



National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

# **School Direct Allocations Methodology**

**Academic year 2014 to 2015**

**July 2013**

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Lead schools and providers should refer to the [Quick Start Guide for Schools](#) for additional information regarding School Direct.

## 1. Requesting and receiving places

Schools can request School Direct places for the 2014 to 2015 academic year using the National College for Teaching & Leadership (NCTL) data management system from 9 July to 23 September 2013. Requests should be made for places in specific phases and subjects. Potential lead schools should have already registered to participate in School Direct and will have received login details for the [NCTL schools data management system](#). However, if you are ready to offer School Direct places in the 2014 to 2015 academic year but haven't registered yet, you can still do so on [our website](#).

The lead school should name the accredited initial teacher training (ITT) provider(s) they wish to work with in their request (see '2. Finding an ITT provider to work with'). Schools can use different providers for different subjects. The lead school must have agreed with the partner provider their intention to work together. Once the lead school has requested places the named provider will be informed and they will then have to ratify the request before it can be accepted. Lead schools should not change their partner provider once they have submitted their request and NCTL has allocated School Direct places. NCTL may withdraw allocated places if a lead school changes their provider.

All requests should be submitted by a lead school, preferably on behalf of a group of schools. The lead school is the school to which the NCTL will allocate places and it is responsible for ensuring that the criteria for School Direct places (see below) are met.

Where academy chains request places for the whole chain, schools should consider whether to register and request places through the central office of the academy chain, rather than through an individual lead school. The use of the term 'lead school' in this document includes the central office of an academy chain where they operate in this capacity for School Direct.

The lead school is responsible for securing agreement to the respective roles and responsibilities of the provider(s) and schools, including the schools in which training will take place, and this should be set out in a formal partnership agreement (see the [Quick Start Guide](#) for further details).

The NCTL will correspond with the lead school on all School Direct matters. If you are a partner school, you should ensure the lead school has requested places on your behalf. You should not apply separately.

The timescale for requesting and receiving places for the 2014 to 2015 academic year is:

- 9 July to 23 September 2013 – Lead schools request places by phase and subject.

- Mid-October (date to be confirmed) – School Direct allocations agreed and announced.
- 1 November – Recruitment opens for schools through UCAS Teacher Training application system.

## 2. Finding an ITT provider to work with

School Direct schools choose which accredited ITT provider to work with, negotiate how the training is structured and agree how the funding will be divided between the school and the provider. Please see the [Quick Start Guide for Schools](#) for further details.

Schools can choose any type of accredited provider, HEI-led or school-led, to work with on School Direct. Note that some teacher training providers will only be able to partner with schools to deliver School Direct Training Programme (salaried) places. It is the responsibility of the provider to inform schools if this is the case.

The accredited ITT provider remains accountable for quality of training and the recommendation of the award of qualified teacher status (QTS). The provision must therefore be compliant with the Secretary of State's [ITT Criteria](#) and align with the 2012 Ofsted Framework for the inspection of ITT.

The latest [inspection reports for providers](#) are available on the Ofsted website. This may not include the newer providers that have yet to be inspected by Ofsted.

Further information to help lead schools' decisions can be found on the [our website](#).

### 3. Criteria for allocations

Whilst ministers are keen to involve as many schools as possible in School Direct, the scale of requests may exceed the number available for distribution. In these situations, we will prioritise places using the criteria listed below. The degree to which each criterion is applied will depend upon the final requests for places. The main criteria will be:

#### Cohort size

The NCTL encourages requests for several places in a subject and from larger partnerships of schools. Groups of schools requesting a regular supply of places are likely to promote the development of high-quality practice and sustainable relationships between ITT providers and schools.

#### School quality

We will take account of the Ofsted rating of the lead school. We encourage schools that are not outstanding to team up with outstanding schools. In particular we would like School Direct to stimulate alliance building for Teaching Schools.

Partnerships should satisfy themselves that schools have the capacity to undertake their responsibilities. A school assessed as inadequate (i.e. in special measures or having serious weaknesses) will not be allocated School Direct places as a lead school.

If a lead school goes into special measures after School Direct places have been allocated, another lead school must be designated, and the partnership agreement should be amended to reflect increased support, monitoring, and revisions to the individual's training plan. Partner ITT providers can contact the NCTL at [ta.inspection@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ta.inspection@education.gsi.gov.uk) to discuss specific cases.

Where a partner school is in special measures, it may still be possible for the school to be involved in the delivery of ITT, especially if the improvements to be made do not affect the subject or age range for which the trainee is training. The lead school and the accredited provider will need to be confident that the trainee will not be disadvantaged by the school experience, and the situation will need to be kept under close review.

If a lead school is assessed as inadequate with serious weaknesses after the allocation of places, we would recommend that an alternative lead school should be designated. It may be possible for them to remain as a lead school if the partner ITT provider and partnership schools can clearly demonstrate appropriate support to maintain the quality of training.

## Trainee quality

The Government strategy for ITT emphasises the need for new teachers to be highly qualified. The NCTL promotes entry to teaching, including through School Direct, to attract graduates with degree classes at 2.1 or above. However, this will not be a criterion in the allocation of places for the 2014 to 2015 academic year.

## School Direct recruitment

We will look at the latest recruitment levels for lead schools allocated School Direct places in the 2013 to 2014 academic year (compared with their initial allocation) when considering requests for places for the 2014 to 2015 academic year. It is therefore imperative that lead schools ensure recruitment information reported to the NCTL is accurate and up-to-date. All lead schools should aim to submit realistic and achievable requests for the 2014 to 2015 academic year.

## Subject and phase

The NCTL will prioritise requests according to subject and phase to reflect national priorities. Although not available at this time, we will publish information on the levels of bursaries available to individuals for School Direct Training Programme and funding for schools for School Direct Training Programme (salaried) as soon as possible and before the place request deadline. The current list of designated subjects is shown at Annex A.

## Non-funded School Direct places

Lead schools may want to train candidates in subjects which do not attract funding. Whilst this is possible for the School Direct Training Programme (salaried), it is not permitted for the School Direct Training Programme as it may involve funding implications for the payment of tuition fees. If the NCTL places any restriction on non-funded places, we will inform lead schools and providers.

Only ITT places agreed by NCTL will attract financial support from Government (contribution to fees and salary for School Direct Training Programme (salaried) and bursaries and Student Loans for School Direct Training Programme). Lead schools (and providers) can train individuals without an agreed place for the School Direct Training Programme (salaried), but:

- the place will not attract any financial support from Government;
- training will still need to meet the [ITT Criteria](#); and
- we would encourage lead schools to inform NCTL.

## Location

When allocating ITT places, we have due regard for the balance of the supply of ITT across all regions. It may be necessary to adjust places to achieve an appropriate balance in association with the other allocations criteria.

## Meeting national priorities

Whilst not directly affecting the allocation of places for the 2014 to 2015 academic year, lead schools and providers should be aware of existing priorities for ITT, which have been agreed by ministers. These include [Troops to Teachers](#) and places for specialist primary teachers in mathematics and physical education. Teach First is outside the scope of this exercise.

## Changing an allocation of School Direct places

It is important that all requests and acceptances of places are a realistic statement of schools' capacity to participate in School Direct. If schools retain allocated places which remain unfilled this means that the place can't be reallocated to other schools with capacity, putting a strain on the wider system. This may affect future allocation decisions for the lead school concerned.

Changes to School Direct place requests may be possible in-year, e.g. where a school had intended to recruit a physicist, but found a more pressing need for a mathematician instead. All changes to cohorts must be approved by NCTL and we will advise lead schools of the process for requesting changes when initial allocations are set in October.

## Subject and phase training for qualified teacher status (QTS)

Schools may want to train and assess trainees in a phase or age range or secondary subjects outside their partner provider's allocated ITT portfolio. Providers do not need to gain approval from NCTL to deliver ITT in a new phase or subject. This enables providers to be more responsive to schools' demand. However, lead schools must still ensure that they have a School Direct place confirmed with NCTL.

All accredited ITT providers can now deliver ITT programmes leading to QTS in both phases if they wish. However, those employment-based providers that have not yet been approved to offer fee-funded provision will continue to be restricted to the delivery of salaried programmes only.

Any new provision must be compliant with the Secretary of State's [ITT Criteria](#) and align with the [2012 Ofsted ITE Framework](#). Providers must consider the risks of moving into new areas thoroughly.

Any questions and specific issues on any of the above criteria can be directed to [itt.allocations@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:itt.allocations@education.gsi.gov.uk).

## **4. School Direct candidate application system**

A mandatory single application system, operated by UCAS, will come online for recruitment to the 2014 to 2015 academic year. The system will open once initial allocations have been confirmed in October. All schools will be provided with an account to manage applications within this system in due course. Applicants will be able to apply for ITT places through the single application system from 1 November 2013.

## **5. Receiving funding**

The funding rates, qualifying subjects and phases, and bursary eligibility will be communicated to lead schools and providers as soon as they have been determined and before the place request deadline.

## **6. Further information**

Further information is available on our website – [www.education.gov.uk/schooldirect](http://www.education.gov.uk/schooldirect).

# Annex A: List of designated ITT subjects

## Secondary

- Applied art and design
- Applied business
- Applied science
- Art and design
- Biology
- Business studies
- Chemistry
- Citizenship
- Classics
- Combined science
- Computer science
- Dance
- Design and technology
- Drama
- Economics
- Engineering
- English
- Geography
- Health and social care
- History
- Leisure and tourism
- Manufacturing
- Mathematics
- Media studies
- Modern languages
- Music
- Physical education
- Physics

- Physics with mathematics
- Psychology
- Religious education
- Social sciences

## Primary

- Primary - General
- Primary - FS/KS1
- Primary mathematics specialist
- Primary PE specialist

Details about the eligibility of places and associated funding for different routes will be communicated to lead schools and providers as soon as information is available, and before the place request deadline.



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Reference: NCTL-00105-2013