GOV.UK Search **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** Guidance and support Home > Coronavirus (COVID-19) > Education and childcare during coronavirus > Coronavirus (COVID-19): initial teacher training (ITT) Part of **Education and childcare during coronavirus** Department for Education Guidance Coronavirus (COVID-19): initial teacher training (ITT) Updated 2 September 2020 The guidance is for initial teacher training (ITT) providers. It includes actions Contents you may wish to consider for ITT courses disrupted by coronavirus (COVID-19). September 2020 updates It is based on current public health advice. Trainees not recommended for QTS in 2019 to 2020 These actions will help: Recruitment and selection

• reduce the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on your ITT provision

• ensure those awarded qualified teacher status (QTS) are of the highest

• give trainees a fair opportunity to qualify

We may amend or update this guidance as necessary.

September 2020 updates

• added the <u>ITT trainees from overseas</u> section

updated C1.2 degree entry requirements

removed guidance relating to the 2019 to 2020 academic year

• updated the 120 days in schools and early years ITT sections

safeguard teacher supply

possible quality

We have:

Trainees not recommended for QTS in 2019 to 2020 You should extend courses beyond their original planned end date for trainees

2020 to 2021

School experience

for 2020 to 2021

protection advice

Assessment only

**Undergraduate ITT** 

Early years ITT

ITT trainee consumer

Support for ITT in 2020

Academic qualifications

to 2021

Entry criteria: GCSE and

ITT funding and bursaries

ITT trainees from overseas

Changes to the ITT criteria

degree requirements 2020

you identify as: • not meeting the Teachers' Standards not on a trajectory to meet the Teachers' Standards This gives these trainees an opportunity to show they meet the Teachers'

Standards in the autumn term. It is your responsibility to determine the content and duration of training for any trainees whose courses extend into the autumn term. This should be in line with current arrangements. Funding is available for trainees and providers where courses extend owing to

coronavirus (COVID-19). See guidance on ITT coronavirus (COVID-19) course extensions 2019 to 2020. Recruitment and selection 2020 to 2021 Recruitment to the 2020 to 2021 cohort will continue. You should consider how you can adapt your recruitment and selection process to minimise disruption.

Consider which parts of the process candidates can complete: online over the phone using written tasks • via video calling (for example, for individual interviews or group sessions) Observing a candidate interacting with children is not an entry requirement. Instead, consider getting additional evidence of suitability, such as references. Advise partner schools to:

 exercise greater vigilance during the early stages of school-based training • act immediately on any safeguarding concerns that might arise by following the process set out in their partnership agreement Ratifying university providers already have scope to interview on behalf of School Direct partnerships, subject to this being agreed across the wider partnership. Supporting documentation (for example, examination certificates) can be submitted in electronic format pending the opportunity for originals to be

keeping children safe in education.

guidance for the latest information.

to manage your applications.

supplied. You must continue to comply with statutory guidance set out in

Continue using the <u>apply for postgraduate teacher training</u> service and <u>UCAS</u>

UCAS has reinstated all UCAS teacher training decision-making deadlines,

You can consider other evidence of attainment if you judge this to be at least

equal to GCSE grade 4 in the relevant subject. This can include an equivalence

Candidates who are not able to demonstrate the required standard due to the

decline by default (DBDs) and reject by default (RBDs). See the UCAS

All upcoming Train to Teach events have been set up as online question and answer sessions. For more information and to register for these events visit Get into Teaching. **Entry criteria: GCSE and degree** requirements 2020 to 2021 Continue to allow candidates to provide evidence before they start their ITT courses that they have GCSE grade 4 (or equivalent) in: English maths • a science subject (for primary)

coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, have until 30 November 2020 to demonstrate the standard. For entry to graduate programmes of ITT, where there is a delay in the award of candidates' first degrees, trainees have until 30 November 2020 to provide evidence of the completion of their first degree. Before admitting them to an ITT course, consider the likelihood of a candidate achieving the requirements in the permitted timeframe. Trainees are not

test.

School experience School experience is not an entry requirement for ITT. Lack of school experience should not be a reason for rejection of an otherwise suitable applicant. However, school experience may be helpful for those considering training to teach.

We will then make your school active again. ITT funding and bursaries

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information.

allowed to continue on courses without providing evidence of meeting the requirements by 30 November 2020. Trainees who begin courses with C1.1 or C1.2 entry requirements still pending will not be eligible for financial incentives (bursaries or grants). On providing the required evidence, any financial incentive will be backdated to the start of the course. Further guidance on this will follow in the funding manuals. See initial teacher training (ITT): criteria and supporting advice for the full criteria.

> Bursary, scholarship, School Direct salaried and postgraduate teaching apprenticeship grant payments will continue as normal. You should continue to follow the relevant funding guidance. This includes making payments to trainees where applicable. Student number controls will only apply to domestic and EU domiciled full-time undergraduate students in the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

• online training materials for candidates to use

encourage overseas nationals to pursue becoming a teacher in England.

• the UK's advice on travel restrictions and self-isolation requirements

• the guidance about what to do if you need a visa to travel to the UK

Further information is available for those affected by changes to UK

immigration and borders due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

apply through the new points-based immigration system.

• their country's advice on travel restrictions and self-isolation requirements

living, working and studying in the UK after 30 June 2021 without having to

EEA and Swiss trainees who arrive in the UK from 1 January 2021 may need to

apply for a visa through the <u>new points-based immigration system</u>. In most

cases, this will be a student visa or if undertaking a salaried course, a skilled

worker visa. These visa routes require the educator/employer to sponsor the

Changes to the ITT criteria for 2020 to

Meeting the GCSE equivalent standard or degree

accompanying advice. This allows candidates who are not able to provide

evidence of meeting the required GCSE equivalent standard or degree

We have temporarily relaxed C1.1 and C1.2 of the ITT criteria and amended the

C2.3 of the ITT criteria requires programmes to be designed to provide trainees

with enough time in schools to demonstrate that they have achieved all the

Consider how you will structure school placements for courses starting from

September 2020. You should still provide trainees with the time they need in

We expect that universities will be open for the autumn term. This may include

a blend of online teaching and in-person tuition that they consider appropriate

clear, accurate and timely information needed to make informed decisions.

This includes making them aware of any potential for changes at the earliest

You will need to seek your own legal advice on whether the information you are

We are offering expert ITT associate support for the 2020 to 2021 training

implementing the core content framework from September 2020

year. This is to help you develop and deliver your courses considering partner

Teachers' Standards. It outlines the typical periods of time for training in

schools, early years, or further education colleges, but these are not

this. State-funded schools cannot sponsor individuals on student visas.

visa applicant. The educator/employer will need to have a sponsor licence to do

Immigration permission for trainees from the **European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland** If an EEA or Swiss trainee undertaking an ITT course in 2020 to 2021 delays their arrival in the UK until 1 January 2021 or later, they may be affected by the new immigration system.

Candidates should check:

requirement before starting a course, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, to start the course. To continue and complete the course, they must provide evidence by 30 November 2020. For ITT courses starting from September 2020, we have also suspended the: expectation that trainees train to teach in at least 2 schools requirement for a trainee to have met the standards across the full age and ability range of training expectation that training programmes cover no fewer than 4 school years

as fully meeting the Teachers' Standards.

120 days in schools

mandatory.

school.

2021

requirements

To help you make informed decisions about your provision, read: • guidance for providers on reopening campuses and university buildings • Universities UK's principles for reopening of campuses to students and staff • Office for Students' guidance for providers on student consumer rights during the pandemic Universities should make sure continuing and prospective students receive

providing is sufficient for them to do that.

Support for ITT in 2020

You can get support in areas such as:

• Ofsted ITE Inspection Framework

securing placements

• recruitment for 2021

school placement pressures and ITT criteria relaxations.

to minimises risk.

opportunity.

Provision and assessment for the award of academic qualifications will be at the discretion of individual awarding bodies through existing arrangements. **Undergraduate ITT** Try to adapt undergraduate programmes in the remaining years of the course.

adequate progress to meeting the standards.

Academic qualifications

See the <u>assessment only criteria</u> for more information.

Using the get school experience service We have marked schools on the <u>get school experience</u> service as inactive. Email organise.school-experience@education.gov.uk if you're considering offering a virtual experience for candidates. This could include: videos of lessons digital conferences

> **ITT trainees from overseas** International travel Although global travel may be affected by coronavirus (COVID-19), we still

EEA and Swiss trainees who arrive in the UK by 31 December 2020 can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. If successful, this will allow them to continue

Trainees should receive training that is as complete as possible. You should only use these flexibilities when necessary. We expect you to assess trainees

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19), courses with fewer than 120 days physically in schools are acceptable. This will not result in non-compliance in relation to C2.3 of the ITT criteria. You should also consider the impact any further disruption, such as areas of national government intervention, would have on placements. For example, trainees could form part of schools' plans to support remote education should pupils need to remain at home. ITT trainee consumer protection advice

> Accredited ITT providers wishing to access this support should email ITT.accreditation@education.gov.uk.

mentoring

This will help give trainees the opportunity to demonstrate the standards across the full age and ability range of their training programme.

Early years ITT

amended the accompanying advice.

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While associate capacity is limited, we will try to provide support for as many accredited ITT providers as possible. **Assessment only** 

We have relaxed the requirement for the assessment process to be completed

The regulations state a candidate should have undertaken a period of practical

teaching experience, such that the person is assessed by the accredited

institution as meeting the specified standards. Any providers managing

Candidates cannot be given any additional allowance in terms of reduced

assessments because of coronavirus (COVID-19). This is because assessment

only courses include no training so candidates cannot be deemed to be making

within 12 consecutive weeks. The aggregate time spent on the route,

discounting periods of interruption, should not exceed 12 weeks.

prospective candidates should be mindful of this expectation.

ability range, consider redesignating your course. For example, a 3 to 11 course may be redesignated to a 5 to 11, or 3 to 7. The training must still take place across a minimum of 4 school years.

We have temporarily relaxed 1.1 and 1.2 of the early years ITT criteria and

This will allow candidates who are not able to provide evidence of meeting the

required GCSE equivalent standard or degree requirement before starting a

course, due to coronavirus (COVID-19), to start the course. To continue and

complete the course, they must provide evidence by 30 November 2020.

See the early years ITT requirements and supporting advice for more

If you're struggling to provide placement opportunities across the full age and

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