



# Teachers with non-Danish qualifications

**This factsheet offers guidance for teachers who have qualified outside Denmark and wish to teach in the Danish Folkeskole or upper secondary school (gymnasium, HF, HHX or HTX).**

The following teaching professions are regulated by law in Denmark:

- Teacher in the public primary and lower secondary school (Folkeskole)
- Teacher in the general upper secondary school (gymnasium, studenterkursus, HF) or technical and commercial upper secondary education (HTX, HHX).

This means that you must have your qualifications recognised in order to apply for a permanent position. You apply to the Danish Agency for International Education (previously CI-RIUS), which is an authority under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

On the following pages, you can read more about the requirements for having your teaching qualifications recognised, and about prospects for further training in case you do not already have the qualifications required. You may also read about other types of teaching jobs that are not regulated.

## 1. Teacher in the Danish Folkeskole

Teaching in the municipal primary and lower secondary school

### Holders of non-Danish teaching qualifications

If you hold a teaching qualification enabling you to teach classes 1 to 10 in the country where you qualified, you can apply to the Danish Agency for International Education for authorisation to teach in the Danish *Folkeskole* (municipal primary and lower secondary school).

You must fill in the application form for recognition of teaching qualifications: See section 4 at the end of the factsheet.

If the agency recognises your qualification at once, you will receive a letter saying that you may apply for teaching positions in the Folkeskole.

In some cases, the agency gives conditional approval. In order to obtain final approval you must then fulfil one of the following requirements:

- Complete one or two main subjects or pedagogical subjects at a teacher-training college/university college.
- Undergo an adaptation period of up to two years (applies only to EU and EEA citizens).

Once you have fulfilled the requirement, you must ask the agency for final approval.

### **Persons without teaching qualifications**

If you do not have a formal teaching qualification, you cannot receive authorisation to teach in the Danish Folkeskole. In that case, you must complete a Danish teacher-training programme. There are two possibilities:

- *Meritlæreruddannelsen*: An accelerated primary and lower secondary teacher-training programme with award of credit for prior learning. This programme takes up to two years. Information about the programme is available in Danish at [www.ug.dk](http://www.ug.dk).
- *Folkeskolelæreruddannelsen*: The ordinary teacher-training programme. You may apply for credit transfer. Information about the programme is available in Danish at [www.ug.dk](http://www.ug.dk).

### **Other possibilities**

- You may apply for temporary jobs (as a substitute teacher) in the Folkeskole without any authorisation from the Danish Agency for International Education.
- Schools may hire persons with relevant qualifications to teach particular subjects (faglærer, in accordance with section 28, par. 2 of the Folkeskole Act), but you should note that schools only do so under special circumstances.

## **2. Upper secondary school teacher**

Teaching at gymnasium, adult upper secondary courses (studenterkursus), higher preparatory course (HF), HHX or HTX

### **Holders of non-Danish teaching qualifications**

If you hold a teaching qualification enabling you to teach in upper secondary school in the country where you qualified, you can apply to the Danish Agency for International Education for authorisation to teach in upper secondary school, i.e. Gymnasium, Studenterkursus, HF, HHX and HTX.

You must fill in the application form for recognition of teaching qualifications: See section 4 at the end of the factsheet.

If the agency recognises your qualification at once, you will receive a letter stating the type of teaching positions you have been approved to apply for.

In some cases, the agency gives conditional approval. In order to obtain final approval you must then fulfil one of the following requirements:

- Complete additional education as specified in the decision letter.
- Undergo an adaptation period at an upper secondary school (applies only to EU and EEA citizens). This period of employment may last up to two years, and you must work at least two-thirds of full-time. The adaptation period includes a course in didactics. The agency will inform you about the specific requirements for the adaptation period.

Once you have fulfilled the requirement, you must write to the agency and request final approval.

### **Persons without teaching qualifications**

You can apply for a permanent teaching position at an upper secondary school (Gymnasium, Studenterkursus or HF-kursus, HHX or HTX) if the level of your qualification is comparable to Danish master's (*kandidat*) degree level and meets the competence requirements that apply to

appointment as an upper secondary school teacher in Denmark. The competence requirements are laid down in the ministerial order on teaching qualifications for upper secondary school: Ministerial Order No. 139 of 23 February 2011 (in Danish).

The Danish Agency for International Education can make an assessment to show whether or not you fulfil the requirements.

In order to maintain a permanent position you are required to pass *pædagogikum* (professional postgraduate teacher training) within one year of starting work.

If you want to teach vocational subjects in HHX or HTX, you need to have at least two years of relevant professional experience in addition to your educational qualification.

The nominal duration of the training position (*pædagogikum*) is one year and the position is paid. Information about *pædagogikum* is available at [www.ug.dk](http://www.ug.dk) (in Danish).

### **Other possibilities**

You may apply for temporary jobs at upper secondary schools (gymnasium, studenterkursus or HF-kursus) as well as HHX and HTX without any authorisation from the Danish Agency for International Education.

## **3. Non-regulated teaching positions**

Teaching in some of the positions that are not regulated by law in Denmark

### **Teacher at a private primary and lower secondary school**

You may apply for a teaching position at a private primary and lower secondary school without any authorisation from the Danish Agency for International Education.

### **Teacher in vocational education and training**

As a teacher in Danish vocational education and training (VET), you must fulfil the same educational requirements as for teaching subjects at the corresponding levels in the Folkeskole or in general upper secondary school.

In order to teach vocational subjects, you are required to hold a vocational qualification. Furthermore, you must have gained at least two years of professional experience and completed a pedagogical course.

### **Mother-tongue teacher**

In order to take up a position as a mother-tongue teacher, you must fulfil the following requirements:

- a teaching qualification from your home country
- good proficiency in Danish
- Danish pedagogical training on top of your foreign teaching qualification.

### **Pre-school class teacher**

The profession of pre-school class teachers (*børnehaveklasselærer*) is not regulated. However, in order to teach in the pre-school class of the Danish Folkeskole, you must have a qualification comparable to the Danish Bachelor in Social Education. The Danish Agency for International

Education can make an assessment that shows whether your non-Danish qualification is at the same level as the Danish social educator's qualification.

Read more about the social educator programme at [www.ug.dk](http://www.ug.dk) (in Danish).

#### **4. Applications for recognition of teaching qualifications**

In order to apply for recognition as a teacher in the Danish Folkeskole or upper secondary school, please fill in the teacher application form and send it enclosing documentation of your educational qualifications and any professional teaching experience.

You can download the application form from the website of the Danish Agency for International Education: [www.iu.dk/tr](http://www.iu.dk/tr).