



Department
for Education

Teacher Degree Apprenticeship partnerships

**How to manage partnerships in the
Teacher Degree Apprenticeship**

November 2024

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Summary

This guidance has been produced to support accredited Initial Teacher Training (ITT) providers and other organisations form partnerships and clarify roles and responsibilities within these partnerships, to deliver the Teacher Degree Apprenticeship (TDA).

Who this publication is for

This guidance refers to:

- accredited ITT providers delivering ITT that leads to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) from 2024/25, that have formed, or will be forming, a partnership with other organisations;
- accredited ITT providers who want to expand their ITT provision through partnering;
- and non-accredited organisations who are partners of, or who want to partner with, an accredited ITT provider (e.g. Higher Education Institution delivering the degree elements of the TDA partnership with an ITT accredited provider for the ITT elements of the TDA).

What is a partnership?

From September 2024, accredited ITT providers are required to deliver ITT in compliance with DfE's 2024/25 [ITT criteria](#).

Organisations involved in ITT have the flexibility to form partnerships in which they share knowledge, experience and resources to support delivery and help retain existing talent and experience in the sector. The resulting partnership can increase the capacity and capability of all organisations involved, to deliver high-quality ITT provision across England.

DfE will not prescribe the structure of partnerships, nor the number of organisations involved. However, the key responsibilities listed below must be covered within the partnership.

All organisations involved in ITT will be classified using the three roles: accredited ITT provider, lead partner(s) and placement schools.

For the purposes of salaried teacher training courses, including the TDA, placement schools and employing schools are interchangeable terms. Whilst all partnerships must be led by a single accredited ITT provider, other roles may overlap. For instance, an accredited ITT provider may have lead partner responsibilities and some schools that are placement schools may also have a role as a lead partner.

For further information on forming partnerships, please visit [ITT: forming partnerships.](#)

Role of employing schools

Employing schools will work with partners to deliver the on-the-job training for the TDA. Employers have a responsibility to ensure their apprentice(s) work with experienced staff, learn job-specific skills and receive time to complete their off-the-job training for their degree.

For full guidance on employing an apprentice, please visit [Employing an apprentice: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/employing-an-apprentice).

ITT Partnership definitions

Accredited ITT provider

The accredited ITT provider is a legal entity that has been accredited by the Secretary of State for Education to deliver teacher training that leads to QTS, in accordance with The Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003. The accredited ITT provider has been awarded accreditation and has full and final accountability for all aspects of training design, delivery, and quality across the partnership. The accredited ITT provider is liable for the quality of provision, governance, internal controls, and will be accountable and responsible for public funds spent for the purposes intended across its ITT partnership.

Accredited ITT providers must contact DfE via itt.accreditation@education.gov.uk to seek approval for any significant changes to their governance.

Lead Partner

Lead partner(s) will work within the ITT partnership and have a partnership agreement with the accredited ITT provider. Lead partners may be higher education institutions (HEIs), schools, trusts or other types of organisations (including Teaching School Hubs) who have the capacity and expertise to take on significant operational or strategic roles in the ITT partnership. They will work in collaboration with their accredited ITT provider, and their role(s) could include:

- trainee recruitment;
- delivering ITT courses;
- contributing to curriculum design;
- designing and delivering mentor curricula;
- supplying lead mentors;
- running Intensive Training and Practice; and
- quality assurance of aspects such as mentoring.

Lead partners may have multiple roles. Their responsibilities should be agreed and delegated through formal arrangements with the accredited ITT provider.

From September 2024, all Teaching School Hubs operating as lead partners will be expected to deliver ITT courses. Teaching School Hubs may choose to undertake other operational or strategic roles as a lead partner - for example, those listed above - in addition to this.

TDA specific definitions

Main provider

A main provider, in the context of the TDA, will directly deliver training to apprentices for other organisations.

A main provider can be an accredited ITT provider or a lead partner for ITT purposes.

Supporting provider

A supporting provider, in the context of the TDA, will act as a subcontractor for main and employer providers to train apprentices.

For more information about apprenticeship definitions please [click here](#).

Partnerships in the TDA

Type of partnership	Funding	Ofsted	End-Point Assessment (EPA)	EPA funding
<p>Accredited ITT provider with degree-awarding powers, leading all aspects of delivery</p> <p>Accredited ITT provider is the main provider for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>The main provider leading all aspects of delivery (lead provider) will receive all apprenticeship funding and will be accountable for the delivery of all training.</p>	<p>Ofsted will inspect all accredited ITT providers and any provision delivered by lead partners under <u>the ITE inspection framework</u> on a three-year cycle.</p>	<p>The main provider is responsible for arranging the EPA.</p> <p>All providers should be prepared to undergo a readiness check at least 18 months before they plan to deliver the EPA. For information about, EPAs for integrated degree apprenticeships, readiness and monitoring checks, please click here.</p>	<p>The TDA degree and EPA are integrated, therefore the main provider is responsible for both training and EPA.</p> <p>The cost of the EPA should not exceed 20% of the funding band maximum – as set out in the apprenticeship funding rules.</p>

Type of partnership	Funding	Ofsted	End-Point Assessment (EPA)	EPA funding
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<p>A degree-awarding institution in partnership with an accredited ITT provider; the degree-awarding institution is the lead partner in ITT delivery but the main provider for apprenticeships</p> <p>E.g. The degree-awarding institution may wish to deliver all aspects of the degree and ITT delivery, with the ITT element overseen by the accredited provider. The degree awarding institution is therefore the main provider for apprenticeships purposes.</p> <p>The ITT accredited provider is the supporting provider for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>The degree awarding institution receives all the apprenticeship funding as they are accountable for the majority of training delivery.</p> <p>They can then subcontract the ITT elements of funding to the accredited ITT provider through a subcontracting agreement.</p>	<p>In all cases, the accredited ITT provider is accountable for all elements of the course that leads to the recommendation of QTS, including the TDA provision offered by lead partners (whether the lead partner is delivering the apprenticeship as a ‘lead provider’ or a ‘supporting provider’).</p> <p>Ofsted will inspect all accredited ITT providers under the ITE inspection framework on a three-year cycle and the TDA (delivered by the accredited ITT provider and any lead partners) will form part of the accredited ITT provider’s inspection.</p> <p>The TDA will not form part of the Ofsted inspection on the further education skills inspection.</p>	<p>The main provider is responsible for arranging the EPA – therefore this will be the degree awarding institution.</p> <p>QTS must be recommended by the accredited ITT provider listed on the apprenticeship provider and assessment register (APAR). It cannot be awarded by an unaccredited lead partner.</p> <p>All providers should be prepared to undergo a readiness check at least 18 months before they plan to deliver the EPA.</p> <p>For information about End Point Assessments for integrated degree apprenticeships, readiness and monitoring checks, please click here.</p>	<p>As the TDA degree and EPA are integrated, the main provider is responsible for both training and end-point assessment.</p> <p>The cost of the end-point assessment should not exceed 20% of the funding band maximum – as set out in the apprenticeship funding rules.</p>
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Type of partnership	Funding	Ofsted	End-Point Assessment (EPA)	EPA funding
<p>An unaccredited provider in ITT which has degree-awarding powers in partnership with an accredited ITT provider; the accredited ITT provider leads on ITT delivery</p> <p>(E.g. an accredited SCITT or HEI leading on the ITT delivery, partnered with an unaccredited HEI acting as the main provider from an apprenticeships perspective. Some SCITTs in this scenario might also want to lead aspects of the degree course and have the university validate the modules.)</p>	<p>The unaccredited (in ITT) degree awarding institution receives all the apprenticeship funding as they are accountable for the majority of training delivery. They can then subcontract the ITT elements of funding to the accredited ITT provider through a subcontracting agreement.</p>	<p>In all cases, the accredited ITT provider is accountable for all elements of the course that leads to the recommendation of QTS, including the TDA provision offered by lead partners (whether the lead partner is delivering the apprenticeship as a ‘lead provider’ or a ‘supporting provider’).</p> <p>Ofsted will inspect all accredited ITT providers under the ITE inspection framework on a three-year cycle and the TDA (delivered by the accredited ITT provider and any lead partners) will form part of the accredited ITT provider’s inspection.</p> <p>The TDA will not form part of the Ofsted inspection on the further education skills inspection.</p>	<p>The main provider is responsible for arranging EPA – therefore this will be the degree awarding institution.</p> <p>QTS must be recommended by the accredited ITT provider listed on the apprenticeship provider and assessment register (APAR). It cannot be awarded by an unaccredited lead partner.</p> <p>All providers should be prepared to undergo a readiness check at least 18 months before they plan to deliver EPA.</p> <p>For information about End Point Assessments for integrated degree apprenticeships, readiness and monitoring checks, please click here.</p>	<p>As the TDA degree and EPA are integrated, the main provider is responsible for both training and end-point assessment.</p> <p>The cost of the end-point assessment should not exceed 20% of the funding band maximum – as set out in the apprenticeship funding rules.</p>



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