



Department  
for Education

# **Initial Teacher Training (ITT): Reform Funding**

**Guidance for organisations seeking  
funding to support with ITT reforms**

**May 2022**

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## Background and context

This publication provides guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on how to apply for funding to aid in the delivery of reformed Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses leading to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) from the academic year 2024 onwards.

Following the accreditation process, newly accredited providers of ITT will be eligible to apply for multiple funding streams to help them deliver the new ITT requirements. These funding streams seek to support with the costs related to course set-up ahead of delivery, establishing lead mentor functions and intensive training and practice. Placement schools will also be able to access grant funding to support with the new training requirements of school-based mentors.

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

### Who is this guidance for?

Newly accredited providers and their school partners who wish to apply for funding to support them to develop and deliver ITT courses leading to QTS from the 2024/25 academic year. This covers all routes leading to QTS, such as the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship, Assessment Only route to QTS, School Direct (salaried) and School Direct (fee).

If you are a newly accredited ITT provider and do not want to apply for funding, you do not need to take any further steps.

## Section 1 – Set-Up Grants

To support the delivery of the recommendations as set out in the [Government Response to the ITT Market Review](#), providers who are awarded accreditation in 2022 will be eligible for a one-off grant up to £25,000.

This grant is designed to recognise the additional cost to providers of establishing ITT courses which meet the new Quality Requirements ahead of 2024.

Funding Available	Grant Period	Recipient of Funding	How is it paid?
Up to £25,000 per eligible accredited provider	Funding must be spent before March 2024	Providers who have successfully passed the first stage of accreditation, ahead of the second improvement support stage.	One front loaded payment once the application is processed and the provider signs a grant agreement.

### What can it be spent on?

Although there is not a set criteria list or specified amounts for how the set-up grant should be spent, below is a list of suggested activities that the grant can be used on, but is not limited to:

- Resourcing e.g., hiring of extra staff or overtime of current staff
- Costs associated with extra administration
- Education Consultants or Specialists
- Costs associated with new Curriculum Development
- Costs associated with Partnership Development

It should also be noted that the set-up grant **cannot** be spent on the following provider related activities:

- Travel
- Hospitality
- Marketing

Providers' proposed expenditure plans will be assessed as part of the application process. Providers who chose to spend grant funding on ineligible activities will be liable for a grant clawback and this could impact their eligibility for future ITT reform delivery grants. Actual expenditure information will be collected as part of end of financial year assurance processes in March 2023 and March 2024.

### What information will I need to provide to access this grant?

To be offered a set-up grant providers will need to fill in both an application form and an expenditure plan template which can be found here.

The expenditure plan is a demonstration of how much support funding is being applied for and how the provider plans to spend the grant they receive from DfE and will be used as a point of reference for future assurance checks and the clawback of any unused funding.

If successful in their application, providers will need to sign a grant agreement, which outlines the terms and conditions associated with the grant. Providers will be instructed to register their account details with DfE for payment if they are not already registered.

Please note that a grant will not be awarded to a provider if they do not sign the grant agreement.

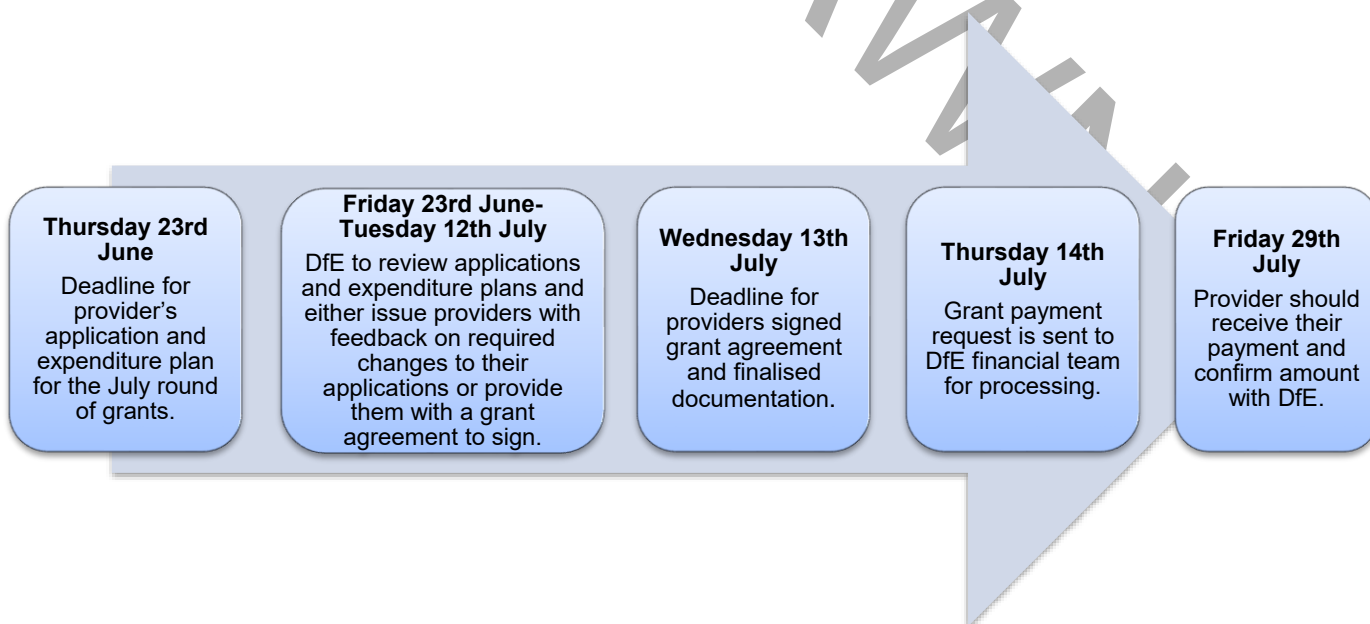
We undertake due diligence on the financial standing of applying organisations for government grant funding, including credit checks, to safeguard public money. We may need to seek satisfactory assurances in determining whether to accept an application for funding.

## What is the timeline for receiving this grant?

Applications for this grant will open from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 following the release of round one accreditation outcome letters, with the first round of grants being awarded as early as July 2022.

Grant applications will be processed on a monthly basis from July 2022 to February 2023 with applications closing on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

The timing between submitting an application and receiving your grant should be approximately a 5 to 6 week process with the below timeline providing an **example** of what the process could look like for grant applications received in June 2022.



It should be noted that the payment timeline may be affected by a series of factors such as:

- How the monthly calendar falls
- DfE receiving a higher volume of grants to process than usual
- Necessary queries of a provider's expenditure plan
- Delays surrounding the signing of a grant agreement by a provider

The monthly cut off dates for set-up grant applications is the 21<sup>st</sup> of each calendar month, bar February 2023 where the final deadline is 9<sup>th</sup> February.

If you submit your application after one of the cut-off dates, it will be processed in the following month e.g., an application submitted on 22<sup>nd</sup> June will be included within the July submissions.

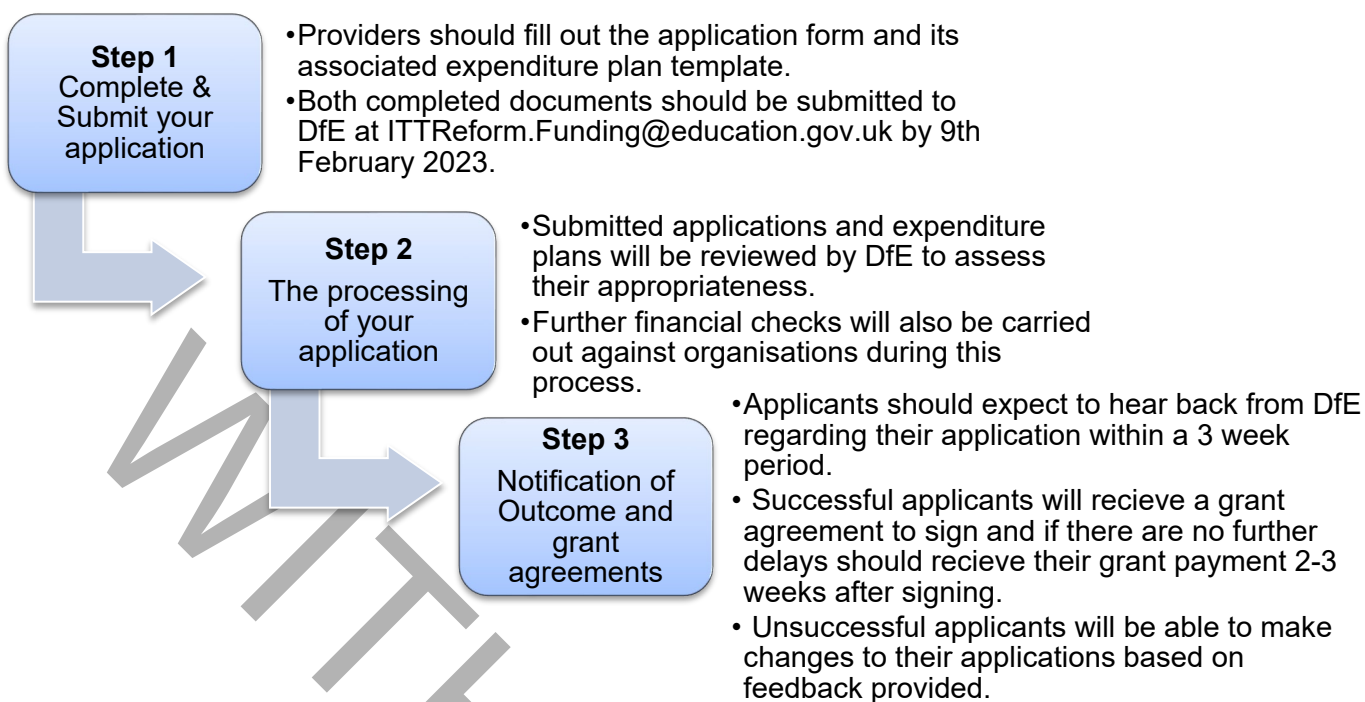
## Conditions of funding

Set-up funding is strictly for additional activity an accredited provider needs to undertake to meet the new ITT requirements. It cannot be used for business-as-usual activity and must not duplicate any other government funding. There will be 3 specific conditions of funding in addition to standard grant terms & conditions:

- 1) Providers will be required to engage in all stage 2 quality assurance processes as requested by the Department.
- 2) Providers will be required to maintain any other existing ITT provision (for example, Early Years or Further Education ITT) that they run alongside ITT courses which lead to QTS.
- 3) Providers will also be expected to provide DfE with financial transparency.

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

## How to apply



## Future funding

This set-up cost funding is a one-off time limited grant. Providers will not receive any future funding in relation to set-up costs once the 2022 accreditation rounds take place.

## Section 2 – Delivery Grants

To support the delivery of the recommendations as set out in the Government Response to the ITT Review, providers who are awarded accreditation in 2022, and their school partners, are eligible to apply for delivery grant funding for the 2024/25 academic year where they are first expected to deliver the new Quality Requirements. In addition, providers who wish to apply for delivery grants must have fully engaged in Stage 2 of accreditation.

The grant funding amounts set out below represent funding across the **academic year 2024/25**. Further details on each of the following funding streams, including how they will be distributed, and guidance for undergraduate courses, will be provided ahead of 2024/25.

Grant funding shouldn't replace existing funding arrangements between ITT providers and their partners, including placement schools. Funding is strictly to support specified activity and cannot duplicate another source of government funding. Providers who received a set-up grant for the ITT reforms must have satisfied assurance procedures and funding conditions to access delivery support funding.

### Lead Mentor Grant

This is a funding stream available to providers to cover the costs associated with introducing the new lead mentor role. This funding is designed to help providers with the cost for placement schools or themselves of the staff time needed to cover these new lead mentor duties.

Funding Available	Funding Period	Recipient of Funding	How is it paid?
Up to £9,514 per lead mentor or mentor leadership team  (1 lead mentor to a minimum of 25 trainees*)	Academic year 2024/25	Providers who have been successfully accredited in 2022.	Payments will be made in arrears based on actual expenditure', further details on process for claiming these grants will be made available ahead of 24/25.

\* Whilst there is not a required ratio for lead mentors to trainees, for the purposes of calculating funding providers will be able to claim funding for 1 lead mentor to a minimum of 25 trainees.

### Conditions of this funding

Funding is only to be spent on the costs associated with the lead mentor role, which are set out in the draft 2024/25 ITT criteria. This includes the minimum expectation that a



lead mentor will spend 30 hours in training activities over the course of a year and oversee general mentors and other aspects of the ITT programme.

Providers must also pass funding onto schools if the Lead Mentor is school based.

## **What information will I need to provide to access these grants?**

DfE will update providers in due course with what exact information will be required to access this delivery grant, but it is expected that providers will need to:

- provide a financial plan during stage 2 of the accreditation process
- agree to cost transparency upon request as an accredited provider of ITT
- agree to use grant funding for targeted activities, maintain accurate records and provide evidence of expenditure upon request as part of assurance checks

## **How to apply**

Details on the application process for delivery grants are being finalised by DfE. Providers will receive further details on submitting applications and what documentation will be required from them in 2023/24, allowing time for applications to be processed before the delivery of new ITT courses in 2024/25.

## **Future funding**

Ongoing funding for lead mentors is subject to future Spending Reviews.

## Intensive Training and Practice Grant

This funding stream is dedicated to helping providers with the costs of delivering the new intensive training and practice requirement. This funding is designed to cover the costs of both group and individual expert time as well as the administrative costs of organising this activity.

Funding per 6 weeks (undergraduate) or 4 weeks (postgraduate) of intensive training and practice has been calculated on a per trainee basis. Further guidance on how this will be distributed will be published ahead of 2024/25.

Funding Available	Funding Period	Recipient of Funding	How is it paid?
Up to £204 per trainee for postgraduates  Up to £298 per trainee for undergraduates*	Academic year 2024/25	Providers who have successfully been accredited in 2022.	Payments will be made in arrears based on actual expenditure' further details on process for claiming these grants will be made available ahead of 24/25.

\*Funding is available for undergraduates who commence their course in 2024/25, and not trainees who are part-way through their course.

### Conditions of this funding

Funding can only be spent on the costs associated with intensive training and practice, which are set out in the draft 2024/25 ITT criteria. This includes the minimum expectation that trainees will spend a minimum of 4 weeks (6 for undergraduates) in intensive training and practice and will receive a minimum of 4 hours of expert support.

Providers must prioritise sharing this funding with placement schools where activity is school-based or utilises school-based staff.

### What information will I need to provide to access these grants?

DfE will update providers in due course with what exact information will be required to access this delivery grant, but it is expected that providers will need to:

- provide a financial plan if requested by DfE during stage 2 of the accreditation process
- agree to cost transparency upon request as an accredited provider of ITT
- agree to use grant funding for targeted activities, maintain accurate records and provide evidence of expenditure upon request as part of assurance checks

## How to apply

Details around the application process for delivery grants are still being finalised by DfE. Providers will receive further details around submitting applications and what documentation will be required from them in order to do so in 2023/4, allowing enough time for applications to be processed before the delivery of new ITT courses in 2024/5.

## Future funding

Ongoing funding for lead mentors is subject to future Spending Reviews.

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## General Mentor Training Grants

This is a funding stream available to placement schools to reflect the costs associated with training a general mentor in line with the new minimum time requirements. This funding is designed to help schools with the cost of losing time of current staff who would need to carry out the initial 20 hours of mentor training.

This funding is to support backfill activity associated with general mentors undertaking initial mentor training to meet the new minimum training requirement of 20 hours.

Funding Available	Funding Period	Recipient of Funding	How is it paid?
Inner London: Up to £1,072 per mentor  Outer London: Up to £965 per mentor Fringe: Up to £902 per mentor  Rest of England: Up to £876 per mentor	Academic year 2024/25	Partner schools who host ITT trainees	Payments will be made in arrears based on actual expenditure' further details on process for claiming these grants will be made available ahead of 24/25.

### Conditions for this Funding

Funding can only be spent on the costs associated with the time off timetable where a general mentor has to undertake mentor training to meet the new minimum 20 hours set out in the ITT 2024/25 criteria.

### What information will I need to provide to access these grants?

DfE will seek to update providers and placement schools in due course with what exact information will be required in order to access the general mentor grant, but it is expected that providers will need to provide data on which schools have hosted their trainees in the 2024/25 academic year so that their partner schools are paid accordingly.

Schools will be required to provide evidence of expenditure and training records.

### How to apply

Details around the application process for delivery grants are still being finalised by DfE. Providers will receive further details around submitting applications and what documentation will be required from them in 2023/24, allowing enough time for applications to be processed before the delivery of new ITT courses in 2024/25.

## Future funding

Ongoing funding for lead mentors is subject to future Spending Reviews.

WITHDRAWN

## Section 3 – Annexes

### Annex A – Definitions of terms

#### **Accredited providers**

Institutions and organisations that have passed the accreditation rounds and will provide initial teacher training programmes from the 2024/5 academic year.

#### **Partnerships**

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

#### **Initial teacher training (ITT)**

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

#### **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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