



GTCS REGISTRATION & UPDATE PROCESS

GTCS Registration

The May 2019 National Joint Negotiating Committee (NJNC) Agreement makes it a contractual requirement for lecturing staff to register with GTC Scotland. The June 2024 Agreement makes further provision in relation to the registration process, for both Full Registration and Provisional (Conditional) Registration.

Lecturers must consistently meet the required Standards to maintain their registration. As part of a regulated profession, registered lecturers are subject to GTCS's standards and procedures, which manages risk by refusing, restricting, or removing registration if standards are not met.

NJNC Circular STL 02/24 provides guidance for colleges on the implementation of the June 2024 Agreement and the registration dates. The next mandatory date is for lecturing staff who commenced employment in the sector between 1st January 2005 and 31st December 2013 inclusive and hold a TQFE; a GTC Scotland recognised primary or secondary teaching qualification gained in Scotland; or an equivalent teaching qualification gained outside of Scotland. They are required to hold full registration by 31st December 2026.

Registrants are required to pay an annual registration fee, which is a recurring cost for all college lecturers. This can be made cheaper by the employer deducting this at source. Please take note that if you register then come off the register further fees apply.

>>>

GTCS Registration offers the following:

Career-Long Professional Growth:

The registration framework, guided by the Professional Standards, supports lecturers in their continuous professional development through annual Professional Update (PRD) meetings and other professional learning opportunities. Registered lecturers can access GTCS-endorsed professional learning communities, research, and development resources.

Shared Professional Standards:

The GTCS provides Professional Standards that serve as a benchmark for professional competency and a common language for teaching professionals, supporting their development and maintaining high educational standards. The GTCS Code of Professionalism and Conduct offers guidance and protection when facing complex professional situations.

Enhanced Professionalism:

Registration helps to raise the professional status and standing of lecturers, contributing to a more professional and accountable teaching workforce. Being part of a regulated profession allows lecturers to contribute to shaping educational standards and policies through consultation and feedback mechanisms.

Public Trust and Confidence:

By regulating the profession and ensuring high standards, the GTCS helps to build and maintain public trust and confidence in the teaching profession.

Professional Update (PRD):

Engaging in the Professional Update (PRD) process is a requirement of registration, involving annual meetings to discuss professional learning and development. GTCS update happens every 5 years.

Registering with the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) is a powerful step toward enhancing your professional identity and career development as a lecturer. It not only affirms your commitment to high standards and lifelong learning through structured professional development but also aligns you with a respected community of educators who share a common language of professionalism. GTCS registration boosts your credibility, supports your growth through annual reviews, and reinforces public trust in your role as an educator. While there are responsibilities such as fees and maintaining standards, the long-term benefits—career progression, recognition, and professional support—make registration a worthwhile investment in your future.

You can find more information from the EIS here: www.eis.org.uk/fela/gtcs or contact your branch secretary or union learning rep.