



Department
for Education

Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Reform: Funding for new partnerships

**Guidance for organisations seeking
additional funding to support
partnerships**

December 2022

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Summary

This publication provides guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on how to apply for additional grant funding to aid the formation of new ITT partnerships, ahead of delivery in 2024/25.

Following the Stage 1 accreditation process, [accredited providers of ITT](#) will be eligible to apply for an additional grant of up to £20,000 to partner either with an organisation which was unsuccessful in securing accreditation to deliver from 2024/25, or other organisations directly involved in delivery of ITT. Both organisations must be offering ITT provision in one of the named eligible areas listed in Annex A below. This grant will support with costs associated with establishing a new partnership.

DfE has produced [partnership guidance](#) which defines and outlines the key roles and responsibilities of accredited providers and their partners to deliver the ITT criteria in 2024. The three main roles are:

- accredited providers, who have been awarded accreditation to deliver ITT from September 2024 and have full and final accountability for all aspects of training design, delivery and quality across the partnership
- lead partners, who will have an operational or strategic role e.g. curriculum design, supplying lead mentors or running intensive training and practice
- placement schools, who will provide trainee placements and general mentors

Funding will be administered under Section 14(1) of the Education Act 2002.

Who this publication is for

This guidance is for providers who were accredited to deliver ITT courses from 2024/2025, to support them to establish a new partnership(s) in a specific geographical area. A list of these can be found at Annex A below.

If you are an accredited provider and do not want to establish a new partnership, you do not need to take any further steps.

Partnership Grants

Providers who were awarded accreditation in 2022¹ can apply for additional funding to establish new partnerships in specific geographic areas. A provisional agreement between the two providers will be required to claim this funding.

This funding is designed to provide financial support to accredited providers to recognise the additional costs of establishing new partnerships. The grant offer will be tiered based on the number of trainee places² secured through a partnership with either a provider who was unsuccessful in the ITT reform accreditation process, or lead partners³ of existing ITT providers. Both organisations must be offering ITT provision in one of the eligible areas listed in Annex A below.

Funding Available (based on 2021 to 2022 Census data)	Funding Period	Maximum grant per provider	How is it paid?
Under 49 trainees	29 September 2022 – 14 July 2023	£10,000	Payments will be made in arrears based on actual expenditure
Between 50 and 249 trainees	29 September 2022 – 14 July 2023	£15,000	Payments will be made in arrears based on actual expenditure
More than 250 trainees	29 September 2022 – 14 July 2023	£20,000	Payments will be made in arrears based on actual expenditure

¹ Providers accredited in rounds 1 or 2 of the accreditation process to deliver ITT from 2024 onwards.

² Trainees secured by the partnership will be measured against the number of trainees recruited by the unsuccessful provider in 2021/22.

³ Lead partner(s) should have an operational or strategic role with responsibilities such as trainee recruitment and involvement in curriculum design.

Eligibility

Providers accredited to deliver ITT courses from the academic year 2024/25 will be eligible to apply for the additional funding, if they are partnering with organisations located in geographic areas named in Annex A below.

What the grant can be spent on

Funding can only be spent on the costs associated with partnering with another organisation. These costs can include, but are not limited to:

- IT costs (for example, aligning two different IT systems)
- Additional administration requirements associated with partnership development
- Additional quality assurance costs
- Legal costs

The partnership grant cannot be spent on:

- Travel
- Hospitality
- Marketing or advertising
- Website development or maintenance
- Consultancy

Information you need to provide to access the grant

Accredited providers who wish to apply for this additional grant will need to complete the [application form](#) indicating:

- Which organisation(s) they plan to partner with
- The geographic area(s) in which the ITT provision will be delivered
- The strategic role of the partner, the total number of trainees the partner recruited in 2021/22 and a link to the partner's website
- The subject(s) and phase(s) offered
- Evidence of partnership discussions with unsuccessful providers and/or lead partners of existing ITT providers (for example, written confirmation from both organisations that they have intent to partner and offer ITT provision in one of the eligible areas listed in Annex A below)

Timeline for receiving the grant

Providers who are forming a new partnership(s) with other organisation(s) to provide ITT provision in one of the eligible areas can apply for this grant now. Applications must be submitted by 28 February 2023.

Grant applications will be processed within 4 weeks and successful applicants will be issued with a grant funding offer letter confirming the amount of funding approved based on the information and evidence supplied in the application form. The letter will need to be signed by an authorised representative of the provider and returned to ITTReform.Funding@education.gov.uk. Grant funding can only be claimed if we have received the signed grant funding agreement.

The funding will be paid in arrears following the end of the grant period (14 July 2023). Providers will need to provide an itemised list of the activities and amount of funding spent on each activity in two stages. These are:

- i. By 15 March 2023 – providers will need to complete Annex C(i) of the grant funding agreement detailing actual expenditure from 29 September 2022 to 31 March 2023 and estimated expenditure from 1 April 2023 to 14 July 2023.
- ii. By 14 July 2023 – providers will need to complete Annex C(ii) of the grant funding agreement detailing actual expenditure from 29 September 2022 to 14 July 2023.

Both forms should be emailed to the ITT Reform Funding team (ITTReform.Funding@education.gov.uk) by the relevant date.

Conditions of funding

This funding is for providers accredited to deliver from 2024/25 who are establishing new partnerships with either an existing provider who doesn't have accreditation from 2024/25, or lead partners of existing ITT provider. Both organisations must offer ITT provision in one of the eligible areas listed in Annex A below. It cannot be used for business-as-usual activity and must be used on new costs which have occurred due to partnering with other organisations. Expenditure activity must not duplicate any other government funding, including ITT reform set-up grant available to accredited providers. There will be 2 specific conditions of funding in addition to the standard DfE [grant terms and conditions](#):

- 1) Providers accredited to deliver ITT from 2024 will be required to establish new partnerships to recruit trainees in specific geographic areas identified by DfE. Partnerships will only be eligible for funding if they are formed with either a provider who was accredited prior to the reform, or lead partners of existing ITT providers, who must be offering ITT provision in one of the eligible areas listed in Annex A below.

- 2) Providers will be required to maintain any other existing ITT provision (for example, Early Years or Further Education ITT) that they, or their lead partners, run alongside ITT courses which lead to QTS.

Failing to meet these conditions of funding will impact a provider's ability to access other ITT reform funding.

How to apply

Providers wishing to apply for this additional partnership funding will need to complete the [application form](#) no later than 23:59 on 28 February 2023.

Providers will need to indicate on their application form

- who they plan to partner with
- the strategic role of the partner, the total number of trainees the partner recruited in 2021/22 and a link to the partner's website
- the geographic area and the types of trainee places (e.g., phase and subject) they will provide as part of the partnership

Any queries relating to the application process should be sent to ITTReform.Funding@education.gov.uk.

Grant Assurance

DfE will conduct due diligence on applications received. These checks will include:

- confirmation that the applicant is an accredited provider
- that the proposed partnership meets the criteria in terms of both partners being located in one of the named eligible areas listed in Annex A below.
- that the proposed partner is an eligible organisation.

Providers will be required to submit an externally audited 'Annex G' certificate of expenditure return by 31 December 2023 confirming that the funding has been spent on the activities detailed in their claim forms (Annex C of the grant funding agreement).

DfE will undertake further assurance on a random sample of the grant funding paid to providers and may ask for evidence of the stated expenditure. Providers should ensure that they retain evidence of expenditure claimed for as per the [Department's Terms and Conditions](#).

Providers eligible for both Partnership and ITT Reform Set-Up grants should use each grant according to their intended purpose and for different activities. Evidence of expenditure will be requested at the end of the financial year and a clawback process initiated for any spending considered inappropriate or duplicated.

Annex A – List of eligible areas

Location
Cumbria
East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire
Tees Valley and Durham
Essex
Lancashire
East Anglia
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bath/Bristol
Surrey, East and West Sussex
Devon
Shropshire and Staffordshire
West Yorkshire

Annex B – Definition of terms

Accredited providers

Institutions and organisations that have passed the accreditation rounds and will provide initial teacher training programmes from the 2024/25 academic year.

Initial teacher training (ITT)

Abbreviated to ITT, the period of academic study and time in school leading to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

Lead Partners

Lead partner(s) should have an operational or strategic role with responsibilities such as trainee recruitment and involvement in curriculum design.

Partnerships

Partnerships are accredited providers and their partners, including placement schools.

Qualified teacher status (QTS)

The awarded status that enables those holding it to teach in state-maintained and special schools in England.



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