s FAQ’s – TeachNZ Scholarships

**Where are the training centres for me to gain my Diploma of Teaching across Aotearoa?**

There are 11 Teaching Council approved Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses for secondary teachers you can apply for:

* Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning (Secondary) – University of Canterbury
* Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary Technology Education) – Open Polytechnic
* Diploma in Education / Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) – University of Waikato
* Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) – University of Auckland
* Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) – Bethlehem Tertiary Institute
* Graduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching – Auckland University of Technology
* Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) – Laidlaw College
* Graduate Diploma of Learning and Teaching (Secondary) – Massey University
* Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) – New Zealand Graduate School of Education
* Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary) – Victoria University of Wellington
* Postgraduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching – Teach First NZ: Ako Mātātupu

Some of these courses are now offered online too. Check out their websites or get in touch directly with the ITE provider to find out more information.

**I have a lot of industry experience, but not level 7 qualifications, is there any way for me to gain entry into an ITE training course?**

The University of Canterbury offers a pathway for individuals who have a minimum of 5 years of recent employment within a trade or with high levels of te reo Māori language use; work qualifications and professional development; experience relating to leadership and/or management skills; and evidence of work in a coaching, mentoring, or teaching role.

The University of Waikato also offer a two-year pathway and in 2023 Open Polytechnic will be offering a one-year Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary Technology Education).

Some of these courses are now offered online too! Get in touch directly with the ITE provider to find out

If you want some advice from the NZ Technology and Graphics subject association then contact them through their [NZGTTA website](https://nzgtta.co.nz/). They can also help you to arrange to spend a day following a teacher in a school near where you live so that you can see if the career feels like a good fit for you.

**I don’t have 7 years work or equivalent experience; can I still apply?**

We are working closely with the NZGTTA to support getting Tech Teachers into the classroom. You will need to contact NZGTTA via their website and request an endorsement from an executive at NZGTTA – just remember to make note of this on your application before submitting.

**Salary Assessment**

When you're first appointed to a teaching position your entry salary will be assessed by Education Payroll Ltd (EPL) to make sure you're getting paid your correct salary as quickly and easily as possible. The assessment takes into account your academic qualifications (including any recognised teaching qualifications), any teaching experience and any relevant work experience. (For secondary teachers, relevant work experience will be assessed provided the work was undertaken after completing a recognised and appropriate vocational qualification that is at least at Level 4 on the NZQF).

To get your salary assessed, you need to complete a salary assessment application online.

Visit EPL’s website for more information on the salary assessment process:

[Salary Assessment - Education Payroll Limited](https://www.edpay.govt.nz/Site/Tools_to_help_you/A-Z-of-Payroll/S/salary-assessment/salary-assessment/default.aspx)

**Can I apply for a TeachNZ scholarship if I haven’t been accepted into my approved ITE course?**

Yes, we encourage applications even if you haven’t heard from or yet applied for your course. As long as you let us know which approved course you have applied for or are intending to apply for and keep us updated on the progress.

**What happens if I don’t get accepted into my ITE course?**

You will need to let us know as soon as possible, and advise whether you intend to enrol for another approved ITE teaching qualification. You must be studying an approved ITE teaching qualification to be able to fulfil the terms and conditions of your scholarship.

**Can I apply for a scholarship if I am studying part time?**

Yes, part-time students can apply but the scholarship will only cover your course fees. If you have less than 0.8 Equivalent Full-Time Student (EFTS) (and do not hold limited full-time status from StudyLink) to complete your qualification you are not eligible to receive the allowance.

One EFTS is usually considered to be a standard year of full-time study by most tertiary providers.

**What is an EFTS?**

EFTS (Equivalent Full-Time Student) is a schedule that determines your course load in relation to StudyLink payments. In most universities, every paper or course has a certain number of points or credits that represent the amount of study or workload you do. For more information, visit the [StudyLink website](https://www.studylink.govt.nz/about-studylink/glossary/efts.html).

**I’m a LAT/Teacher Aide, can I still apply for the scholarship?**

Absolutely! We encourage LATs and/or Teacher Aides to apply for the scholarships.

**If I am working in a school as a LAT/Teacher Aide, how many hours a week can I work in a school per week and still qualify for a scholarship?**

You will need to check with [StudyLink](https://www.studylink.govt.nz) about hours of work.

**My relevant work experience is quite extensive and there are many previous employers I can’t locate. How much work experience do you expect on the application form?**

We love having a record of all your previous work experience, but we would only need 1-2 references from your most recent employers.

**I want to apply at Teach First NZ: Āko Mātātupu, can I also apply for a scholarship?**

In short, no. The TeachNZ scholarships are designed to financially assist those who might not otherwise start a teaching qualification. The Teach First NZ: Ako Mātātupu programme covers your course fees, and the employing school will pay you a regular salary.

**What is the voluntary bonding scheme (VBS)?**

VBS encourages new graduates to teach in certain areas of need across the motū. For more information, check out [Voluntary Bonding Scheme | TeachNZ](https://www.teachnz.govt.nz/finding-a-teaching-job/voluntary-bonding-scheme/)

**Can I apply for the voluntary bonding scheme (VBS)?**

You can check your eligibility for VBS [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FN6283X)