

Department for Education (DfE)

Initial Teacher Training (ITT) PGCE Bursary 2023/24

Guidance Notes

Please retain the guidance notes for information

This document concerns training bursaries available for teacher trainees starting courses in the 2023/24 academic year only.

Student Money Advice & Rights Team
(SMART)

ITT PGCE bursary eligibility

To be eligible for this bursary a trainee must, from 1st of September, meet and continue to meet the following eligibility criteria throughout their studies:

- be an “eligible” student for the provision of UK student support (except for languages and physics trainees for 2023/24)
- hold a UK first degree with at least second-class honours (or equivalent)
- be taking a qualifying postgraduate ITT course in England
- be notified by their ITT provider in writing that they are eligible
- comply with the terms and conditions of the bursary scheme throughout their enrolment on the course
- not have possession of, or eligibility for, qualified teacher status (QTS)
- not be undertaking paid teaching work when receiving the bursary
- not be simultaneously undertaking any other ITT course, training scheme or programme leading to QTS

Trainees must submit a copy of passport with the bursary application as part of ID confirmation checks. These documents may be shared internally and with DfE upon request for Trainee existence checks during audits.

UEL ITT Funding Team will determine trainees’ eligibility including the amount and bursary payment dates. A trainee is only eligible for a bursary when this is confirmed in writing by UEL ITT Funding Team. Being ineligible for a bursary does not make a trainee ineligible to study an ITT PGCE programme.

An ITT bursary award is dependent on the subject in which a trainee trains to teach and the grade of their highest academic qualification (min 2.2 UK honours degree equivalent) they hold. ITT bursaries for 2023/24 academic year are available in the below subjects only:

2023/24 Eligible subjects	<u>Scholarships</u>	<u>Bursaries</u> Available for trainees with 1 st , 2.1, 2.2, PhD or Masters
Physics, Mathematics Computing, Chemistry	£29,000 Please refer to Get into Teaching for information and applications	£27,000
Languages	£27,000 only available in French, German and Spanish (no other languages). Please refer to Get into Teaching for information and applications	£25,000
Geography	-	£25,000
Biology Design & Technology	-	£20,000
English	-	£15,000

Ordinary degrees and Open degrees from the Open University without honours are not eligible for bursary.

Overseas trainees will not be eligible for the training bursary, except for physics and languages (excluding English)

Trainees who have been awarded an ITT Scholarship will not be eligible for the standard bursary.

Trainees on the School Direct salaried route will not be eligible for the training bursary.

Trainees who already hold QTS or have eligibility for QTS are not eligible for bursary or scholarships.

Potential trainees who may already be eligible to receive QTS, as qualified teachers from countries in the EEA or Switzerland may be able to receive QTS following an application to DfE. Teachers who qualify in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA can also apply to be awarded QTS. Please email gts.enquiries@education.gov.uk for more information.

Individuals who hold EYTS, or QTLS and are members of the Society for Education and Training (SET, formerly ETF) are still able to apply for an ITT place and in turn receive a bursary as long as they meet all eligibility criteria above.

Please email completed & signed bursary form with required documents for bursary eligibility check to ittfunding@uel.ac.uk

International Relocation Bursary (IRP)

The international relocation payment (IRP) is a new one-off payment of £10,000 which will be available for 2023/24 to non-UK trainees and teachers of languages (except English) and physics (including Engineers teach physics and courses with content which is at least 50% physics). The payment is a contribution towards some of the relocation expenses including visas, the immigration health surcharge and other relocation expenses.

Eligibility including visa status and date of arrival will be checked by DfE and IRP approval will be confirmed towards the end of term 1. If all criteria met the IRP payment will be made to eligible trainees by 31st January 2024. It is not a loan and will not need to be repaid. Trainees will not be eligible for IRP if they are already living in the UK or undergoing assessment only QTS. Refer to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-relocation-payments/international-relocation-payments> for further information on eligibility.

Terms and Conditions of the bursary

To continue to qualify, the trainee must agree in writing and comply with the terms and conditions of the bursary scheme including;

- to inform SMART of any information the provider requires to determine or re-determine whether the ITT trainee is eligible including maternity break, failing a DBS or standards assessment.
- to update bank and address details on their UEL Direct account
- to promptly inform SMART of intentions to withdraw or defer via itffunding@uel.ac.uk to stop future bursary payments and repay promptly any overpayment of bursary received.
- to seek a teaching post in England upon completion of their ITT course

ITT Bursary/scholarship payments

A trainee commencing their course in September 2023, will be entitled to their first payment if they are actively undertaking the programme on 1st October. Bursaries will be paid in 10 equal monthly instalments on the 10th of the month or the nearest working day if 10th falls to a weekend or public holiday, from October 2023 to July 2024 after their qualifications and ID have been verified and enrolment has been completed.

£29,000 scholarships will be paid by ten equal monthly instalments of £2,900.

£27,000 bursary/scholarships will be paid by ten equal monthly instalments of £2,700.

£25,000 bursaries will be paid by ten equal monthly instalments of £2,500.

£20,000 bursaries will be paid by ten equal monthly instalments of £2,000.

£15,000 bursaries will be paid by ten equal monthly instalments of £1,500.

Payments will be made directly into trainees' UK bank accounts which must be capable of receiving direct credits and must be in the name of the trainee undertaking the ITT programme. Payments will not be made to third parties. See [section 3](#) of the application form for providing bank details.

Bursary payments will not be made as part of maternity or paternity pay arrangements, during a period of unauthorized absence or during study break.

The ITT Bursary payments are not taxable. However, as with student maintenance loans, they may be treated as capital income for the purposes of assessing income for trainees in receipt of state benefits. Please refer to your local benefits office to determine eligibility for state benefits while in receipt of this bursary.

Withdrawals

Eligible trainees who defer or withdraw will be entitled to be paid the ITT bursary for each month up to and including the month in which they last attended their PGCE Programme. Any bursary payment made to trainees after the month they last attended will be reclaimed. Trainees must inform itffunding@uel.ac.uk as soon as they know and decide to defer/withdraw to prevent overpayment of bursary. In case of overpayments, an invoice will be raised, and trainees will be contacted via our Credit Control team to arrange repayment. Trainees must promptly repay any overpayments received.

Returning trainees

Returning trainees who defer and then rejoin their original course or take any advanced standing/credit to a new ITT course will only be eligible to receive the remaining of their initial ITT Bursary as awarded in the year they started their original programme. If a trainee has received their full entitlement and is required to return in the next academic year for repeat or placement, there will be no further ITT Training bursary available.

Trainees who leave one ITT programme and join a new one with no transfer of standing or credit from their previous course, and are being charged a new tuition fee, will be viewed as a separate route to QTS. Therefore, they will be entitled to receive a new bursary subject to the eligibility criteria and rates in this guidance. However, trainees who have already received a full bursary award upon leaving/withdrawing from their previous ITT programme will not be eligible for another bursary.

Trainees must inform SMART promptly in case of deferral or withdrawal to prevent any overpayments via itffunding@uel.ac.uk