



Relief teaching in Aotearoa, New Zealand

If you're an ex-teacher or retired teacher, here are four easy ways to become a relief teacher.

1. If you're a registered teacher with an expired practising certificate and only want to do a few days relieving at your local school or kura, you don't need a practising certificate of any kind.

So long as you do less than 20 half-days relieving in a calendar year, you're already good to go!

2. Are you a registered teacher interested in doing some short-term relief teaching under a Limited Authority to Teach (LAT)? If so, you can easily apply for a one-year LAT until 31 December 2024. A one-year LAT costs just \$117.96.

No matter how long it's been since you last taught, there's **no** requirement to do a Teacher Education Refresh (TER) programme. You need to have a letter from the principal or tumuaki offering you employment as a relief teacher. You may also be eligible to have the cost of your LAT reimbursed – see disclaimer below for more information.

3. Are you a registered teacher interested in renewing your practising certificate? If you're looking to return to teaching, you can renew your practising certificate. If you have not taught for more than five years, the great news is that you **won't have to do a TER programme** if you have an offer of employment to do relief teaching. Instead of a TER programme, you may be asked to do a light-touch Return to Practice Plan (with the agreement of your principal or tumuaki).

This applies only to practising certificates that expired 12 months or more prior to 6 September 2024. This TER programme-exemption offer expires on 31 December 2024. You may also be eligible to have the cost of your practising certificate reimbursed – see disclaimer below for more information.

4. If you're an ex-teacher or retired teacher returning to help out as a reliever in a school or kura, you may be eligible to have the cost reimbursed for your practising certificate or LAT from a central fund. This limited offer applies to eligible applications approved between 6 September and 13 December 2024. Our Registration Team assess your eligibility for any reimbursement as part of their consideration of your application. Eligibility criteria apply and funding is limited to first in, first served, so get in quick.

Still have questions? We can help. Please email us on reliever@teachingcouncil.nz or call us on 04 471 0852 to speak to our contact centre about the best option for you.

Disclaimer: This information is current at the date of publication but subject to change. The advice is intended for general guidance purposes only. Eligibility for a practising certificate, Limited Authority to Teach, or reimbursement of the applicable fees can only be confirmed once your completed online application has been received. Every application will be subject to requiring a clear police vet and the applicant being of good character and fit to be a teacher or LAT holder.

Not a registered teacher but still want to help out?

You'll need a LAT. There are two kinds of LATs related to skills in short supply or specialist skills for specific subjects like music, languages, etc. The principal or tumuaki of any school or kura can help you apply for a LAT.

Applying for a LAT may also be an option for you if you are currently working as a teacher aide and your school wishes to employ you as a day relief teacher.