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Guidance

Teachers' student loan reimbursement: guidance for teachers and schools

Eligibility criteria, payment rates and how to apply.

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From: [Department for Education](#) and [National College for Teaching and Leadership](#)

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Overview

The teachers' student loan reimbursement pilot aims to increase recruitment and retention of languages, physics, chemistry, biology and computer science teachers.

This guidance explains who can apply for a student loan reimbursement, payment rates and how to apply.

Applications for academic year 2018 to 2019 loan reimbursement open in early September 2019.

Eligibility criteria

Teachers in years 1 to 5 of their careers must meet the employment and subject criteria to apply.

Employment eligibility criteria

This includes the length of service, location and type of school in which the teacher has taught. Teachers awarded qualified teacher status (QTS) in one of the following academic years can apply:

- 2013 to 2014
- 2014 to 2015
- 2015 to 2016
- 2016 to 2017
- 2017 to 2018
- 2018 to 2019

Teachers will be eligible for reimbursements for up to 10 academic years following the year they received their QTS. This table shows which years eligible teachers can claim reimbursement for:

QTS awarded	Reimbursement period
2013 to 2014	2018 to 2019 up to 2023 to 2024
2014 to 2015	2018 to 2019 up to 2024 to 2025
2015 to 2016	2018 to 2019 up to 2025 to 2026
2016 to 2017	2018 to 2019 up to 2026 to 2027
2017 to 2018	2018 to 2019 up to 2027 to 2028
2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020 up to 2028 to 2029

Teachers must be employed in a state-funded school in England in either a:

- local-authority-maintained secondary school (including middle-deemed secondary)
- local-authority-maintained or non-maintained special school
- secondary phase academy/free school

The school must be in one of the 25 participating local authorities:

- Barnsley
- Blackpool
- Bracknell Forest
- Bradford
- Cambridgeshire
- Derby
- Derbyshire

- Doncaster
- Halton
- Knowsley
- Luton
- Middlesbrough
- Norfolk
- North-east Lincolnshire
- North Yorkshire
- Northamptonshire
- Northumberland
- Oldham
- Peterborough
- Portsmouth
- Salford
- Sefton
- St Helens
- Stoke-on-Trent
- Suffolk

Teachers must have:

- proof they are still working as a teacher
- proof of employment for the year they claim
- proof of the student loan payments in the form of payslips

Teachers employed in a private school or sixth-form college are not eligible for the student loan reimbursement.

Supply teachers are eligible if they meet all of the eligibility criteria. They must provide appropriate evidence to support this.

Subject eligibility criteria

Teachers must teach at least one of the eligible subjects.

Eligible subjects are:

- languages
- physics
- chemistry
- biology
- computer science

Teachers must have spent at least 50% of their contracted hours teaching at least one of the eligible

subjects during the year for which they are claiming. Schools must confirm this during the application process.

Payment rates

The amount reimbursed is dependent upon salary, and consequently the amount of the student loan repaid to the Student Loans Company. We will reimburse teachers at the beginning of the academic year following a successful application.

To note: all academic years begin on 1 August and end on 31 July.

The reimbursement payments are:

- not part of a teacher's pay
- subject to income tax and National Insurance (NI); the Department for Education will pay this cost to HMRC, neither the teacher nor the school will need to pay income tax or NI contributions on the student loan reimbursements

Teachers do not need to declare the student loan reimbursement payments to the Student Loans Company.

Apply for a student loan reimbursement

Applications open in early September 2019. [Register your interest to receive notifications about when to apply.](#)

Teachers must apply for a reimbursement each year; it is not automatic.

Schools must confirm that the teacher meets all of the eligibility criteria and endorse the teacher's application for a reimbursement.

Contact

If you have any questions about teachers' student loan reimbursement, please email us.

Financial incentives team

Email

financial.incentives@education.gov.uk

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