

From: [ACCOUNT, Unmonitored](#)
To: [HTEN History Teacher Educators Network](#)
Subject: Department for Education: 2025-0001956 CRM:0746749
Date: 03 February 2025 08:24:00

Dear Victoria Crooks and Laura London

Thank you for your email of 20 January, addressed to the Secretary of State, about initial teacher training (ITT) bursaries.

Ministers are keen to know what people think of government policies and your comments will help inform them of current feeling.

I would like to explain that the bursaries the department offers for ITT are intended to incentivise applications to ITT courses. For this reason, bursaries are targeted at the school phases and subjects where it is most difficult to recruit sufficient trainee teachers.

The postgraduate ITT target in history has been met or exceeded in every academic year since 2015/16. In some academic years, recruitment has substantially exceeded the targets, such as in 2020/21 (168 per cent) and 2021/22 (193 per cent). In contrast, recruitment has underperformed against the overall secondary postgraduate ITT target in recent years.

Although the number of postgraduate entrants to primary has been slightly below target in recent years, we have also seen strong primary recruitment in previous years, achieving 125% of the postgraduate ITT target in 2020/21, and 131% in 2021/22.

We review the bursaries on offer each year to take account of factors including historic recruitment, forecast economic conditions, and teacher supply need in each subject. This provides flexibility to respond to the need to attract new teachers, and means we are spending money where it is needed most.

All trainee teachers on tuition fee-funded ITT routes can apply for a tuition fee loan and a means-tested maintenance loan to support their living costs. Although the average maintenance loan is lower, trainees can qualify for up to £13,348 depending on their circumstances. Grant funding is available in addition to the maintenance loan for trainees with children, adult dependents or a disability, such as the Childcare Grant: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help>

The quality requirements were developed following the recommendations of the ITT market review report (2021) and the department sought a wide range of stakeholder views on the review recommendations, including through public consultation. There is flexibility for the ITT provider on how the intensive training and practice element is delivered. For example, the training practice can be delivered in person, virtually, be pre-recorded or take place at the location of the provider.

The department takes a route-neutral approach in providing financial incentives across ITT routes, meaning that trainees on salaried routes attract the same ITT funding by subject as their counterparts on tuition fee-funded routes. We will continue to monitor the supply of ITT places and candidate demand closely, across all subjects and routes.

Thank you for taking the time to contact the department, I hope this information is helpful.

Your correspondence has been allocated reference number 2025-0001956. If you need to respond to us, please visit <https://www.education.gov.uk/contactus> and quote your reference number.

Yours sincerely

Ministerial and Public Communications Division

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As part of our commitment to improving the service we provide to our customers, we are interested in hearing your views and would welcome your comments via our website at: <https://form.education.gov.uk/service/TOCMTfeedback>.

Thank you for your help.

We are the department for opportunity