

**SJA Academia**

# UK Course Pathway Guide

Choose the right teaching, assessor, IQA, learning support, management, RPL, QTLS, or top-up route before you enrol.

For working adults, trainers, assessors, school support staff, care professionals, and managers in the UK.

Includes course levels, prices, route advice, RPL checks, QTLS notes, and questions to ask before enrolment.

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# 1. Start here

Use this guide to narrow your course choice before you speak with an advisor or enrol online.

Course names can sound similar. AET, CET, CAVA, IQA, EQA, HLTA, RPL, QTLS, and top-up routes all serve different goals. This guide keeps the choice simple.

- Choose a route based on your job goal, not only the course level.
- Check whether you need theory only, workplace evidence, teaching practice, or assessment practice.
- Use the course tables to compare levels, lessons, and current listed prices.
- Ask for advice before enrolment if you need QTLS, RPL, a degree top-up, or employer approval.

## Important price note

Course prices and availability can change. Check the live course page or speak with SJA Academia before enrolment.

## What is inside this guide

Section	What it helps you decide
Route finder	Which course area fits your career goal
Full course list	Current course names, levels, lessons, and listed prices
Teaching and lecturing	AET, CET, Level 5 teaching, and QTLS planning
Assessment	Which assessor course fits your setting
IQA and EQA	When to choose quality assurance routes
Learning support	TA, HLTA, literacy, and numeracy support
Management	When Level 5 Management and Leadership fits
Health and social care	How care experience can connect to training, assessment, or management
RPL, QTLS, and top-up routes	When extra support may save time or open the next route
Enrolment checklist	Questions to ask before you buy

## 2. Choose your route

Start with the job outcome. Then check the course level.

Your goal	Route to check first
I want to teach adults, post-16 learners, or workplace learners	Teaching and Lecturing
I want to become a trainer or tutor	Teaching and Lecturing
I want to assess learners in a classroom or training setting	Assessor Qualifications
I want to assess apprentices or staff at work	Assessor Qualifications
I want to check assessment quality inside a centre	Internal Quality Assurance
I want to lead IQA staff or manage quality systems	Leading Internal Quality Assurance
I want to understand external quality assurance	External Quality Assurance
I want to support pupils or learners in schools	Direct Learning Support
I want to become a teaching assistant	Direct Learning Support
I want to move toward HLTA duties	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
I want to build leadership or management skills	Business Management
I work in care and want to progress	Health and Social Care route or Management route
I already have experience and want credit for it	RPL review
I want help with QTLS planning	QTLS Application Support
I want to use a diploma toward higher study	Degree Top-Up Programs

### Quick rule

If a role needs evidence from real learners, real classes, or a real workplace, check the evidence rules before you pay.

### 3. Full SJA Academia course list

Current listed courses from the All Courses page.

The site currently shows 17 available courses across Teaching and Lecturing, Assessment and Verification, Direct Learning Support, and Business Management.

#### Teaching and Lecturing

Course	Level	Lessons	Listed price
Level 5 Diploma in Teaching (Further Education and Skills) (RQF)	Level 5	14	£685
Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training (RQF)	Level 4	33	£389
Level 3 Award in Education and Training (RQF)	Level 3	6	£120

#### Assessment and Verification

Course	Level	Lessons	Listed price
Level 4 Award in Understanding the External Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice (RQF)	Level 4	1	£200
Level 4 Certificate in Leading the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practices (RQF)	Level 4	3	£429
Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practices (RQF)	Level 4	2	£335
Level 4 Award in Understanding the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practices (RQF)	Level 4	1	£175
Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement (RQF)	Level 3	3	£274
Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement (RQF)	Level 3	2	£185
Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment (RQF)	Level 3	2	£185
Level 3 Award in Understanding the Principles and Practices of Assessment (RQF)	Level 3	1	£115

## Direct Learning Support

Course	Level	Lessons	Listed price
Level 4 Certificate for Higher Level Teaching Assistants (RQF)	Level 4	7	£375
Level 3 Award In English for Literacy and Language Teaching (RQF)	Level 3	4	£225
Level 3 Award in Mathematics for Numeracy Teaching (RQF)	Level 3	3	£225
Level 3 Award in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools (RQF)	Level 3	4	£185
Level 2 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools (RQF)	Level 2	24	£750

## Business Management

Course	Level	Lessons	Listed price
Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership (RQF)	Level 5	25	£550

### Health and Social Care note

SJA Academia lists Health and Social Care as a course area on the site menu and homepage. Check current availability with an advisor if this is your target route.

## 4. Teaching and lecturing pathway

Best for people who want to teach, train, tutor, or move into further education.

This route can suit new teachers, workplace trainers, FE tutors, career changers, coaches, and subject experts who want a formal teaching qualification.

Course	Best for	When to choose it
Level 3 Award in Education and Training	New teachers or trainers who need a starting point	Choose if you are new to teaching or want a shorter first qualification.
Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training	People already teaching or training	Choose if you want a deeper route with more teaching practice and planning.
Level 5 Diploma in Teaching	People aiming for a fuller FE teaching route	Choose if teaching is a long-term route and you may need QTLS planning.

Ask an advisor before choosing if:

- You need the qualification for a job application.
- You are unsure whether Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5 is the right start.
- You need QTLS support after the qualification.
- You already teach and want to ask about RPL.
- You need to know whether teaching practice or workplace evidence is required.

### Teaching route tip

Do not choose the highest level only because it looks stronger. Choose the level that matches your current role, evidence, and next job goal.

## 5. Assessor pathway

Best for people who want to assess learners, apprentices, portfolios, or workplace skills.

Assessment courses are not all the same. The right course depends on where you assess and what type of evidence you assess.

Course	Assessment setting	When to choose it
Understanding Principles and Practices of Assessment	Assessment theory only	You are not assessing yet or only need the knowledge route.
Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement	Classroom or training setting assessment	You assess assignments, projects, tests, or portfolios away from the workplace.
Assessing Competence in the Work Environment	Workplace assessment	You assess practical competence, apprentices, or trainees in a real work setting.
Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement	Broad assessor route	You need to assess both vocational knowledge and workplace competence.

Ask an advisor before choosing if:

- You do not know whether your setting counts as classroom, training centre, or workplace assessment.
- You need the course for apprenticeship assessment.
- You need to know what learner evidence you must collect.
- You already assess and want an RPL review.
- Your employer named a specific qualification and you need to match it exactly.

## 6. IQA and EQA pathway

Best for people who want to check or lead assessment quality.

IQA means Internal Quality Assurance. It checks assessment quality inside a centre. EQA means External Quality Assurance. It reviews standards from outside the centre.

Course	Best for	When to choose it
Understanding Internal Quality Assurance	IQA theory only	You want to learn how IQA works without carrying out practice.
Internal Quality Assurance	Practical IQA route	You will sample assessment, check feedback, review records, and support assessors.
Leading Internal Quality Assurance	Senior IQA route	You lead assessors, IQA staff, or centre quality systems.
Understanding External Quality Assurance	EQA theory only	You want to understand external review and centre monitoring.

### **Do not skip the assessor step**

IQA is usually stronger when you understand assessment first. If you have never assessed learners, speak with an advisor before choosing an IQA practice course.

## 7. Direct learning support pathway

Best for teaching assistants, school support staff, HLTA progression, literacy support, and numeracy support.

This route can suit new teaching assistants, learning support assistants, school volunteers, SEND support staff, and people who want higher classroom responsibility.

Course	Best for	When to choose it
Level 2 Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools	New school support staff	Choose if you need a foundation route before higher responsibility.
Level 3 Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools	Teaching assistant route	Choose if you want a recognised TA route or school support progression.
Level 3 English for Literacy and Language Teaching	Literacy or ESOL support	Choose if you support reading, writing, English, language, or ESOL.
Level 3 Mathematics for Numeracy Teaching	Numeracy support	Choose if you support maths, number skills, or learner number confidence.
Level 4 Certificate for Higher Level Teaching Assistants	HLTA progression	Choose if you already support learning and want higher classroom responsibility.

Ask an advisor before choosing if:

- You need a qualification for a specific school role.
- You need to know whether school placement evidence is required.
- You already work as a TA and want to move toward HLTA duties.
- You want to progress from support work into teaching later.

## 8. Management and health and social care routes

Use this section if your next step is leadership, care progression, or moving from care into training or assessment.

SJA Academia currently lists one management course on the course page. The site also presents Health and Social Care as a course area. Availability should be checked before enrolment.

Course	Best for	When to choose it
Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership	Team leaders, supervisors, managers, business owners, and professionals seeking leadership progression	Choose if you manage people, projects, operations, or want a formal management route.

### Health and social care route planning

If you work in care, your next course may depend on the job goal. Care workers may need a care qualification, an assessor qualification, a teaching route, or a management route.

Your background	Route to discuss
New or current care worker	Ask about current Health and Social Care course availability
Experienced care worker who trains staff	Teaching and Lecturing or Assessor route
Senior care worker or team leader	Management and Leadership route
Care professional assessing learners	Assessor route, then IQA if relevant
Care trainer seeking formal status	Teaching route and QTLS advice if relevant

## 9. RPL check

Recognition of Prior Learning may help if you already have useful evidence.

RPL means Recognition of Prior Learning. It may help if your existing work, training, or evidence matches parts of a qualification.

RPL may suit you if you have:

- Worked in a related role.
- Completed similar training before.
- Delivered teaching or workplace training.
- Assessed learners or staff before.
- Worked as a teaching assistant or learning support assistant.
- Managed teams, projects, or operations.
- Worked in care, support, or training settings.
- Built work records, lesson plans, portfolios, assessment records, feedback, or CPD evidence.

### **RPL is not automatic**

Your evidence must match the qualification requirements. An advisor or assessor must check the evidence before any credit can be agreed.

Ask about RPL if you already do the job but need the certificate, or if you have past study that may overlap with the new course.

## 10. QTLS, degree top-up, and grading support

These are support services, not simple course-category choices.

SJA Academia lists QTLS Application Support, Bachelor's and Master's Degree Top-Up Programs, and Grading and Assessment as services. Use these when your goal goes beyond choosing one course.

Service	Best for	When to ask
QTLS Application Support	Teaching professionals who need help planning or preparing for QTLS.	Ask before choosing a teaching route if QTLS is your goal.
Degree Top-Up Programs	Learners who have a diploma or professional qualification and want a bachelor's or master's progression route.	Ask if you hold Level 5 or other prior qualifications.
Grading and Assessment	Training providers or education organisations that need assessment support.	Ask if your centre needs marking, feedback, or assessment capacity.

### QTLS planning note

Do not choose a course only because you saw the term QTLS. Ask whether your role, qualification, and evidence match the current route.

# 11. Questions to ask before you enrol

Use this checklist to avoid buying the wrong course.

Topic	Question to ask
Course fit	Does this course match my job goal? Is this the right level for my current experience?
Evidence	Do I need workplace evidence, teaching practice, assessment practice, or observations?
Recognition	Is the qualification Ofqual-regulated? Who awards the qualification? Will my employer accept it?
Study format	Is the course fully online? How do I submit work? How does tutor feedback work?
Cost	What is the full price? Are payment options available? Is certification included?
Progression	Can this lead to QTLS, IQA, HLTA, management, or degree top-up routes?
RPL	Can my current experience or past study count toward this qualification?
Timing	How long does the course usually take? What can slow it down?

## Common mistakes to avoid

- Choosing the highest level without checking fit.
- Choosing an IQA practice course before understanding assessment.
- Picking an assessor course without knowing your setting.
- Ignoring evidence requirements.
- Thinking RPL is automatic.
- Choosing only by price instead of course fit.
- Not asking for advice before paying.

## 12. Get help choosing your course

A short conversation can save time, cost, and frustration.

Speak with SJA Academia if you want help with course levels, entry routes, workplace evidence, RPL, QTLS, degree top-up options, payment options, or choosing the right route for your next job goal.

### Contact details

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### Before you enrol

If you are not sure which route fits your goal, ask for advice first. The right course depends on your role, evidence, experience, and next step.