



National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

# **The allocation of initial teacher training places**

**Methodology for the 2018 to 2019  
academic year**

**14 September 2017**

# 1. Introduction

The National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) is responsible for the allocation of initial teacher training (ITT) places in England that attract government funding and lead to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). We allocate School Direct places to School Direct lead schools and provider led places to accredited ITT providers. This document describes the allocation of these places.

Several ITT routes are available, which include (but are not limited to):

- School Direct (tuition fee): where places are allocated to School Direct lead schools and trainees access student loans for the cost of their training;
- School Direct (salaried): where places are allocated to School Direct lead schools that employ the trainee; and
- Provider led programmes: where places are allocated to accredited ITT providers, which are universities and school-centred initial teacher training providers (SCITTs).

This document sets out the characteristics and criteria we have considered for the allocation of places for School Direct (tuition fee), School Direct (salaried) and provider led courses due to start in the 2018 to 2019 academic year. This information is intended to provide details for School Direct lead schools and ITT providers on the methodology we have used to determine allocations to support the 2018 to 2019 recruitment cycle.

The process and methodology for the allocation of places applies to training places for the 2018 to 2019 academic year. NCTL, or any successor organisation, may modify or amend the approach it takes to allocate places in future years.

The process described in this document does not include Teach First, the places for which are allocated separately.

This document also includes the allocations methodology for early years ITT leading to early years teacher status (EYTS).

## 2. Allocation methodology

NCTL's allocation of ITT places aims to achieve sufficient recruitment across all subjects; ensure that there is no significant oversupply of teachers in any subject; and make efficient use of public funds. In allocating places, we consider continuing demand, the level of popularity and recruitment patterns across different subjects and routes, and feedback from School Direct lead schools and ITT providers.

In June 2017 we published *Requesting initial teacher training places including Early Years ITT: process for the 2018 to 2019 academic year*. School Direct lead schools and ITT providers were asked to request the minimum and maximum number of places required based on a realistic assessment of local need and the minimum sustainability of their programmes. We used data submitted in response to this request to assess the overall capacity within the ITT system to provide sufficient ITT places, and to inform our approach to allocations.

In light of requests for places, increased demand for teachers as determined by the Teacher Supply Model (TSM) (see below), and recent recruitment patterns, we have significantly increased the number of subjects where recruitment is unrestricted. In a small number of subjects, we have set fixed allocations – in some cases by individual route – in order to safeguard against oversupply. For the subjects where we have done this, we have used a combination of place requests and historic performance (ITT providers) or considered the size of partnership (School Direct lead schools).<sup>1</sup> For new ITT providers we considered their provider led requests and their School Direct partner provider requests using the School Direct criteria above.

### Teacher Supply Model (TSM)

The main determining factors in the allocations methodology are the number of trainee teachers required and the relative recruitment challenge, by subject and route. The number of places required by subject and route is determined by the TSM. The TSM provides an estimate of the number of trainee teachers required across England. This estimate provides the scale and limit against which we allocate places. We will publish the detailed TSM and allocations for the academic year 2018 to 2019 in autumn 2017. You will be able to access the document at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-teacher-training>

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<sup>1</sup> The size of a partnership is evaluated by the number of schools engaged in the partnership as recorded in the ITT Data Management System (DMS). A School Direct lead school must have at least five schools within its partnership to be eligible. Additionally, a school must be graded as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted to become a School Direct lead school. For School Direct we have not applied criteria based on trainee quality or recruitment performance, owing to due data inconsistencies. These criteria will remain under consideration in future years. NCTL reserves the right to apply trainee quality or recruitment performance criteria in future.

# Postgraduate ITT: methodology by subject

## The overall approach

As set out above, for the 2018 to 2019 recruitment cycle we are adopting a permissive approach that removes recruitment constraints on School Direct lead schools and ITT providers in almost all subjects. We have done this by establishing two categories:

- Unlimited allocations: recruitment to subjects in this category is unrestricted
- Fixed allocations: recruitment to subjects in this category is limited by the number of places allocated

## Unlimited allocations

This category includes subjects where recruitment is most challenging. For these subjects, we have taken account of increased TSM targets, recent recruitment patterns, and provider feedback by granting unlimited allocations. This means that, for subjects in this category, **recruitment is unrestricted**. Schools and ITT providers should note that, for subjects with unlimited allocations, the DMS will show their maximum requests. In practice, the approach set out here means that School Direct leads schools and ITT providers have **automatic permission to recruit above this number without first having to request additional places from NCTL**.

All subjects are in this category for 2018 to 2019, with the exception of those listed under **fixed allocations** below. A full list of subjects is available in Table 1.

## Fixed allocations

These are subjects where recent and historic recruitment trends demonstrate consistently high demand from applicants. The following subject and route combinations will receive fixed allocations:

- Primary (School Direct Salaried only)
- Primary General with Maths (School Direct Salaried only)
- Primary Maths Specialist (School Direct Salaried only)
- PE (all routes)<sup>2</sup>

## Process for fixed allocations

### Primary (School Direct Salaried)

School Direct lead schools will be given their minimum requested allocation for Primary School Direct Salaried places, and cannot recruit above this fixed allocation.

### Primary General with Maths (School Direct Salaried)

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<sup>2</sup> Please note the *Additional PE Places with EBacc* scheme below

School Direct lead schools will receive a fixed allocation for Primary General (with Maths) School Direct Salaried places, and should contact NCTL if they wish to recruit beyond this number.<sup>3</sup>

### Primary Maths Specialist (School Direct Salaried)

School Direct lead schools will receive a fixed allocation for Primary Maths Specialist School Direct Salaried places, and should contact NCTL if they wish to recruit beyond this number.

### Secondary PE (all routes):

School Direct lead schools and providers will receive a fixed allocation for PE in School Direct (Salaried), School Direct (Tuition Fee) and provider led routes, and cannot recruit above this fixed allocation.

## Summary

The full list of subjects and routes and their allocation category is set out in Table 1 below:

	Provider Led Places	School Direct (Tuition Fee)	School Direct (salaried)
Primary	Unlimited	Unlimited	<u>Fixed</u>
Primary - General with Maths	Unlimited	Unlimited	<u>Fixed</u>
Primary Maths Specialist	Unlimited	Unlimited	<u>Fixed</u>
<b>Secondary</b>			
Art & Design	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Biology	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Business Studies	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Chemistry	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Citizenship	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Classics	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Computing	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

<sup>3</sup> In previous academic years, NCTL have invited requests from School Direct lead schools and ITT providers to run Primary Maths Specialist courses. These courses are designed for trainees who want to focus solely on teaching maths in primary schools. School Direct lead schools can only request Primary Maths Specialist places if they work with one of these designated providers as their partner. We also want to encourage other School Direct lead schools and ITT providers to identify or develop courses that train generalist primary teachers with a substantial maths element (Primary General with Maths) included alongside other areas of the curriculum. Teachers trained on these courses will not have the same exclusive focus on maths as a specialist but will have a robust grounding in the subject nonetheless. In particular, they will be capable of leading on maths in their school.

Dance	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Design & Technology	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Drama	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Economics	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
English	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Food	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Geography	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Health & Social Care	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
History	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Leisure & Tourism	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Mathematics	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Media Studies	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Modern Languages	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Music	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Physical Education	<u>Fixed</u>	<u>Fixed</u>	<u>Fixed</u>
Physics	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Physics with Mathematics	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Psychology	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Religious Education	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Social Sciences	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

## Additional PE places with EBacc subject

In response to sector demand, we are introducing for 2018 to 2019 a new scheme that allows School Direct lead schools and ITT providers to request additional PE places. Trainees filling these places are required to train in an additional EBacc subject alongside their main specialism of PE, so that they are capable of teaching this in school. We expect that these places are 'PE with' courses, which will require trainees to demonstrate the Teachers' Standards in PE only but include training in an additional EBacc subject. In order to be eligible, candidates must have at least grade C in the A level or equivalent subject knowledge in the EBacc subject. School Direct lead schools and ITT providers may wish to access Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) for trainees accessing this offer; for further details contact [ske.inbox@education.gov.uk](mailto:ske.inbox@education.gov.uk).

School Direct lead schools and ITT providers who wish to request additional PE places under this arrangement should contact NCTL. The award of these places will be decided

on a case-by-case basis, and NCTL will monitor the eligibility of trainees filling them as well as the nature and content of their ITT course.

## Undergraduate ITT

The approach we have taken to allocate places for undergraduate courses is different from that used for postgraduate provision this year.

NCTL has allocated a broadly similar number of places across all undergraduate courses as in the 2017 to 2018 academic year. Funding constraints mean that we cannot allow unrestricted recruitment to undergraduate courses; consequently, we allocate fixed numbers of places to institutions at the start of each recruitment year in order to manage the process. We have reviewed requests against our identified criteria and allocated specific numbers accordingly.

### Opt-in undergraduate courses

Providers in receipt of seed funding to develop undergraduate opt-in courses leading to QTS, which enable students to incorporate the award of QTS part way through their degree course, are expected to request places through the allocation process, in line with the conditions of their grant funding agreement.

We are keen to ensure that we recruit as many high-quality physics and mathematics trainees as possible and are continuing to allocate all eligible requests in these subjects. We have not allocated any physics or mathematics places to ITT providers graded 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate'.

## Early years ITT

For early years ITT leading to early years teacher status (EYTS), the criteria we will use for allocating early years ITT may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Degree class of trainees
- b. Quality of training
- c. Recruitment performance against allocations

Early years ITT providers will be advised when their allocations for 2018 to 2019 are available to view in the DMS.

## Part-time trainees

NCTL wants School Direct lead schools and ITT providers to make their courses available for part-time learning, particularly in priority subjects. Typically, around 10% of candidates in contact with the Get Into Teaching service enquire about part-time courses, yet only around 3% of trainees are part-time. Bursaries, scholarships and salaries are available on a pro-rata basis; School Direct lead schools and ITT providers do not need separate or additional allocations to recruit part-time trainees. UCAS Teacher Training

requires separate registration of full-time and part-time courses, so please actively consider adapting your offer for part-time learning and list any courses as part-time on UCAS Teacher Training, in addition to your full-time courses. We, in turn, will draw applicants' attention to the availability of these courses in their local area and showcase best practice. If you have any queries please contact [itt.recruitment@education.gov.uk](mailto:itt.recruitment@education.gov.uk).

## Other considerations

NCTL reserves the right to review the impact of its allocation of places and make any reasonable adjustments considered necessary.

In the unlikely event that there is significant over-recruitment in unrestricted subjects, NCTL reserves the right to stop recruitment (an identical 'reserve power' was included in the 2017 to 2018 methodology, and was not used). Any stop notice would give School Direct lead schools and ITT providers a minimum of five working days' notice to process applications. School Direct lead schools and ITT providers can process all applications received before the start of the notice period in the usual way, and all offers resulting from this will be honoured by NCTL, even if interviews and offers are made after the end of the five working days' notice period. In the event a stop notice is issued for these subjects, no further applications would be honoured after the end of the notice period, except where providers are replacing a candidate who has dropped out, or where a provider is yet to recruit to a previously issued multiple year allocation.

School Direct lead schools and ITT providers should ensure that all of their contact details are kept up to date on DMS. Please note any data entry inaccuracies on the DMS will have a direct impact on receiving allocations for subsequent or multiple years. For accredited ITT providers, failure to comply with NCTL data requirements is grounds for consideration of withdrawal of accreditation as stated in the ITT criteria and supporting advice.

NCTL reserves the right to apply penalties against any School Direct lead school or ITT provider that significantly over-recruits where allocations are fixed. In particular, School Direct lead schools and ITT providers may be liable to the cost of training anyone recruited in excess of fixed allocations. Failure of an ITT provider to regulate its volume of trainees in accordance with NCTL allocations may lead to that provider being deemed non-compliant.



## 3. After allocation

### Confirmation of allocations

Information on the allocation of places – **unlimited**<sup>4</sup> and **fixed** – for all School Direct lead schools and ITT providers will be available on the DMS. School Direct lead schools and ITT providers are then required to confirm courses on the UCAS Teacher Training system as soon as possible, in time for the opening of ‘apply’ on 26 October 2017 (subject to confirmation).

NCTL is responsible for managing bursary and grant funding associated with ITT for postgraduate and undergraduate courses. It also monitors the public cost of student loans accessed by trainees on these courses. Information on funding for ITT in the 2018 to 2019 academic year, including bursaries, scholarships and School Direct salaried grants, will be published in early autumn 2017.

We will also confirm in autumn 2017 which ITT providers have been awarded multiple year allocations.

### Changes to allocations

In rare instances where changes to allocations are required, we will notify School Direct lead schools and ITT providers of this process. We expect that changes to allocations will only apply to fixed allocation subjects, including requests for additional PE places with EBacc subject scheme outlined above.

### UCAS process

UCAS Teacher Training Apply will go live on Thursday 26 October 2017 (subject to confirmation). Before this time, School Direct lead schools and ITT providers will need to set their programmes to ‘running’, which should be completed within 48 hours of receiving confirmation of their allocations to avoid any delays to the opening of UCAS Teacher Training. School Direct lead schools and ITT providers can update their Entry Profiles from now which will display when Search goes live. **School Direct lead schools and ITT providers will also be contacted by UCAS Teacher Training by email to the registered UTT correspondent with details of next steps after receiving confirmation of their allocations from NCTL.**

School Direct lead schools and ITT providers should ensure the information for each training programme is consistent with the corresponding information on the DMS. In particular, School Direct lead schools and ITT providers must accurately record the accrediting provider (an accredited HEI or SCITT), and the training programme type (Higher Education, School Direct Training, SCITT or School Direct (salaried) training). If a UCAS training programme does not correspond to the information on DMS, then NCTL may assume the organisation does not have permission to recruit to the programme. All

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<sup>4</sup> In unlimited allocations subjects, figures shown on DMS are maximum requests made by School Direct lead schools and providers; lead schools and providers that wish to recruit beyond this number may do so.

programmes advertised by schools must be entered as School Direct programmes and must have an accredited HEI or SCITT provider recorded as the accrediting provider.

### **Setting programmes to running: Higher education providers and SCITTs**

Following confirmation of their allocation, ITT providers must update the status of these in 'web-link' by setting them to 'running' and 'published'. **Please ensure that only programmes are set to 'running' if there is a confirmed allocation for them from NCTL.** This will avoid potential applicants applying to programmes for which ITT providers do not have permission to recruit.

- Sign in to 'web-link' and navigate to the **2018** training programme list.
- Click on the title of the programme to be updated.
- Scroll to the **bottom** of the programme details **page**.
- Under the blue bar that includes the publish/status options, change the programme status from 'New' to 'Running', if your organisation has confirmed allocated places. If there are no confirmed allocated places, change the status from 'New' to either 'Suspended' or 'Discontinued'.
- Then change the publish flag to 'Yes' for those that are 'Running'
- Click the Save button and wait for the green update confirmation message to appear at the top of the screen, before navigating away from the page.

The programmes will be visible on the search tool when UCAS Teacher Training goes live for **2018** or within 24 hours **of setting them to published after this date.**

### **Schools**

When School Direct lead schools receive confirmation of their allocation, they must update the status of these in 'web-link'.

- Sign in to 'web-link' and navigate to the 2018 training programme list.
- Click on the title of the programme to be updated.
- Scroll to the bottom of the programme details page.
- Under the blue bar that includes the publish/status options, change the programme status from 'New' to 'Running', if your organisation has confirmed allocated places. If there are no confirmed allocated places, change the status from 'New' to either 'Suspended' or 'Discontinued'.

### **Publication of allocations data**

Data about the initial allocation of ITT places will be published on the GOV.UK website in autumn 2017.

## **Change of Ofsted grade**

### **School Direct lead schools**

Ofsted may inspect a School Direct lead school after NCTL's initial allocation of places. School Direct lead schools should inform the NCTL of any changes to their Ofsted rating. Changes in the grade of the lead school will not change our initial allocation to the partnership. A school must be graded by Ofsted as 'good' or 'outstanding' to request places as a School Direct lead school. If a School Direct lead school falls below this grade in a new Ofsted inspection in-year then NCTL will permit them to continue as a School Direct lead school until such time as it is practical to switch the lead school status to another school in the partnership. NCTL will not automatically review, alter or reduce an allocation of places unless there is compelling evidence that demands the immediate cessation of training provision.

### **ITT providers**

If an ITT provider receives a lower grade judgement (i.e. a change to less than 'good') at an inspection during the course of the year, NCTL will not automatically review or alter their allocation. NCTL will not reduce an allocation of places or withdraw permission to recruit unless there is compelling evidence that demands the immediate cessation of training provision.

## **Training programme closure on UCAS**

Once a School Direct lead school or ITT provider has completed recruitment for a training programme, or no longer wants to recruit further trainees, then the training programme should be closed on UCAS by setting the vacancy status of the individual programme to 'no vacancies'. This is to prevent trainees from making applications through UCAS that cannot be successful.

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