

Tutor Training Programme FAQs

What is a Swim England Tutor?

A tutor is the person who plans, delivers and assesses a course which enables learners to achieve a Swim England qualification or certificate.

Who do tutors work for?

Tutors will be delivering qualifications on behalf of Swim England however are employed by one of Swim England's Approved Training Centres.

When does the Tutor Training Programme open?

The Tutor Training Programme responds to the need of Approved Training Centres. Where there are geographical gaps in coverage, need is identified and tutors can be sought to work in these areas. Due to there being more teaching swimming courses compared to other disciplines such as coaching, there are more teaching swimming tutor training programmes than coaching. Typically there will be a coaching tutor training programme every 1-2 years, compared to a Teaching Swimming programme that can occur once or twice a year.

What will the training enable me to do?

The Tutor Training Programme will give you the foundation skills to run a swimming teaching/coaching course from start to finish, including planning and preparing for a course, delivering effective sessions and assessing to meet the qualification requirements.

Because the Tutor training Programme is run to meet the need of Approved Training Centres, it's important to only apply if you have time to deliver courses once you are trained. Some tutors deliver around their current employment e.g. using their weekends or holidays, whilst some tutors deliver around the country as their full time role.

How many applications do you receive? How do I get shortlisted?

The number of applications for the tutor training programme grows every year and competition is very fierce; for teaching swimming we can receive upwards of 70 applications. Applicants are shortlisted against the person specification however most applicants have added experience in aquatics and training so if you want your application to stand out, add all of your relevant experience and qualifications.

What can I be doing to strengthen my application whilst waiting for the next programme?

- Gaining experience in delivering any kind of training will develop your presentation skills and confidence.
- Staying up to date with Swim England's key messages via regular CPD

What qualifications do I need in order to be a tutor?

Qualifications and training we require from all trainees are:

- A delivery qualification such as PGCE, PTLLS, Level 3 Education and Training etc
- Safeguarding training
- Teaching/Coaching qualification in the field you are going to tutor/assess

Delivery and safeguarding qualifications can be gained once accepted onto the programme.

How long will it take to qualify?

Each programme can be bespoke to the trainee in terms of time it takes to qualify. For example, some trainees will choose to observe more courses than others, some trainees will want longer to plan for their attachment, some trainees will have to wait longer for an attachment option that suits their needs.

The process involves the following stages:

- Application
- Interview
- Face to face training days x4
- Research tasks (currently observation of 25% of a course and interview with an experienced tutor)
- Attachment: A practical placement where the trainee is on course 100% of the time with experienced tutor, delivers 50% of the timetable and assesses 50% of the learners. The trainee will be guided and mentored by the experienced tutor (Advanced Practitioner).

Why do programmes vary year to year?

The tutor training programme is ever evolving due to regular feedback we glean from Approved Training Centres, Trainees, Leisure Providers and Swim England. We try to meet the needs of all stakeholders whilst maintaining Swim England's high quality of training.

How much do tutors get paid?

Payment varies across the Approved Training Centres so it's worth checking with the Approved Training Centres in your area if this is a significant factor for you.

How am I supported once I have qualified?

Once you have completed your attachment, all of your research tasks have been handed in and the training payment has been made, you will be signed off to run your own solo first course. A member of Educator Training will come out to that course to support you.

The Educator Training Department also offers regular training both online and face to face to keep you up to date and ensure you get regular professional development.

What is a Swim England Licence?

All Swim England tutors must be licenced to deliver Swim England Qualifications and certificates. The cost of this is included as part of your tutor training but it will need updating every year after that at a cost of £30. In order to gain your licence, you will need to show evidence of up to date safeguarding training, DBS, public or civil liability insurance. The licence ensures all educators are safe to deliver and having a licence gives you access to Swim England support and regular updates and training.