

# Professional Update

## Your Professional Responsibility

Professional Update was introduced for all GTCS registrants in August 2014. It aims to support, maintain and enhance the continued professionalism of teachers and lecturers



### The key purposes of Professional Update are:

- To maintain and improve the quality of teachers as outlined in the Professional Standards and enhance the impact they have on pupils' learning.
- To support, maintain and enhance teachers' continued professionalism and the reputation of the teaching profession in Scotland.

# What is required to complete Professional Update?

Professional Update is a requirement of full registration with GTC Scotland. To remain a fully registered teacher, you are required to:

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## Update your details every year

The easiest way to do this is via your MyGTCS account. To create an account, go to [www.gtcs.org.uk/MyGTCS](http://www.gtcs.org.uk/MyGTCS) and follow instructions to sign up.

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## Engage in professional learning

Professional learning is what teachers do to ensure their professional knowledge and practice is informed and up-to-date. It is important that professional learning provides rich opportunities for teachers to develop and enhance their professional knowledge and practice, in order to progress the quality of learning and teaching, and school improvement. [www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-learning](http://www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-learning)

We know that some supply teachers can have difficulty accessing aspects of professional learning and the Professional Review and Development (PRD) process. We have worked closely with education officers within the local authorities to develop a support mechanism for supply teachers. Guidance on the Professional Update requirements for supply teachers can be found at [www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-update/supply-teachers.aspx](http://www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-update/supply-teachers.aspx). Equally, some registered teachers who are working outwith the education system may not have access to appropriate professional learning, to help ensure that they will be able to participate in the Professional Update process. Guidance for teachers in this scenario can be found on our website at [www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-update/teachers-outwith-scotland.aspx](http://www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-update/teachers-outwith-scotland.aspx)

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## Self-evaluate using Professional Standards

The GTC Scotland Professional Standards offer support for teachers as they develop their professional

knowledge and skills through on-going self-evaluation and professional learning. The Standard for Registration provides a benchmark for all registrants and tends to be the standard used for self-evaluation purposes by those in the earlier phase of their career (although experienced teachers can also choose to continue using this standard). More experienced teachers tend to use the aspirational Standard for Career-long Professional Learning and the Standards for Leadership and Management to support their ongoing development. You can, of course, choose to work across the suite of Professional Standards, as the Standards have been designed to meet the needs of teachers at all career stages working in Scotland's schools. All aspects of the Standards may not be relevant to teachers working outwith the school system. We have therefore developed two categories of registered teacher to accommodate this scenario: Fully Registered (General) and Fully Registered (Associate). Further information on Fully Registered (General) and Fully Registered (Associate) can be found at [www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-update/professional-context/associate-and-general-status.aspx](http://www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-update/professional-context/associate-and-general-status.aspx)

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## Discuss the impact of Professional Learning in the PRD process

Professional Update is based on effective, consistent PRD and high-quality professional learning focused on outcomes for a teacher's own development as well as aiming to improve outcomes for children and young people. We know that where PRD operates successfully it provides a valuable opportunity for teachers to reflect on their practice and to consider how they can improve their professional skills and knowledge. GTC Scotland has a validating role in this process, helping to ensure that local authority PRD systems are robust and that teachers are enabled to demonstrate the skills they already have as well as to learn new ones.

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## Maintain a record

Maintaining a record of professional learning is an integral part of the Professional Update process. Recording professional learning should be done using an online profile: either MyGTCS or the system used by some employers (Gateway or SOPRA). We aim to ensure this process is neither bureaucratic nor time consuming by advising teachers to record only the most significant examples of professional learning. Lengthy entries are not required – consider your record as a prompt for your PRD discussion.

The system of recording that you will use for the purposes of Professional Update will vary depending on where you are currently employed. If you are working as a supply or temporary teacher we can provide you with contact details for the lead officer for Professional Update within your local area. You can request this by emailing [Professional.Update@gtcs.org.uk](mailto:Professional.Update@gtcs.org.uk)

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## Five-yearly confirmation of this engagement

Engagement in Professional Update is an ongoing process, with professional learning and PRD at its heart. Every five years, teachers are required to confirm their engagement in this process with GTC Scotland. Like the professional learning record, this will be completed in a number of ways depending on the system applicable to you – MyGTCS or another online system (e.g. Gateway, SOPRA). We recognise that there will be circumstances which may make completion of the process within the designated timescale difficult, such as career breaks or extended leave, and we are happy to support a request for a deferral in these circumstances. If you are currently employed you should request a deferral through your line manager. If you are not currently working you can request a deferral by emailing [Professional.Update@gtcs.org.uk](mailto:Professional.Update@gtcs.org.uk). Please quote your registration number in all correspondence.

## Where can I find more information?

- There are documents, resources and frequently asked questions available on our website: [www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-update](http://www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-update)
- You can also look out for regular features and updates in GTC Scotland's Teaching Scotland magazine
- Email your enquiry to [Professional.Update@gtcs.org.uk](mailto:Professional.Update@gtcs.org.uk)