



# TEACHING QUALITY AWARD

## CHAMPIONING QUALITY IN TEACHING ACROSS EUROPE

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# Introduction to the Teaching Quality Award

## About ABLS

The Accreditation Body for Language Services is recognised by the UK Government for the accreditation of high-quality English language teaching institutions in the UK.

ABLS has operated since 1993 establishing a reputation for rigorous inspections and assessment. A supportive approach to schools that aim to continuously improve the quality of their teaching provision is offered and is integral to our mission.

The inspectorate operates an annual review process to ensure ABLS standards are regularly updated. Inspectors are well-qualified and have extensive experience of the international education sector.

## About the Award

The ABLS Teaching Quality Award is awarded to schools who demonstrate a high standard of quality in academic management, systems and delivery of their English language provision. The Award is available to all privately owned schools teaching English in mainland Europe.

As part of the initial process schools wishing to apply for the Award complete a self assessment followed by a video-conference with the Chief Inspector.

There is then an assessment visit by inspectors to speak to staff, observe teaching and review evidence of quality in the school.

Successful schools will be permitted to display the ABLS Teaching Quality Award logo in their publicity and will be promoted via ABLS digital marketing and events.

## Helping Schools Improve and Develop

ABLS takes a constructive approach to helping schools improve the quality of their teaching.

Schools are provided with a report that shows the areas in which our quality requirements are being met and points of excellence are identified. The report also explains where schools can improve their courses to meet our criteria and time and support is given in order to make that improvement.

ABLS helps schools to reflect on the quality of their provision to ensure that students have the best possible language education.

To understand how the Award can help your school to develop and improve, contact us at [admin@ablsaccreditation.co.uk](mailto:admin@ablsaccreditation.co.uk) for an initial consultation.

## The Assessment Criteria

### Organisation Criteria

1. Employment and recruitment requirements are of a good standard
2. Employment documentation is maintained
3. Employment processes support a positive academic environment
4. Courses are accurately described in all school marketing

### Academic Management Criteria

5. Academic management is provided by suitably qualified staff (reference ABLs Inspection Handbook)
6. A pre-course testing system is in place and each individual student's requirements are recorded
7. An accurate and reliable student placement system is applied
8. Records of course and test achievements are recorded and reviewed
9. A clear and practical syllabus is in place
10. Effective induction procedures are in place
11. Good channels of communication for all academic staff are in place
12. There is good opportunity for professional development and appraisal

### Classroom Management and Resources Criteria

13. Teaching is of a good standard
14. Planning for lessons and courses is of a good standard
15. There is good variety in lessons with support for different learning styles and learning needs
16. There is appropriate use of a range of teaching equipment and materials

### Statement of Compliance

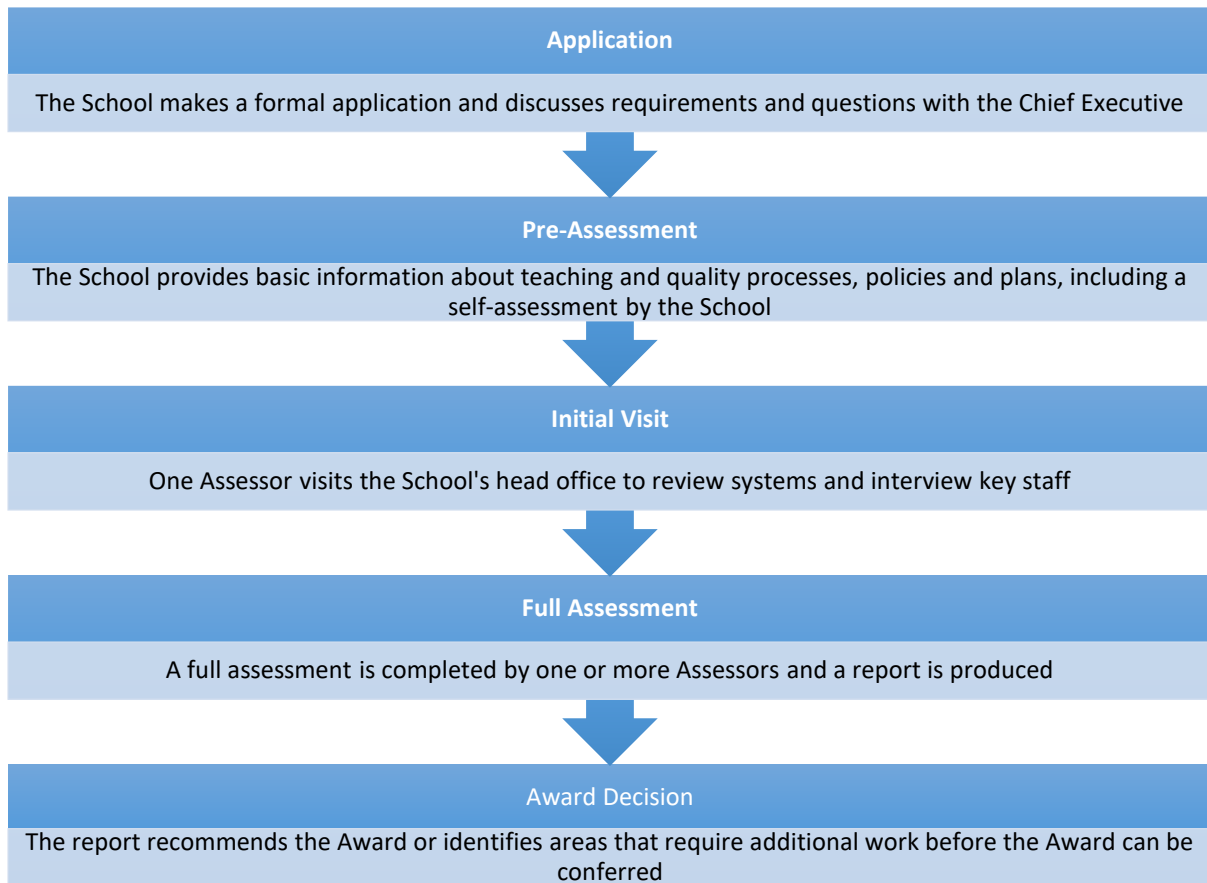
All schools complete a statement of compliance that includes statutory requirements for the countries in which they operate.

### Self-Assessment

Schools submit a short self-assessment that includes:

- a brief history of the organisation and its recent activity
- a staff profile, a summary of recruitment processes and requirements
- a summary of courses and curricula
- a brief description of how quality is managed at each stage of the student cycle
- any policies relating to quality management

## The Assessment Process



Following a successful Full Assessment:

- details of the School are listed on the ABLS website together with a publishable statement
- the ABLS Teaching Quality Award logo, to be used on the school's promotional material, is released
- the School will be listed in all Teaching Quality Award promotional materials produced by ABLS

The Award is conferred for two years. After this period, a further Full Assessment is required:

- If the standard of teaching has not been maintained, the School can either withdraw from the scheme or agree to a second follow-up assessment, having been given sufficient time to implement improvements
- If the standards have been maintained, the ABLS Teaching Quality Award will be confirmed and will be valid for a further period of two years

## Fees, terms and conditions (2020)

Terms and conditions relating to the assessment of teaching quality in schools in mainland Europe leading to the ABLs Teaching Quality Award. The scheme is separate to the ABLs Standard for inspection of UK language schools.

<b>Application and Pre-Assessment Fee</b>	Payable by new applicants Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a pre-assessment video conference with the Chief Inspector</li> <li>• support for self-assessment</li> <li>• support and administration of all visits</li> </ul>	£350.00
<b>Initial visit</b>	One assessor for one day Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• initial assessment of academic provision</li> <li>• written report on quality of provision</li> <li>• identification of areas for improvement</li> </ul>	£500.00  *Plus expenses
<b>Full assessment</b>	One assessor for one day Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full assessment of academic provision and teaching delivery</li> <li>• written report and award recommendation</li> <li>• identification of areas for improvement and points of excellence</li> </ul>	£775.00  *Plus expenses
	For large centres or multiple locations per second assessor per day	£425

\* Schools will be invoiced for all assessment expenses in advance of the assessment visit.

<b>Annual award fee</b>	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provision of logo</li> <li>• listing of School on ABLs website</li> <li>• listing of School in marketing materials</li> <li>• support and administration for award-holders</li> </ul>	£225.00
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### Payment terms:

- All fees are non-refundable.
- Once an assessment visit is confirmed, an invoice is raised and is to be settled (in £GBP) 28 days before the agreed date of the inspection or as directed by the administrator.
- The school is responsible for all bank charges.
- If an assessment visit is cancelled as a result of the school being either non-compliant with regard to requested pre-assessment information or being no longer available on the agreed assessment date/s, ABLs reserves the right to levy a charge of £150 per assessor.

### Review of fees

- All fees are reviewed on an annual basis.