

Research Briefing

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Initial teacher training in England

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Summary

- 1 Background
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Summary

This briefing provides information on initial teacher training (ITT) for school teachers in England, focusing on the different ITT routes, the sources of financial support for trainees, and recent policy developments. A separate Library Briefing, [Teacher recruitment and retention in England](#), provides information on teacher supply and retention more generally.

In academic year 2022/23 [around 29,000 individuals entered ITT in England through several different routes](#). Although they vary in other ways, key distinctions between the different ITT routes are whether they are school-centred or higher education led, and whether the trainee pays tuition fees or receives a salary. All ITT courses include time spent teaching in at least two schools and lead to an award of qualified teacher status (QTS).

All teacher trainees, regardless of route, are required to meet a number of minimum standards. They must, for example, hold GCSEs in English and Maths (and science for enrolment on primary ITT) at grade C / grade 4 or higher.

The system of financial support for teacher trainees is complex. Broadly, eligible undergraduate and postgraduate trainees on non-salaried routes can apply for funding under the standard undergraduate student support system. In addition, a range of bursaries and scholarships are available for postgraduates, depending on the subject they are training in and the class of their first degree. Since 2018/19, the Department for Education (DfE) has also been using early career payments as a means of encouraging teacher retention. Payments are available to certain teachers starting their ITT in the 2018/19, 2019/20 or 2020/21 academic years.

In January 2021, the Department for Education appointed an expert group to conduct a [review of the Initial Teacher Training market](#). The [ITT market review report](#) was published in July 2021. Its key recommendation was for revised standards and accreditation for ITT. The subsequent reaccreditation of providers has proved controversial, with a significant number of providers no longer be accredited as of September 2024.

1 Background

1.1 Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

Teachers in local authority maintained schools in England are required to have Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), although certain exemptions apply in relation to some staff (e.g. those employed as instructors).¹

The same general requirement to hold QTS is not in place for mainstream free schools and academies, unless their funding agreement requires it. If an academy's funding agreement does require the employment of qualified teachers, the Department for Education (DfE) may agree to relax the requirement if the school requests it. Of the 465,500 full time equivalent teachers in November 2021, around 12,600 (3%) were unqualified.²

Even in academies, special educational needs coordinators and designated teachers for looked after children must have QTS. All teachers in special academies must also hold QTS.³

Individuals with Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status and membership with the Society for Education and Training may also be eligible to work as a qualified teacher in schools. It is up to schools and local authorities to determine if they are suitable for a post and to teach a particular subject.⁴

Awarding of QTS

The Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) is responsible for the awarding of QTS, with the award usually made at the end of teacher training. Only accredited initial teacher training (ITT) providers can recommend trainees for QTS.

1 The closure of the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL)

In November 2017, the Government announced that the NCTL would close from April 2018, with its teacher recruitment functions merged into the DfE. A new executive agency, the Teaching Regulation Agency, has taken on the NCTL's functions relating to the regulation of the teaching profession, including the awarding of QTS.⁵

The [Teachers' Standards](#) define the minimum level of practice expected of teachers from the point of being awarded QTS. They are also used to assess trainees working towards QTS, with [DfE guidance](#) stating that ITT providers should assess trainees against the standards “in a way that is consistent with what could reasonably be expected of a trainee teacher prior to the award of QTS”.⁶

2 Qualified teachers from overseas

Up until December 2020 nationals from EEA member states and Switzerland could have their teaching qualifications recognised in England. A temporary scheme is currently in place.

Qualified teachers from outside the UK can teach for four years in most schools without QTS. Teachers who trained abroad can apply for QTS, with different routes available depending on where they trained. Information on [applying for QTS for those with teaching experience outside the UK](#) is available from the Department for Education.⁷

A new [international QTS qualification](#) (iQTS) has been developed for UK and non-UK citizens living outside the UK to achieve QTS.

In the 2021-22 financial year (the latest available data), 704 QTS awards were made to qualified teachers from the EEA and Switzerland – a decrease of 64% from the previous year.

980 QTS awards were made to teachers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, an increase of 2% from the previous year.⁸

¹ Education (Specified Work) (England) Regulations 2012, SI 2012/762.

² Full time equivalent is a measure of the total size of the teaching workforce, but it is adjusted for whether a teacher works part-time or full-time. Department for Education, [School workforce in England: November 2021](#), last updated 3 April 2023 ([custom table created 14 April 2023](#)).

³ Department for Education, [Governance handbook: For academies, multi-academy trusts and maintained schools](#), March 2019, pp70-71.

⁴ Teaching Regulation Agency, [Qualified teacher status \(QTS\): qualify to teach in England](#), 3 October 2019.

⁵ National College for Teaching and Leadership, [TSM and initial teacher training allocations: 2018 to 2019](#), last updated 30 November 2017.

⁶ Department for Education, [Teachers' Standards: Guidance for school leaders, school staff and governing bodies](#), July 2011, p6.

⁷ Department for Education, [Routes to qualified teacher status \(QTS\) for teachers and those with teaching experience outside the UK](#), 23 January 2023

⁸ Teaching Regulation Agency, [Teaching Regulation Agency annual report and accounts 2021 to 2022](#), 21 July 2022.

Introduction of the Early Career Framework

A [consultation](#) launched by the DfE in December 2017 proposed that QTS should be awarded following a two-year induction period as a new teacher rather than at the end of ITT. However, in its response to the consultation, published in May 2018, the DfE stated that, while the induction period for new teachers would be extended to two years as proposed, QTS would continue to be awarded at the end of ITT. It added that an Early Career Framework of support and mentoring for the induction period would be introduced.

The [Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#) provided more detail on the Early Career Framework, which was rolled out nationally from September 2021, with early rollout from September 2020 in the North East and other selected areas.

Guidance on the [Early Career Framework](#) was published in 2019.⁹

1.2 Content of ITT

While it is the responsibility of individual providers to design an ITT curriculum that is “appropriate for the subject, phase and age range that the trainees will be teaching”, an [ITT Core Content Framework](#) sets out “the minimum entitlement of all trainee teachers”. Providers are expected to “ensure that their curricula encompasses the full entitlement described in the...Framework, as well as integrating additional analysis, and critique of theory, research and expert practice as they deem appropriate.” The Framework is presented around the teachers’ standards, but it is not an assessment framework. Trainee teachers are assessed against the Teachers’ Standards only.¹⁰

In May 2019, the DfE announced that an expert group had been appointed to review the content of teacher training and recommend ways to align this with the Early Career Framework. The revised Core Content Framework was published in November 2019.¹¹ It replaces an earlier version – A framework of core content for initial teacher training – which was published in response to the Carter Review of ITT (see section 4.2 below).

The DfE has also published advice on [developing behaviour management content](#) [PDF] for ITT and on [addressing teacher workload in ITT](#).¹²

⁹ Department for Education, [Early Career Framework](#), October 2019

¹⁰ Department for Education, [ITT Core Content Framework](#), November 2019, pp3-4.

¹¹ Department for Education, [New support for trainee teachers](#), 20 May 2019.

¹² Department for Education, [Addressing teacher workload in Initial Teacher Education \(ITE\)](#), November 2018, p3; Department for Education, [Developing behaviour management content for initial teacher training \(ITT\)](#), July 2016.

1.3 Inspection of ITT

Ofsted is responsible for inspecting all providers of ITT programmes leading to QTS. Further information is available in Ofsted's [Initial teacher education inspection handbook](#).

1.4 Allocation of ITT places

The DfE uses a statistical model – the Teacher Supply Model – to estimate the number of teacher trainees required in England in each subject and phase for one year in advance. These estimates are used to allocate training places to ITT providers and Schools Direct Lead Schools. Initial teacher training is largely focused on postgraduate courses, which make up 90% of training places.

Since the 2016/17 academic year, there have been changes to the process of allocating training places to ITT providers involving the progressive removal of controls on recruitment for certain providers and subjects.

In the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, ITT providers had fixed allocations for recruitment to undergraduate, Early Years and some physical education ITT courses. Recruitment controls were lifted for all other postgraduate courses, meaning that providers could recruit as many trainees as they wish, with no cap.¹³

In 2021/22, the number of places allocated for undergraduate courses leading to QTS was equal to recruitment figures submitted during the request period in June/July 2020, and for postgraduate courses leading to QTS the allocations remained consistent with 2020/21. Early years courses leading to QTS were set at 335, accounting for recruitment trends in previous years.¹⁴

For 2022/23, recruitment for postgraduate courses leading to QTS, with the exception of fee-funded PE (physical education) courses, were unlimited, as were undergraduate ITT courses leading to QTS. All of the places requested for early years courses leading to EYTS were granted.

On PE course allocations, the DfE said:

- fee-funded postgraduate PE courses leading to QTS: the number of places allocated for these courses was equal to the allocations issued for the 2021 to 2022 academic year for providers that have offered this course

¹³ Department for Education, [Initial teacher training allocations methodology: 2019 to 2020](#), September 2018; Department for Education, Initial teacher training allocations methodology for 2020 to 2021

¹⁴ Department for Education, [ITT: requesting places and allocations methodology 2021 to 2022](#), December 2020, p12

previously - providers seeking to deliver fee-funded PE courses for the first time were granted 50% of the places they requested¹⁵

¹⁵ Department for Education, [ITT: requesting places and allocations methodology for the 2022 to 2023 academic year](#), January 2022

2 Teacher training routes

2.1 Introduction

In academic year 2022/23, around 29,000 individuals entered one of several ITT routes. Although they vary in other ways, the main distinctions between the different ITT routes are:

- **Whether they are ‘school-centred’ (for example, the School Direct programme and Teach First) or ‘higher education-centred’ (for example, a university-based PGCE course).** The policy of recent governments has been to move toward “an increasingly school-led ITT system.”¹⁶ In line with this, the general trend has been an increasing proportion of trainees entering school-led routes. 56% of postgraduate ITT entrants in 2022/23 were on school-led routes.¹⁷
- **Whether they are undergraduate or postgraduate.** The majority of ITT trainees (80% in 2022/23) are enrolled on postgraduate courses.
- **Whether the trainee pays tuition fees or receives a salary.**
- All ITT courses include time spent teaching in at least two schools and lead to QTS. They can also all (except undergraduate) include a postgraduate qualification, usually a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE).

The Department for Education’s (DfE) [Get Into Teaching](#) website provides information on the different training routes. A summary of each is provided below.

Statistics on ITT routes, including the number entrants to each route and the proportion of trainees on each route awarded QTS, is available in the following DfE publications:

- DfE, [Initial teacher training performance profiles: 2020 to 2021](#), 28 July 2022.
- DfE, [Initial teacher training: trainee number census 2022 to 2023](#), 1 December 2022.

¹⁶ Department for Education, [Educational Excellence Everywhere](#), March 2016, p28.

¹⁷ Department for Education, [Initial teacher training: trainee number census 2022 to 2023](#), last updated 7 December 2022.

2.2 Higher education institution-led training

Universities and colleges offer teacher training courses for both graduates and undergraduates.

Undergraduate teacher training

There are three types of undergraduate degrees that lead to QTS, all of which generally last 3-4 years (full time):

- Bachelor of Education (Bed) degrees: most common for undergraduates hoping to become primary school teachers.
- Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc) degrees: most common for individuals hoping to become secondary school teachers.

There are also now a limited number of undergraduate degrees that allow the student to incorporate teacher training partway through the degree course, after an experience of classroom teaching. Successful students graduate with both a degree in their chosen subject and a recommendation for QTS. The length of the degree course is unaffected as the school placements are incorporated within the original course length. Degrees with QTS opt-in all focus on secondary school teaching and BA, BSc and Integrated Masters courses are available.

Postgraduate teacher training

Postgraduate teacher training courses last one year (full-time) and lead to QTS and a postgraduate qualification, usually a [Post-Graduate Certificate in Education](#) (PGCE). As well as studying at university or college, trainees also spend a minimum of 24 weeks in placement schools.

2.3 School-led routes

There are currently two main categories of school-led ITT routes for graduates in England: School Direct and School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT). A teaching apprenticeship has also been introduced from September 2018.

School Direct

School Direct courses are designed by schools in partnership with a university or a school-centred initial teacher training (SCITT) provider who certify successful trainees. Candidates are recruited as trainees by the School Direct Lead School. Courses generally last one year.

Two types of School Direct training places are available: School Direct (tuition fee) and School Direct (salaried). The latter of these replaced the earlier Graduate Teaching Programme, which was closed to new applicants in October 2012.

As the name suggests, trainees on the School Direct (tuition fee) route are required to pay tuition fees and are eligible for the standard student support package along with any bursaries and scholarships where available (see section four below).

Trainees on the School Direct (salaried) route are employed as an unqualified teacher and are paid a salary while they train, the level of which is dependent on the school and the subject they teach.¹⁸ They are not eligible for student support funding, bursaries or scholarships.

Schools Direct to cease from 2024

In December 2022, the Department for Education published guidance on [forming partnerships to provide ITT](#) from September 2024, which said that accredited providers should cease marketing a 'School Direct' fee-funded route to candidates for courses starting from September 2024.

The guidance said the Department was considering how to manage similar routes into teaching in future:

Salaried teacher training is and will remain an important part of the ITT offer. Currently, DfE is considering how best to streamline salaried routes into teaching, whilst ensuring they remain viable and attractive for both providers and trainees. As part of this, the DfE is considering how to consolidate the School Direct Salaried route and Postgraduate teacher apprenticeship into a single employment-based route under the apprenticeships banner.¹⁹

School-centred initial teacher training (SCITT)

School-centred initial teacher training (SCITT) courses are designed and delivered by groups of schools that have been given government approval to run their own ITT. They are similar to the School Direct (tuition fee) route.

Students are usually based in one school from the consortium – the lead school – while completing teaching practices at other schools within the group. As with the School Direct (tuition fee) route, courses generally last for one academic year full-time and result in QTS. Many also award a PGCE from a university.

¹⁸ School Direct partnerships are required to meet the full costs of training to qualified teacher status (QTS) and the trainee's salary as they are employed whilst undertaking their training. Grant funding is provided to School Direct lead schools as a contribution to these costs. For further information, see the DfE's [School Direct \(salaried\) funding manual](#).

¹⁹ Department for Education, [Initial teacher training \(ITT\): forming partnerships](#), December 2022, p6

3 Assessment-only route to QTS

Experienced teachers with a degree can achieve QTS without having to do any further training through the assessment only route. This is only available to unqualified teachers who have taught in at least two schools. To achieve QTS through the assessment only route, individuals are required to present evidence that they meet the QTS standards. Their teaching is assessed in a school by an accredited assessment only provider. Further information is available on the [Get Into Teaching website](#) and on the Gov.uk website at: [Assessment only route to QTS](#).

Concerns have been raised that the assessment only route may be being used as a shortcut to QTS, with some providers allowing teaching assistants without the necessary teaching experience to qualify as teachers.²⁰

Teacher apprenticeships

Following a commitment in the party's 2017 manifesto that a Conservative government would "ensure that teaching assistants can become qualified teachers...via a degree apprenticeship route", in October 2017 the Government announced that a postgraduate teaching apprenticeship would be launched in September 2018.²¹

The apprenticeship is a school-led ITT route and mirrors the entry criteria and course content of other postgraduate teacher training routes. All apprentices are paid as unqualified teachers.²²

[Guidance](#) published by the DfE provides further information, including that:

- ITT providers and schools will decide the overall structure of the apprenticeship, but the apprentice must spend 20% of their time in off-the-job training.
- Apprentices will work towards attaining QTS
- Employers that pay the apprenticeship levy will be able to use up to £9,000 of funding from their apprenticeship service account to cover the cost of training and assessing the apprentice. Schools that do not pay

²⁰ [Teaching assistants allowed to gain QTS through assessment-only route](#), *Schools Week*, 4 November 2017.

²¹ Conservative Party, [Forward, Together: The Conservative and Unionist Party Manifesto 2017](#), May 2017, p53.

²² [New route into classroom for aspiring teachers](#), Department for Education, 19 October 2017.

the levy will receive Government funding to cover up to 95% of training costs.²³

There were 796 entrants to the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship in 2022/23.²⁴

2.4 Part-time and accelerated training

Although the majority of trainees take ITT courses full-time, accelerated and part-time courses are also available.

A limited number of accelerated courses are available under both the School Direct (tuition fee) and SCITT routes, which allow for QTS to be achieved in two terms rather than a year. Part-time courses are available under both university-led and school-led routes. Under the courses, training is spread over a longer period, usually two years.

2.5 Specialist training routes

Teach First

Teach First is a charity that since 2002 has run a two-year training programme for individuals interested in an employment-based route into teaching. There were 1,393 entrants to the Teach First training route in 2022/23, 6% of the year's total number of postgraduate ITT entrants.²⁵

Under the training programme, trainees receive five weeks of training at a summer institute before teaching in a school in a low-income community for two years, first as an unqualified teacher and then as a NQT during the second year. Trainees are [paid a full-time salary](#) and gain a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). They are also given the opportunity to work towards a Masters qualification after they have achieved QTS and the PGDE.

To be eligible for Teach First candidates must, among other things, have a 2:1 degree or higher. Further information is available on the Teach First website at: [Training Programme](#).

²³ Department for Education, [Provide training for postgraduate teaching apprenticeships](#), last updated February 2022

²⁴ Department for Education, [Initial teacher training: trainee number census 2022 to 2023](#), last updated 7 December 2022.

²⁵ As above.

Troops to Teachers

Following the 2010 general election, the Coalition Government announced that it would develop a ‘Troops to Teachers’ programme to encourage more ex-service personnel to train as teachers.²⁶

The programme was a two-year employment-based route open to service leavers who did not hold a first degree, which led to the award of an honours degree with QTS.

This version of the Troops to Teachers training programme has ceased to operate and, since academic year 2018/19, has been replaced with [bursaries of £40,000 for ex-service personnel to train as teachers](#).

The bursary is available to eligible veterans who study for an undergraduate degree with QTS in England in secondary biology, physics, chemistry, computing, maths or modern foreign languages.²⁷ It has been reported that the money will not be recouped if veterans do not enter teaching after completing their degree.²⁸

To be eligible, a person must, among other things:

- not already have an undergraduate degree; and
- have left full time employment in the British Army, Royal Air Force or Royal Navy in the last five years.
- Be entitled to support under the student support eligibility criteria.

The DfE has stated that the bursary will give veterans greater flexibility than the earlier training programme by “enabling them to train with any Initial Teacher Training provider.”²⁹

In October 2019, Schools Week reported that 22 ex-service personnel took up the bursaries in academic year 2018/19.³⁰

The number of bursaries taken up is not routinely published. However, recent PQ responses show that the number is very low.³¹ In calendar year 2022 four were awarded.³²

²⁶ Department for Education, [The Importance of Teaching – The Schools White Paper 2010](#), November 2010, Cm 7980, p22, para 2.15.

²⁷ [Troops to Teachers - undergraduate initial teacher training bursary](#), Troops to Teachers, last accessed 25 November 2019.

²⁸ [£40k bursaries for veterans to replace doomed £10m Troops to Teachers scheme](#), Schools Week, 6 March 2018.

²⁹ [New bursary to get veterans into teaching](#), Department for Education, 6 March 2018.

³⁰ [Rebooted Troops to Teachers fails to take off](#), Schools Week, 18 October 2019.

³¹ [PQ 104126](#), 9 December 2022; [PQ 66](#), 16 May 2022

³² [PQ 104126](#), 9 December 2022

Researchers in schools

Researchers in Schools (RIS) is an employment-based teacher training programme delivered by the charity, The Brilliant Club, for individuals who have completed or are finishing a PhD.

The programme runs over an initial two years, with trainees achieving QTS in their first year and completing their NQT year by the end of year two. In an optional third year, participants continue teaching and are eligible to undertake a leadership qualification.

As part of the programme, trainees have one day a week off timetable to work towards the RIS aims (to increase and disseminate subject expertise, to promote research, and to champion university access). This includes delivering Uni pathways – interventions aimed at supporting pupils from under-represented groups to successfully apply for university – and carrying out their own educational or academic research and maintaining their academic profile.

More information is available on the [Researchers in Schools website](#).

Maths and Physics Chairs programme

The Government-supported [Maths and Physics Chairs Programme](#) is part of RIS and was launched in May 2014. The programme originally only covered postdoctoral trainees in maths and physics, but in 2018 it was expanded to cover trainees in all English Baccalaureate subjects (English language and literature, mathematics, the sciences, history or geography, and a language).

The programme is similar to RIS but the third year of the programme is compulsory rather than optional. In addition, the DfE funds a salary uplift for trainees on the salaried route on top of what other RIS trainees receive.

Future teaching scholars

Future Teaching Scholars is a six-year training route for maths and physics undergraduates with an interest in teaching; the first cohort of trainees entered the programme in September 2016.

During years one to three, participants complete their undergraduate degree and receive a £5,000 grant at the start of each year, in addition to early preparation for teaching. In year four, they undertake postgraduate employment-based teacher training and are paid a salary on the [unqualified teacher pay scale](#). For the final two years, participants are employed as a maths or physics teacher and are paid on the [qualified teacher pay scale](#).

Further information is available on the [Future Teaching Scholars website](#).

2.6

Training to teach pupils with SEND

Some ITT courses offer a particular focus on ensuring that trainees have the opportunity to develop further skills for working with pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This can, for example, include specific modules on SEND and/or more opportunities to work in special schools, SEND units and resourced provision. An individual can apply for a job in a mainstream school, special school or alternative provision whether or not their ITT included a focus on SEND.

Individuals wishing to become a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) need to be a qualified teacher and complete the National Award in Special Educational Needs Coordination within three years of taking up a SENCO post.³³

The March 2022 SEND Green Paper, [SEND review: right support, right place, right time](#), included plans for a consultation on a new SENCO National Professional Qualification (NPQ) for school SENCOs, and to increase the number of staff with an accredited Level 3 SENCo qualification in early years settings.³⁴

In March 2023, the Government published its [SEND and alternative provision improvement plan](#), which confirmed the Government's intention to proceed with the new qualification, with details on timings and providers for the qualification yet to be announced.³⁵

There is also a mandatory qualification for individuals wishing to teach pupils with sensory impairments.³⁶

³³ [Training to teach pupils with SEND](#), Get Into Teaching, last accessed 25 November 2019.

³⁴ Department for Education, [SEND Review: right support, right place, right time](#), March 2022

³⁵ Department for Education, [The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan](#), 3 March 2023. See House of Commons Library, [The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan](#), for a discussion of the plan as a whole.

³⁶ Department for Education, [Mandatory qualifications: specialist teachers](#), March 2023

4 Education Committee report

In February 2017, the Education Committee published a [report on the recruitment and retention of teachers](#). The report mainly focused on broader issues of teacher supply, but concerning ITT it stated that the “number of different routes into teaching are not always well understood by applicants and can be confusing”. It added that “the absence of a central application system for school-led ITT leads to inefficient application systems and does little to address regional shortages”.³⁷

In its response, the Government recognised “that there is more to do to help candidates navigate the options available to them” and set out the work it was doing to “improve the support available and to simplify the teacher training application process.” It also noted the large number of school-based training providers in the ITT marketplace and encouraged them to work collaboratively at a regional level to “provide candidates with a more coherent view of the market.”³⁸

In March 2023, the Committee opened a new [inquiry on Teacher recruitment, training and retention](#).

2.7

General entry requirements for ITT

Students entering ITT in England must meet a number of minimum standards. All students, regardless of training pathway, are required to hold GCSEs in English and Maths at grade C / grade 4 or higher, or be able to demonstrate they have reached an equivalent standard. Those enrolling on primary ITT courses are also required to hold GCSE science at grade C / grade 4 or above.

A degree is required to gain QTS and for those enrolling on postgraduate courses. Individuals without a degree can train on university-led undergraduate ITT courses and graduate with QTS.³⁹

Individual ITT providers may set their own more stringent requirements for entry onto their programmes. The majority of providers will also, for example, require applicants to have some school experience. This can be arranged directly with a school or, alternatively, the DfE runs a school experience programme (SEP). Further information is available on the Get Into Teaching website at: [Getting school experience](#).

³⁷ Education Committee, [Recruitment and retention of teachers](#), February 2017, HC199, pp9-10.

³⁸ Education Committee, [Recruitment and retention of teachers: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report](#), May 2017, HC 638, pp4-5.

³⁹ Get Into Teaching, [What qualifications do you need to be a teacher?](#)

5 Subject knowledge enhancement courses

ITT providers who feel that an applicant's subject knowledge is not sufficient may require them to take a subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) course. This could, for example, be the case if the applicant's degree wasn't in their chosen subject but it is closely related, or if they studied the subject at A level but not at university.

SKE courses are available in maths, physics, languages, biology, chemistry, computing, English, geography, religious education, design and technology, and primary maths. They are provided by universities, schools, or third parties and range in length from 8-28 weeks. Courses are fully funded and bursaries of up to £200 per week may be available, which are paid by the training provider.

Applicants for ITT in modern foreign languages can complete two fully funded SKE courses in order to allow them to refresh their main teaching language and to study another language.

Further information is available on the Get Into Teaching website at: [Subject knowledge enhancement \(SKE\) courses](#).

Professionals Skills Test

From September 2012, entrants to all ITT courses were required to sit and pass professional skills tests in literacy and numeracy before beginning their ITT course. Previously, trainees could complete these tests during the course of their studies.

Previously, if trainees were unsuccessful in three attempts at the tests they were required to wait two years before they could make another three attempts. The first attempt at each test was free of charge. However, since 15 February 2018 trainees have been eligible to take three free tests rather than one. In addition, the two-year lock-out period has been removed, with no limit on the number of tests a candidate can take.⁴⁰

In July 2019, the DfE announced that the skills tests would be abolished and replaced with a new approach to assessing numeracy and literacy for trainees starting ITT from April 2020 onwards. Under the reformed system, ITT providers assure that trainees have a set of fundamental English and maths skills by the end of their ITT.⁴¹

⁴⁰ [Measures announced to ensure talented trainees get into teaching](#), Department for Education, 22 February 2018.

⁴¹ [Changes to the professional skills test for teachers](#), Department for Education, 16 July 2019

Further information on the new approach is available in guidance published by the DfE: [Initial teacher training \(ITT\): criteria and supporting advice](#).

3 Financial support for trainee teachers

The system of financial support for teacher trainees in England is complex. Individuals considering applying for ITT may like to contact a Get Into Teaching adviser (0800 389 2500 or [online chat service](#)), their higher education institution, or Student Finance England for advice on the funding that could be available.

Further information is available on the [Get Into Teaching website](#) and in [guidance published by the DfE](#).

3.1 Undergraduate trainees

For undergraduate ITT students, the financial arrangements are the same as for other students undertaking a first degree course. Eligible students can apply for student loans to cover fees and maintenance costs, and may be eligible for additional support – for example, help towards childcare costs. Further information is available on the Gov.uk website at: [Student finance](#).

Undergraduate students may also be eligible for bursaries or other support offered by their institution. They should contact the institution they are studying at, or considering applying to, for further information.

The Get Into Teaching website also includes information on [support for undergraduates](#).

3.2 Postgraduate trainees

For postgraduate trainees, the amount and type of support depends on personal eligibility and financial circumstances, prior qualifications, type of course (particularly, subject specialism) and mode of study.

The information below relates to trainees on unsalaried postgraduate ITT routes (for example, university-led postgraduate, School Direct (tuition fee) and SCITT). Those enrolled on training routes that include a salary (for example, School Direct (Salaried), Researchers in Schools and Teach First), are not eligible for bursaries or other student support.

Mainstream student support

Individuals on non-salaried postgraduate ITT courses are generally eligible for tuition fee and maintenance loans from Student Finance England under the standard undergraduate student support system (see above). Trainees who are eligible for undergraduate support are not also able to receive a [postgraduate masters loan](#).⁴² Further information is available on the Get Into Teaching website at: [Postgraduate tuition fee and maintenance loans](#).

Bursaries and scholarships

Postgraduate trainees may also qualify for a training bursary in addition to mainstream student support. The bursaries available depend on the trainee's subject and the class of their undergraduate degree. Trainees do not need to apply for a bursary, if they meet the eligibility criteria payments will start when they begin their course.

There are also a number of specialist competitive scholarships available to recruits in certain subjects. Scholarships are jointly awarded by the Government and professional bodies, and selection is through an additional application and assessment process. Each scholarship also comes with a package of non-financial benefits, such as early career support and membership of the appropriate professional body.⁴³

A [table on the Get Into Teaching Website](#) provides an overview of bursary and scholarship levels for the 2023/24 academic year.⁴⁴

Early-career payments and phased bursaries

Since 2018-19, the Government has been using [early career-payments](#) as a means of encouraging teacher retention. Payments of £2,000 or £5,000 (rising to £3,000 and £7,000 in 'uplift areas') are available to teachers from September in the 2022 to 2023, 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025 academic years.

Teacher are eligible if they started a postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) course or completed an undergraduate ITT course in the following subjects and academic years:

- mathematics in the 2018 to 2019, 2019 to 2020 or 2020 to 2021 academic year
- physics, chemistry and languages in the 2020 to 2021 academic year

⁴² [Postgraduate Loan](#), Student Finance England

⁴³ [Scholarships](#), Get Into Teaching

⁴⁴ The Government has published more detailed guidance on bursaries: [Initial teacher training bursaries funding manual: academic year 2023 to 2024, March 2023](#)

Levelling up premium payments

[‘Levelling up’ premium payments](#) of between £1,500 and £3,000 are payable to teachers in schools identified as having a high need for teachers.

Eligible teachers of the following subjects can claim a levelling up premium payment for teaching in eligible state-funded secondary schools:

- chemistry
- computing
- mathematics
- physics

3.3

Teachers’ student loan forgiveness

Since 2019, the Government has operated a student loan reimbursement programme for science and languages teachers in the early years of their careers.

In the most recent round, teachers can claim from September 2022 – March 2023 if they:

- taught biology, chemistry, physics, computing or languages during the 2021 to 2022 financial year (6 April 2021 to 5 April 2022)
- taught at a school in an eligible local authority during the 2021 to 2022 financial year
- spent at least 50% of your contracted hours teaching one or more eligible subjects
- completed your initial teacher training (ITT) course between the 2013 to 2014 academic year and 2020 to 2021 academic year (1 September to 31 August), including those years
- are currently employed as a teacher at a state-funded secondary school in England

The Department for Education has published wider [details of the scheme](#), including the list of eligible local authorities.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Department for Education, [Teachers: claim back your student loan repayments](#), 6 December 2022

4 Policy developments in ITT

This section provides a very brief overview of ITT policy since 2010. A short summary of ITT policy before 2010 is provided in the Higher Education Policy Institute's April 2017 report, [Whither teacher training?](#) (pages 5-12).

4.1 The Coalition Government

The Coalition Government made a number of significant reforms to ITT.⁴⁶ Key changes included:

- A significant expansion of the Teach First programme.
- Launch of the School Direct programme and an increasing prioritisation of ITT funding on providers that involved schools in training programmes.
- The launch of the Troops to Teachers programme for ex-service personnel.
- Ongoing reform of Ofsted's inspection framework for ITT providers.
- Making successful completion of the professional skills tests a prerequisite for beginning an ITT course.
- Increased targeting of financial support in particular subject areas, and on those with higher class first degrees.

4.2 Carter Review of ITT

On 1 May 2014, the then Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, appointed Sir Andrew Carter to chair an independent review of ITT courses.⁴⁷

The [review's report](#), published in January 2015, concluded that the ITT system generally performs well and that it is difficult to draw conclusions about whether one training route is better than another. The report also made a

⁴⁶ Department for Education, [The Importance of Teaching. The Schools White Paper](#), November 2010, Cm 7980; Department for Education, [Training our next generation of outstanding teachers. An improvement strategy for discussion](#), June 2011; and Department for Education, [Training our next generation of outstanding teachers. An implementation plan](#), November 2011

⁴⁷ Department for Education, [Carter Review of Initial Teacher Training \(England\): Call for Evidence \[PDF\]](#), 20 August 2014, para 2.1.

number of conclusions and recommendations for improvement in particular areas. These included:

- There is considerable variability in ITT course content and potentially significant gaps in a range of courses. There may be a case for a better shared understanding of what the essential elements of good ITT content look like. The DfE should commission a sector body to develop a framework of core content for ITT.
- Of all areas of ITT content, the most significant improvements are needed for training in assessment. A central repository of resources and guidance on assessment should be developed.
- There is some reluctance towards practical approaches to training in behaviour management. Behaviour management should be prioritised within ITT programmes and it is vital that trainees receive practical advice and strategies.
- Mentoring across England is not as good as it should be. The DfE should commission a sector body to develop some national standards for mentors.
- Providers and trainees have expressed frustration about the professional skills tests, arguing that they can lead to otherwise good candidates being lost from ITT. The DfE should review the effectiveness of the skills tests in selecting high quality trainees.
- The current information about routes into teaching is confusing. The NCTL's Get into Teaching website should be developed and expanded to signpost information that applicants should consider when making choices about ITT courses.⁴⁸

Coalition Government's response

In its [response to the Carter Review](#), the Coalition Government stated that it would, among other things:

- Commission an independent working group made up of expert representatives from the sector to develop a core ITT framework. In March 2015, it was announced that Stephen Munday, Chief Executive of Comberton Academy Trust, had been appointed as chair of the group.⁴⁹
- Commission the Teaching Schools Council to develop a set of national standards for mentors.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ Sir Andrew Carter OBE, [Carter Review of Initial Teacher Training \(ITT\)](#), January 2015, pp5-15.

⁴⁹ Department for Education, [Government response to the Carter review of initial teacher training \(ITT\)](#), January 2015, p3.

⁵⁰ As above, p6.

- develop a page on the Get into Teaching website which will signpost relevant information for applicants to consider.⁵¹

In June 2015, it was additionally announced that the Education Secretary, Justine Greening, was appointing behaviour expert, Tom Bennett, to lead a new group to develop better training for new teachers on how to tackle low-level classroom disruption.⁵²

4.3 Reports of working groups on ITT

The reports of the three groups – on ITT core content, behaviour, and standards for mentors – were published in July 2016 along with a response from the 2015 Government.

Framework of core content for ITT

The report of the working group led by Stephen Munday set out a framework of core content for ITT (included as an appendix to the report) and recommended that it should be adopted by the DfE and used as one of the measures of quality when allocating ITT places to providers.

The framework gave direction to ITT providers on what should be prioritised in order to ensure that their programmes “enable trainees to meet the Teachers’ Standards in full at the level appropriate to the end of a period of initial teacher training.”⁵³

The 2015 Government accepted the recommendation to adopt the framework of core content, which it stated meant that “ITT providers will need to ensure that their programmes align with the new framework, and are able to demonstrate this when submitting their requests for ITT places.”⁵⁴ In November 2019, the framework was replaced with the [ITT Core Content Framework](#).

Behaviour management content for ITT

[The report of the working group](#) chaired by Tom Bennett set out a number of recommendations aimed at providing “a broad and practical introduction to the understanding and craft of behaviour management.” It stated that the recommendations were “a minimum requirement for ITT providers” and should be made mandatory.⁵⁵

⁵¹ As above, p7.

⁵² [New reforms to raise standards and improve behaviour](#), Department for Education, 16 June 2015.

⁵³ [A framework of core content for initial teacher training \(ITT\)](#), July 2016, pp

⁵⁴ [Government response letter](#), 12 July 2016.

⁵⁵ Tom Bennett, [Developing behaviour management content for initial teacher training \(ITT\)](#), July 2016, pp4-8.

In response, the 2015 Government endorsed the recommended approaches and methods and stated that it strongly expected ITT providers to “take account” of them. It stated, however, that it did not wish to make the recommendations mandatory.⁵⁶

National standards for school-based ITT mentors

[The report of the Teaching Schools Council](#) outlined a set of non-statutory standards (pages 11-12) which it recommended should be adopted by ITT providers and used by them to “inform the selection, training, and resourcing of mentors.” The report additionally recommended that:

- Ofsted should have regard to the standards in their inspections of ITT providers.
- In light of the proposals in the Educational Excellence Everywhere White Paper, the role of mentor should extend beyond initial training to teacher accreditation and early career.⁵⁷

The then Government welcomed the new standards and encouraged ITT providers to adopt them and “give the mentoring role the status and recognition it deserves.” It also noted the recommendation concerning Ofsted inspections.⁵⁸

4.4

March 2016 White Paper proposals on ITT

The 2015 Government’s White Paper, [Educational Excellence Everywhere](#), published in March 2016, included a number of proposed reforms to ITT alongside the subsequently dropped proposal to convert all remaining maintained schools to academy status by 2022.⁵⁹

The proposals relating to ITT included:

- Continuing the move toward “an increasingly school-led ITT system” while also strengthening university-led training.⁶⁰
- Accrediting new school-led ITT providers, and a major expansion of SCITT-led training with a focus on shortage subjects and areas where recruitment was most difficult.
- The introduction of new quality criteria for ITT providers to inform the allocation of training places and to give “greater certainty to the best

⁵⁶ [Government response letter](#), 12 July 2016.

⁵⁷ [National Standards for school-based initial teacher training \(ITT\) mentors](#), July 2016, pp5-6.

⁵⁸ [Government response letter](#), 12 July 2016.

⁵⁹ HM Government, [Educational Excellence Everywhere](#), 17 March 2016.

⁶⁰ As above, p28.

providers – both school-led and HEI – by giving them allocations over several years”.⁶¹

- Withholding future allocations from providers who cannot meet the new quality criteria.
- Reforming the content of ITT to include a greater focus on subject knowledge, behaviour management, evidence-based practice and adapting the needs of pupils from different groups.
- Finalising the new framework for ITT core content being developed by the independent working group.
- Support for the best universities to establish ‘centres of excellence’ in ITT.

The White Paper additionally proposed the replacement of QTS with “a stronger, more challenging accreditation based on a teacher’s effectiveness in the classroom, as judged by great schools”.⁶² The Government stated that this would “raise the bar” and bring teaching into line with other professions such as law and chartered accountancy, which require trainees to undertake a relatively long phase of work experience.⁶³ The White Paper said that detailed proposals on the replacement of QTS would be published shortly.

The White Paper also proposed measures to improve continuing professional development for teachers through:

- Better support for schools to improve the quality and availability of CPD.
- Examining the feasibility of incentivising teaching schools to publish their materials on an open-source basis.
- Introducing a new Standard for Teachers’ Professional Development. The [new standard](#) was published in July 2016.

4.5 A strengthened QTS

In a speech at the Chartered College of Teaching conference in February 2017, the then Secretary of State, Justine Greening, announced that QTS would not be replaced, but that a “newly strengthened” QTS route would be introduced from 2019.⁶⁴

On 15 December 2017, the DfE launched a [consultation](#) on proposals to introduce a strengthened QTS for introduction from September 2019. The

⁶¹ As above, p31.

⁶² As above, p32.

⁶³ As above.

⁶⁴ [Justine Greening: teachers - the experts driving social mobility](#), Department for Education, 17 February 2017.

consultation also sought views on other areas, including how to support teachers at the beginning of their career, and how to improve career progression.

The consultation proposed that the current one-year induction period for newly qualified teachers (NQTs) should be lengthened to two years, and that an early-career content framework for NQTs should be introduced covering what new teachers need to know or be able to do. It added that stronger mentoring should be provided for all new teachers and that there should be access to high-quality continuing professional development.

Under the proposals, teachers who completed ITT would have the same rights and protections as current NQTs. Salaries post-ITT would still be on the qualified teacher pay scale, and teachers in their second year would have the same entitlements to pay progression that they currently have.

The consultation did not propose any changes to ITT other than to change the name of the award granted at the end of teacher training from ‘QTS’ to ‘QTS (Provisional)’. QTS would then be awarded at the end of the longer, two-year induction period.⁶⁵

Government response

The Government published its [response](#) to the consultation in May 2018. The response confirmed that the induction period for NQTs would be lengthened to two years as proposed, but that QTS would continue to be awarded at the end of ITT. It was clear from the feedback received, the response said, that the award of QTS did not need to be moved to deliver the intended benefits. “A well-designed two-year induction period with enhanced support”, it said, “will have a more substantial impact on improving the quality of teaching than moving the point at which QTS is awarded.”

Given that the award of QTS would not move, the response also confirmed that the Government would not be proceeding with the proposal to introduce a QTS(P) at the end of ITT. It did, however, state that the Government would explore the idea that an “Endorsed QTS” should be introduced to mark the end of induction.

As well as extending the induction period the consultation response stated that the Government would, among other things:

- Introduce an Early Career Framework of support and mentoring for the induction period in order to make sure that teachers get more support in this stage of their career.
- Publish mentor standards for NQT mentors, based on the existing ITT mentor standards.

⁶⁵ Department for Education, [Strengthening Qualified Teacher Status and improving career progression for teachers: Government consultation](#), December 2017, pp12-13.

- Support the development of new specialist qualifications, which will build on the Early Career Framework and complement Chartered Teacher status.
- Undertake work to consider how the CPD market can be made easier to navigate for schools and teachers.⁶⁶

4.6 Teacher recruitment and retention strategy

On 28 January 2019 the DfE published a [Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#). The Secretary of State made a [written ministerial statement](#) outlining the key elements of the strategy on the same day.⁶⁷

The strategy outlined the steps that the Government would take to “begin to overcome” four key barriers to improving teacher recruitment and retention, including that “the process to become a teacher is too complicated and burdensome.”⁶⁸

The strategy’s central reform, which it described as “the most significant reform to teaching in a generation”, was the introduction of the [Early Career Framework](#) (as set out in the earlier consultation on QTS and teacher CPD (see section 4.5)).⁶⁹ The framework will underpin an entitlement to “a fully-funded, 2 year package of structured support for all early career teachers” including 5% funded off timetable time in the second year of teaching. The Framework will be rolled out nationally from September 2021, with early rollout from September 2020 in the North East and other selected areas.⁷⁰

- Other steps outlined in the strategy relevant to ITT include:
- Following on from the pilot of early career payments for maths teachers in 2018-19, reforming bursaries more widely to a “phased, retention payment approach.”⁷¹
- The launching of a new Discover Teaching initiative with the aim of giving more people the opportunity to experience teaching. This will include a new virtual reality classroom and an expansion of the Teaching Internship Programme and school taster days.⁷²

⁶⁶ Department for Education, [Strengthening Qualified Teacher Status and improving career progression for teachers: Government consultation response](#), May 2018, pp9-13; [HCWS669](#), 8 May 2018.

⁶⁷ [HCWS1278](#), 28 January 2019.

⁶⁸ Department for Education, [Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#), January 2019, p7.

⁶⁹ As above, p6.

⁷⁰ As above, p21.

⁷¹ As above, p22.

⁷² As above p32.

- To avoid individuals from being put off applying for ITT by “cumbersome systems” the Government will introduce a “one-stop application service for ITT”. The DfE will also review the ITT market “to support it to work more efficiently and effectively.”⁷³
- The DfE will work with universities and school to explore how more teaching assistants can become teachers. The strategy states that the DfE wants to provide a pathway for teaching assistants to study part-time for a degree with QTS whilst continuing to work.⁷⁴

4.7 Review of ITT core content

In May 2019, the DfE announced that an expert group had been appointed to review the content of teacher training and recommend ways to align this with the Early Career Framework.⁷⁵ The revised [Core Content Framework](#) was published in November 2019. It replaced the framework of core content for ITT published in response to the Carter Review of ITT (see section 4.3 above).

⁷³ As above, p31.

⁷⁴ Department for Education, [Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#), January 2019, p33.

⁷⁵ Department for Education, [New support for trainee teachers](#), 20 May 2019.

5 Initial Teacher Training Market Review

5.1 Review

In January 2021, the Department for Education appointed an expert group to conduct a [review of the Initial Teacher Training market](#).

The DfE stated that the aim of the review was to make well informed, evidence-based recommendations on how to make sure:

- all trainees receive high-quality training
- the ITT market maintains the capacity to deliver enough trainees and is accessible to candidates
- the ITT system benefits all schools⁷⁶

The [ITT market review report](#) was published in July 2021. Its key recommendation was for revised standards and accreditation for ITT:

Our central recommendation is that a new set of Quality Requirements should be implemented by all ITT providers of courses that lead to QTS, and that a robust accreditation process should take place to ensure that all providers have the capacity to meet the exacting Quality Requirements in full, both at the point of accreditation and on a continuing basis.⁷⁷

The review also made a series of further recommendations (available in full in Annex A of the report), including:

- providers of ITT should develop an evidence-based training curriculum as a condition of accreditation which allows trainees to understand and apply the principles of the Core Content Framework
- providers should design and deliver an intensive placement experience of at least 4 weeks (20 days) for single-year courses and 6 weeks (30 days) for undergraduate, over the duration of their course, as a condition of accreditation
- For the DfE to formally notify providers who do not meet aspects of the Quality Requirements, as set out in the ITT criteria. Where this is the

⁷⁶ Department for Education, [Initial teacher training \(ITT\) market review: overview](#), 29 September 2022

⁷⁷ [Initial teacher training \(ITT\) market review report](#), July 2021, p4

case, DfE should mandate support between providers to ensure improvement as a condition of continued accreditation

- as academy trusts grow, there should be an expectation that they actively meet their responsibilities for ITT involvement in the areas they serve.⁷⁸

5.2 Accreditation of providers

Two rounds of reaccreditation were held by the Government during 2022, for providers to meet the ITT standards to be in force from September 2024.

A [list of providers accredited to deliver ITT from September 2024](#) has been published by the DfE.

The Government has said that the next accreditation round will take place during the 2025 to 2026 academic year.⁷⁹

179 providers were successful in the accreditation rounds. A number of unsuccessful providers appealed their decision, but in December 2022 all the appeals were rejected.⁸⁰ Analysis by the Education Policy Institute found that 68 ITT operating providers in 2022/23 had lost, or given up, their accreditation. In aggregate, those providers trained 4,491 people, which was 16% of all trainees in 2022/23.⁸¹

Of the 179, 16 are new entrants to the market, 59 are existing Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and 104 are existing School Centred Initial Teacher Training providers (SCITTs).⁸²

Ministerial comment

In January 2023, in response to a Parliamentary Question, the Schools Minister, Nick Gibb, provided an overview of the Government position:

179 providers have been accredited to deliver ITT from September 2024, following an accreditation process designed to drive up the quality and consistency of ITT which leads to Qualified Teacher Status. These providers will cover all regions of the country and include new entrants to the market. As the market develops over the next two years, the Department will continue to monitor the availability of provision across England to ensure the ITT market is ready and able to deliver teacher training programmes in every part of the country from September 2024.

⁷⁸ [Initial teacher training \(ITT\) market review report](#), July 2021, p36-37

⁷⁹ [PQ 112166, 22 December 2022](#)

⁸⁰ Schools Week, [ITT review: DfE rejects all accreditation appeals](#), 8 December 2022

⁸¹ Education Policy Institute, [The reaccreditation of ITT providers: Implications for STEM subjects](#), 8 December 2022

⁸² Department for Education, [How we're making teacher training better and more accessible](#), 29 September 2022

Safeguarding teacher supply is a priority. The Department has funded recruitment and retention to attract applications to ITT and continually monitors provision levels to ensure that there are enough ITT places to meet teacher recruitment targets. This involves working with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure there are sufficient ITT places across the country from the 2024/25 academic year.

In addition, the Department is focusing on utilising local knowledge and relationships as well as prioritising a sector led approach to sufficiency. This includes working with a range of sector stakeholders to ensure a wide range of views are represented, including those of the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET), the National Association of School-Based Teacher Trainers (NASBTT) and different Higher Education Institutions (HEI) representative groups.

To support these partnership conversations, the Department [published guidance](#) [PDF] on 12 December 2022 and confirmed that funding will be available to support the costs of developing partnerships in key regions.⁸³

Reaction

The reaccreditation process has been highly controversial, particularly in light of the significant reduction in the numbers of providers.

In August 2021, the National Association of School-Based Teacher Trainers said that the proposed reaccreditation posed “a serious threat to teacher supply and the sufficiency of provision.”⁸⁴

Professor Sam Twiselton, director of Sheffield Institute of Education at Sheffield Hallam University, who served on the review panel, has said that it would have been better for the new the criteria to have been implemented and then for Ofsted to have assessed how providers were implementing them.⁸⁵

The Education Policy Institute have [highlighted regional disparities](#) in the impact of reaccreditation, with nearly 30% of places not reaccredited in the South West, North East, and East of England, compared to less than 10% in the West Midlands and East Midlands.

The EPI said that the changes do not necessarily mean there will be less capacity in ITT provision for 2024/25, but that the changes do carry the risk of reducing capacity, especially in some regions:

New providers have been accredited and may take on the trainees who would otherwise have been taught by the providers that lost their accreditation. If the accreditation process has successfully selected the institutions providing better training, then it may be that the quality of provision rises as a consequence of these changes. However, there is a risk that the loss of expertise and capacity in some areas will lead to a reduction in the number of

⁸³ [PQ 121071 \[Teachers: Training\], 19 January 2023](#)

⁸⁴ National Association of School-Based Teacher Trainers, ITT Market Review 2021: [Without reaccreditation, delivery of quality requirements is possible by 2023](#), 16 August 2021

⁸⁵ TES, ITT [reaccreditation ‘a huge distraction’, says DfE adviser](#), 30 January 2023

trainees who are able to gain a place in ITT at a time when many subjects are already struggling to recruit suitably qualified trainees.⁸⁶

The Gatsby Foundation, which has a focus on strengthening science and engineering skills, raised concerns that [reduced providers could add to struggles to recruit STEM teachers](#), and said that “providers who did not gain accreditation trained a total of 605 STEM teachers in 2022/23.”⁸⁷

There have also been concerns raised about established providers no longer being able to operate having been unsuccessful, or suffering disruption and potentially losing funding if they operate in partnership with another, accredited provider after September 2024.⁸⁸

⁸⁶ Education Policy Institute, [The reaccreditation of ITT providers: Implications for STEM subjects](#), 8 December 2022

⁸⁷ Gatsby Foundation, [Diminished Numbers of Teacher Training Providers Threaten Recruitment into Shortage Subjects](#), 8 December 2022


⁸⁸ See, for example, Schools Week, [Snubbed ITT provider asked to stay open due to ‘black hole’](#), 20 January 2023

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