

Department for Education (DfE)

Initial Teacher Training (ITT) PGCE Bursary 2021/22

Guidance Notes

Please retain the guidance notes for information

This document concerns training bursaries available for trainees starting courses in the 2021/22 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
- 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

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

SMART will ensure that trainees are informed of their eligibility for the bursary in good time before the start of their ITT course upon verification of their qualifications.

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 2021/22 academic year are available in the below subjects only:

2021/22 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	£26,000 Please refer to IoP, RSC, IMA, BCS websites for information and applications	£24,000
Classics Languages	-	£10,000
Biology	-	£7,000

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.

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 the bursary.

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 qts.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 forms for bursary eligibility check to ittfunding@uel.ac.uk

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 or not 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 ittfunding@uel.ac.uk to stop future bursary payments and repay promptly any overpayment of bursary received
- Trainees will be expected to seek a teaching post in England upon completion of their ITT course to be eligible for the ITT Bursary.

ITT Bursary payments

A trainee commencing their course in September 2021, 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 2021 to July 2022 after their qualifications have been verified and enrolment has been completed.

£26,000 scholarships will be paid by ten equal monthly instalments of £2,600.

£24,000 bursaries will be paid by ten equal monthly instalments of £1,500.

£10,000 bursaries will be paid by ten equal monthly instalments of £1,200.

£7,000 bursaries will be paid by ten equal monthly instalments of £900.

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, or during a period of unauthorized absence.

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 defer or withdraw. Any bursary payment made to trainees after the month they defer/withdraw will be reclaimed.

Trainees will be notified of any overpayment via our Credit Control team. 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 ittfunding@uel.ac.uk