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## Guidance

# Levelling up premium payments for teachers

Mathematics, physics, chemistry and computing teachers can claim payments for teaching in eligible state-funded secondary schools in their first 5 years.

From: [Department for Education](#)

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**Applies to England**

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From autumn 2022, early career teachers can claim a levelling up premium payment for teaching the following subjects in eligible state-funded secondary schools:

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[Early-career payments for teachers](#)

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### Collection

[Additional payments for teaching: eligibility and payment details](#)

- mathematics
- physics
- chemistry
- computing

The levelling up premium payment gives eligible teachers up to £3,000 in the following academic years:

- 2022 to 2023
- 2023 to 2024
- 2024 to 2025

## Register your interest for levelling up premium payments

[Register your interest for levelling up premium payments](#) if you teach one of the following subjects:

- mathematics
- physics
- chemistry
- computing

## When you can apply

Use the table below to find out when you can apply for a levelling up premium payment. For postgraduates, use the academic year when your initial teacher training (ITT) course started. For undergraduates, use the academic year when your ITT course finished.

ITT course start or finish	Academic year to apply
2017 to 2018	2022
2018 to 2019	2022 and 2023
2019 to 2020	2022, 2023 and 2024
2020 to 2021	2022, 2023 and 2024
2021 to 2022	2022, 2023 and 2024
2022 to 2023	2023 and 2024
2023 to 2024	2024

The academic year runs from 1 September to 31 August.

## Eligibility criteria for teachers

You must meet the eligibility criteria to be able to claim any additional payments.

Once the claim window opens in autumn 2022, you will be able to answer

some questions to find out what additional payments you are eligible to claim.

You will only be able to claim either an [early-career payment](#) or levelling up premium payment per academic year, even if you are eligible to claim for both payments.

Learn more about [what additional payments are available](#).

## School eligibility

Levelling up premium payments will be offered in schools identified as having a high need for teachers. If you teach in an eligible school in an Education Investment Area, you will receive a higher payment.

[Learn which schools are eligible](#) (ODS, 317 KB).

## Methodology

We have produced a [methodology document](#) (PDF, 148 KB, 2 pages) which explains our funding approach.

## Qualifications

To claim, you must have completed at least one of the following:

- an ITT course specialising in mathematics, physics, chemistry or computing
- training to get qualified teacher status (QTS) through assessment only or overseas recognition in an eligible academic year
- a UK undergraduate or postgraduate degree related to mathematics, physics, chemistry and computing on the JACS 3.0 principal subject codes or with a relevant [higher education classification of subjects \(HECoS\) code](#) (ODS, 9.58 KB)
- an equivalent non-UK degree

## QTS and QTLS

To claim a payment in the academic year 2022 to 2023, you must have one of the following:

- QTS
- [qualified teacher learning and skills \(QTLS\)](#) status and membership of the Society for Education and Training (SET)

You must have started a postgraduate ITT course or completed an undergraduate ITT course in the 2017 to 2018 to the 2021 to 2022 academic years.

The academic year runs from 1 September to 31 August.

## Employment

You must be employed as a teacher in a state-funded secondary school in England when you apply for the payment. State-funded secondary schools include:

- local authority-maintained secondary schools (including middle-deemed secondary schools)
- academies, free schools or multi-academy trusts

- special schools (local authority-maintained or non-maintained)

You must have spent at least 50% of your contracted hours allocated to teaching one or more of the eligible subjects at the time of the application.

### **Supply, private school and sixth-form college teachers**

If you are a supply teacher, you must:

- be employed directly by the school
- have been working for at least one term before applying

You cannot come from a private agency.

If you teach in a private school or sixth-form college, you are not eligible.

### **Part-time teachers**

If you are a part-time teacher, you are eligible for the same levelling up premium payment amounts as full-time teachers.

You still need to meet the same eligibility criteria in full.

### **Breaks in teaching**

You are allowed to have some breaks in your normal employment which include:

- sickness, maternity, paternity, parental or adoption leave
- annual leave
- time between unfair dismissal and an employee being reinstated
- military service, for example with a reserve force
- temporary lay-offs

### **Performance**

You must not currently be subject to any:

- formal performance measures as a result of continuous poor teaching standards
- disciplinary action

## **Payments and deductions**

### **Number of payments**

You can only claim one additional payment in each academic year, even if you are eligible for more than one type of additional payment.

For example, if you are eligible for both the levelling up premium and early career payments, you can only claim one of these additional payments in the same academic year.

However, if you are eligible to [claim back your student loan repayments](#), you will be able to claim this as well as a levelling up premium payment or early-career payment.

### **Paying Income Tax and National Insurance**

The levelling up premium payment is considered taxable income.

The Department for Education will pay Income Tax up to basic rate (currently earnings of £12,571 to £50,270, taxed rate 20%) and National Insurance for the payment on your behalf.

If you become or already are a higher rate taxpayer, any additional Income Tax and National Insurance contributions for this payment over the higher rate will remain your responsibility. The higher rate is currently earnings of £50,271 to £150,000, taxed rate 40%.

The Department for Education is not liable to reimburse tax at the higher rate.

Review the tax bands updated on [Income Tax rates and Personal Allowances](#).

The payment is not part of your salary from your employer. You, your employer, or the government will not make a contribution to your pension as part of this payment.

Consider any other benefits or tax credits that could be affected if you claim this payment.

### Student loan deductions

If you have a student loan you are currently paying off, a deduction will go towards repaying your student loan. This is taken from your payment automatically.

## Contact

If you have any questions about the levelling up premium payments, email [levellinguppremiumpayments@digital.education.gov.uk](mailto:levellinguppremiumpayments@digital.education.gov.uk).

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