



Teaching
Agency

2012/13 Bursary scheme – consideration of exceptional achievements

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The 2012/13 bursary scheme recognises exceptional achievement outside of degree results and allows flexibility in some cases. In exceptional circumstances trainees may receive a higher bursary than their degree class would allow.

In the first instance, for the purposes of determining your standard bursary eligibility, teacher training providers will consider your academic qualifications in the *highest bursary tier*. The standard higher qualifications and eligible bursary awards are as follows:

Highest qualification	1st	2:1	2:2	Not eligible
PhD ¹	x			
1st class honours degree*	x			
Masters ²		x		
2:1 honours degree*		x		
2:2 honours degree*			x	
3rd class honours degree				x
Aegrotat				x
Ordinary degree				x
No first degree				x

*or equivalent.

1 Honorary doctoral degrees are not recognised as academic qualifications.

2 These do not include the MA granted on application by the University of Oxford or Cambridge.

In addition to this, initial teacher training providers have been allocated a limited discretionary bursary fund to award bursaries to eligible trainees at a higher level than their degree class would allow. The discretionary bursary fund is limited and will not increase upon request.

It will be up to each individual teacher training provider to decide whether trainees will receive a part of their discretionary bursary fund in the form of a higher level bursary.

The discretionary bursary fund will only be available for trainees who have gained exceptional degree-level subject knowledge from their careers. Trainees who believe they should be considered for a higher bursary under the discretionary award will have to have this cleared by their provider once they have been accepted onto a course.

Higher level bursaries are not guaranteed, and are at the teacher training provider's discretion. Trainees should contact their chosen training provider for more information.

The following general restrictions apply:

General restrictions for the discretionary bursary fund (2012/13)

1. Use of the discretionary bursary fund is restricted to trainees in the bottom and middle tiers only and cannot be used to augment bursary payments to trainees who are already eligible for the top bursary level.
2. This fund is available as a discretionary incentive for career changers or those from a professional background who possess extensive subject-related industry experience.
3. The fund is restricted to trainees who hold *at least* a second class honours degree or equivalent, and cannot be used to award a bursary to trainees who otherwise are not eligible.
4. The fund can be used to award bursaries to trainees with overseas Masters or Doctoral degrees. However, eligible trainees with overseas degrees that have been confirmed as equivalent to at least second class honours or above will receive the standard bursary and *not the discretionary bursary fund*.
5. Trainees must possess strong degree-level subject knowledge attained through their career if they feel this is not reflected in their degree or equivalent of at least second class honours. Strong evidence is required to make such a case for extraordinary bursary eligibility and there is no guarantee it will be granted.
6. The fund can only be used for bursaries in the eligible ITT subjects as set out in the 2012/13 bursary table at www.education.gov.uk/teachpgfunding.
7. Trainees who do not hold a first degree or equivalent at second class honours or above will not be eligible for a discretionary bursary. Trainees who do not hold a first degree or equivalent of at least second class honours, but hold a postgraduate certificate (PGCert) or diploma (PGDip) as their highest qualification, will *not* be eligible for a bursary either from the standard or discretionary pot.
8. The discretionary bursary fund is awarded to trainees by individual teacher training providers. Each provider may set their own eligibility criteria, and it is at the provider's discretion to award the fund in the form of higher bursaries to trainees. Discretionary awards are not guaranteed, and trainees should contact their chosen training provider for more information.

Clarification on qualifications mentioned above

PhD and Masters qualifications

PhD- and Masters-level qualifications may include other UK qualifications deemed by the provider to have the same level of academic breadth and depth.

Masters degrees

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ), maintained by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), sets out that Masters degrees are separate from other postgraduate qualifications in their “increased intensity, complexity and density of study” (Quality and Assurance Agency, 2008). Masters degrees are awarded after the completion of taught courses, programmes of research or a mixture of both and the Framework’s descriptor for Masters degrees states that they “typically include planned intellectual progression that often includes a synoptic/research or scholarly activity.” The level of study associated with a Masters should typically equate to one calendar year full-time. These do not include the Master of Arts (MA)³ which are granted, on application, by the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge to graduates of these universities with a Bachelor of Arts (BA). Masters degrees, which are offered as part of a trainee’s route to QTS will not count for the purposes of assessing eligibility.

Integrated Masters degrees

Integrated Masters degrees are undergraduate programmes extended by one year to enable students to reach Masters level. Providing they have reached a suitable standard of achievement after three years of Bachelors level-study, students can study for a fourth year for a Masters degree where the academic level of work in the fourth year is at Masters rather than at Bachelors level. These programmes are normally found in science and engineering academic disciplines, and the usual degree awarded is MEng or a named integrated Masters degree such as MPhys (Masters of Physics) or MChem (Masters of Chemistry).

Doctoral degrees

The Framework’s descriptor of Doctoral degrees sets out that they are awarded for the “creation and interpretation, construction and/or exposition of knowledge which extends the forefront of a discipline, usually through original research.” (Quality and Assurance Agency, 2008). Professional doctoral programmes that may include a research component, but which have a substantial taught element lead usually to awards which include the name of the discipline in their title (Ed.D, DClinPsy or DBA are common examples). The titles PhD and DPhil are commonly used for doctoral degrees awarded on the basis of original research. The level of study associated with a doctoral degree, both should typically equate to three calendar years full-time for a research-based doctoral degree although it may take up to five years of full-time study for a professional doctoral degree. Honorary doctorates are not eligible academic qualifications and are not accepted by the Framework as academic qualifications.

³ The MA is normally granted, on application, to graduates of these universities with a Bachelor of Arts (BA). No further assessment or study is needed, but the recipient may pay a fee. At the University of Oxford, the MA may be granted during or after the twenty-first term from matriculation and the University of Cambridge, the MA may be granted six years after the end of the first term.



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