



Department
for Education

Early Years Initial Teacher Training – Requesting Places and Allocations Methodology

2023 to 2024 Academic Year

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Summary

This publication provides non-statutory guidance from the Department for Education. It has been produced to provide accredited initial teacher training providers with the methodology used to allocate places on their courses for the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

Who is this publication for?

This guidance is for:

Accredited providers offering Early Years initial teacher training courses in England for the 2023 to 2024 academic year

Main points

Each year the Department for Education requires accredited providers offering Early Years initial teacher training courses in England to communicate how many trainees they wish to recruit onto their courses for the following academic year. The Department for Education then grants a number of allocations to each provider for each relevant Early Years initial teacher training course, and asks providers to not recruit above that number.

For the 2023 to 2024 academic year, the allocations process is relevant only to providers wishing to offer Early Years courses leading to Early Years Teacher Status.

Introduction

The Department for Education (DfE) is responsible for regulating the volume of trainee early years teachers in England where training leads to the award of Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS). The Department also aims to support recruitment for all initial teacher training (ITT) courses in order to meet teacher demand from schools in England, efficiently using public funds and minimising an oversupply of teachers.

This document provides guidance on early years teacher trainee recruitment for the 2023 to 2024 academic year, and the methodology for allocating training places for the 2023 to 2024 recruitment cycle. It is intended to be of use for accredited EYITT providers across the country.

To formulate this approach, DfE has accounted for previous recruitment patterns, estimations provided from the Teacher Workforce Model (TWM), sector feedback and the information supplied by EYITT providers and lead schools during the allocation request period in June 2022, and data provided in the Recruitment Update Survey for AY 2022-23 taken in June and July 2022. DfE has also considered the implications of Covid-19 on the sector when developing this guidance. DfE, or any successor organisation, may modify or amend the approach taken in future years.

This guidance applies to the academic year 2023 to 2024 only.

Early Years courses leading to EYTS

There are four training routes available for people to train as an Early Years teacher and be awarded EYTS upon successful completion:

- **Graduate entry:** where a financial grant is allocated to providers by DfE to assist course fees coverage for graduate trainees studying full-time. Bursaries are available for eligible trainees (see 'ITT funding' section).
- **Graduate employment-based:** where a [training grant and employer incentive](#) is given respectively to graduate trainees and to the trainee's employer. This is a route open to graduates in paid employment, working in an early years setting and requiring further training to demonstrate Teachers' Standards (Early Years). Trainees must have the right to work in the UK for the duration of the training.
- **Undergraduate:** where a tuition fee is payable by a person studying for a full-time degree (three or four year-long) in an early childhood-related subject. Funding is not available for trainees on this route, but may be eligible to receive [a tuition fee or maintenance loan](#).
- **Assessment only:** a route for experienced practitioners (who may have gained qualifications overseas). This route is self funded.

Recruitment

EYITT courses leading to EYTS for the 2023 to 2024 academic year fall into the Allocated category, meaning providers are given a limited number of trainees they can recruit.

Allocated Recruitment to courses is limited by the number of places granted by the DfE to providers. 'Allocations' indicates the number of places available for each organisation to recruit trainees for each of their ITT courses in this category.

To recruit for Early Years courses leading to EYTS, accredited providers must first complete specific actions (see 'Recruiting for courses: Allocated category' section). On the basis of national early years professional demand and providers' requests, DfE grants an established set of allocations to providers for courses in this category. Providers must not recruit over their granted allocations, unless in-year requests are permitted, or communicated otherwise by DfE.

Preparing for recruitment

Provider-led training courses are held by ITT providers (SCITTs and HEIs). All organisations offering EYITT courses must ensure they have taken the adequate steps to ensure they are ready to recruit.

ITT accreditation

To ensure ITT providers and lead schools can offer Early Years courses for the 2023 to 2024 academic year, and recruit trainees for these, they must firstly ensure they have received accreditation by DfE. More information on the ITT accreditation process is available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Lead Schools

Existing lead schools must ensure they have the ability to recruit with the EYITT provider they partner with. New lead schools should contact

becomingateacher@digital.education.gov.uk for guidance, in order to be able to recruit. It

is advised that schools that wish to become a lead school first consider joining an

existing partnership in their area. Only schools judged by Ofsted as 'good' or

'outstanding' are able to register as a lead school. The minimum partnership size is five partner schools (or three for special schools).

Recruiting for courses: Allocations

To recruit trainees for courses in the allocated recruitment category for the 2023 to 2024 academic year, accredited providers must:

- Request permission to recruit trainees by contacting the EYITT allocations mailbox (eyitt.ALLOCATIONS@education.gov.uk).
- Provide recruitment figures
- Receive allocations

They will then be able to open their courses for applications.

Where applicable, they can also consider:

- In-year allocations

Requesting permission to recruit trainees

The process to request permission to recruit applied only for courses in the allocated category, and had to be completed by all accredited EYITT providers between Monday 6th June 2022 and Thursday 30th June 2022. For lead schools, their permission to recruit was to be completed by the EYITT provider they partner with. EYITT Providers were instructed to inform DfE of their recruitment figures for each of their courses in the allocated recruitment category for the 2023 to 2024 academic year (see 'Recruitment figures' section). They were also asked to agree on requests being made on behalf of lead schools and ensure they submitted all requests before the end of the request period. Partnerships were able to decide for themselves whether lead school requests were completed by the lead school or the EYITT provider, as long as the EYITT provider submitted the request to DfE.

The request to offer this course and the recruitment figures were to be submitted via a Microsoft Form. The form was sent via email from GOV.UK to all accredited EYITT providers by DfE.

We will run additional recruitment windows in early 2023 and spring 2023 to give providers the opportunity to bid for additional places for the AY 2023-24.

Recruitment figures

When requesting permission to recruit for courses in the allocated recruitment category, providers were required to specify the recruitment figures for their EYITT courses for the 2023 to 2024 academic year. DfE requires this information to understand demand and capacity in the system nationally. The Database of Trainee Teachers & Providers (DTTP) is not used to collect information of requests.

When considering these figures, EYITT providers and lead schools should account for their most recent cohort sizes, recent recruitment patterns, current or anticipated growth in partnership arrangements, recent trends in applicant route preferences and a realistic assessment of employment need in the local area. This applies to the capacity for training that their partnerships can accommodate and their ability to attract high quality trainees who will make excellent teachers. EYITT providers and lead schools have a responsibility to ensure that DfE funding, data and reporting requirements are met, and therefore are responsible for submitting accurate information on the capacity of their training programmes. Any errors in submission are the sole responsibility of the EYITT provider or lead school. Requests to amend or correct data beyond the deadline will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Allocations

All allocation requests to deliver both the postgraduate and undergraduate EYITT routes for 2023 to 2024 academic year were granted. As stated in the Requesting Permission to Recruit Trainees section, providers will have the opportunity to apply to deliver more places for both routes at two points during the 2023 to 2024 academic year. Opening and closing courses

EYITT providers are able to open their courses to applicants once their allocations have been granted, and start recruiting trainees. Providers are advised to close their courses when they run out of places for courses. They may want to re-open these courses should they have newly-freed places, such as if a candidate withdraws their accepted offer.

Adding new courses

Where a provider wants to add a new EYITT course for the 2023 to 2024 academic year, they should contact the Department for Education via EYITT.GENERALENQUIRIES@education.gov.uk.

Data accuracy

Accredited ITT providers who report inaccurate data may be impacted in their permission to recruit or in their granted allocations in subsequent years. Following the [ITT criteria and supporting advice](#), failure to comply with DfE data requirements may lead to withdrawal of accreditation.



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