



Department  
for Education

# Apply for postgraduate teacher training

**2020 Early Adoption pilot plans**

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## Our overall objective

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**“A new, easy-to-use, one-stop application system to work seamlessly with our Get Into Teaching website and the new Find service” (1)**



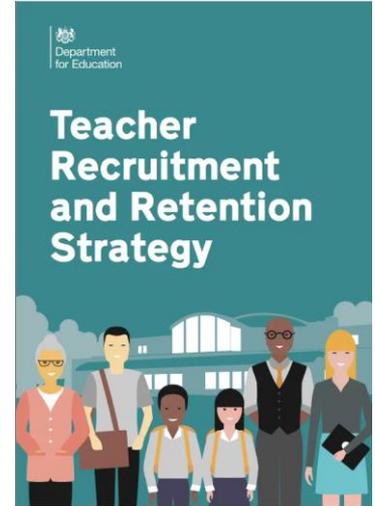
Department  
for Education

Source: 1) [Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#)

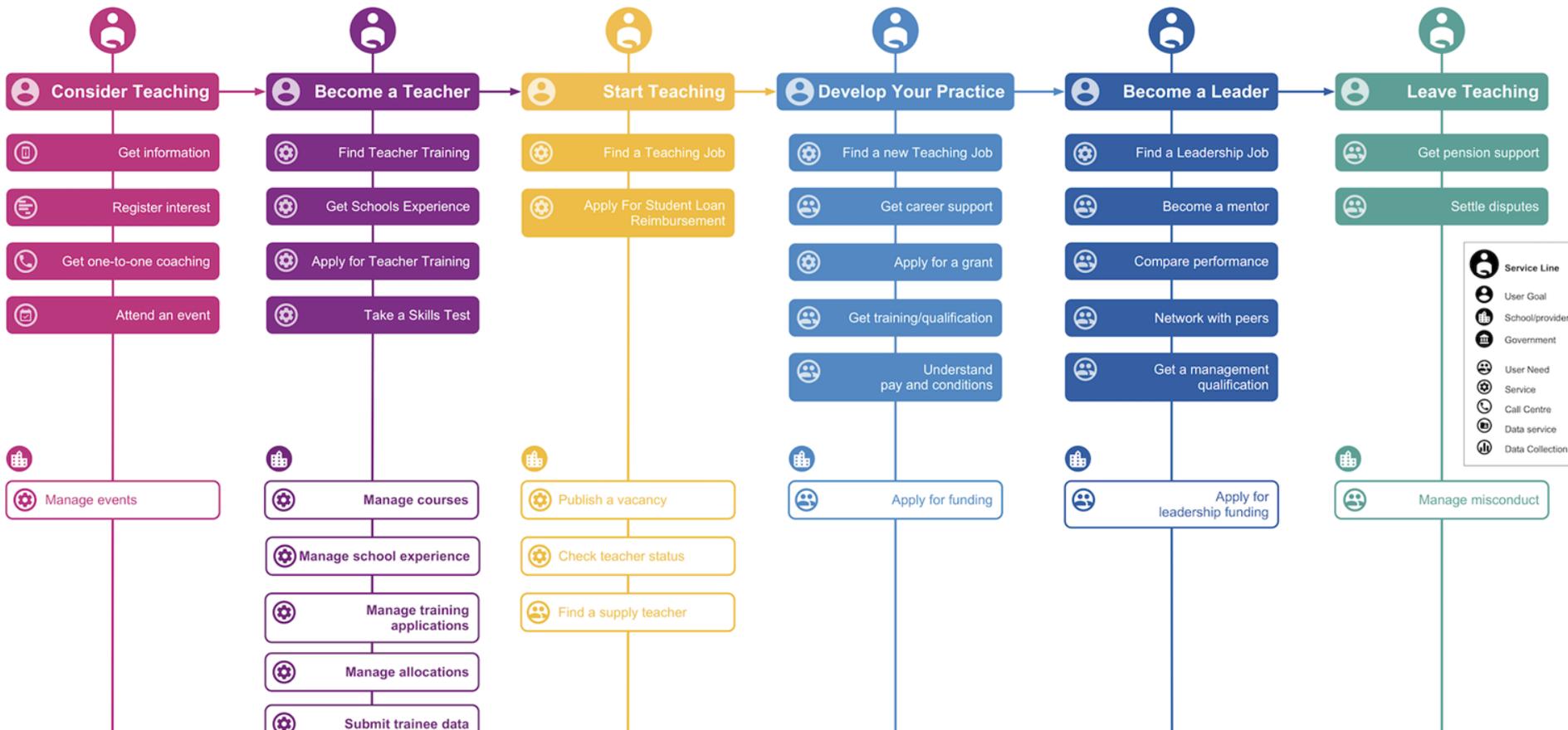
# DfE's Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy

The strategy which was published on 28 January set out four key objectives:

- Helping to create the right climate for headteachers and other school leaders to establish supportive school cultures.
- Transforming support for early career teachers.
- Supporting teachers to pursue the right career opportunities for them.
- Simplifying the process for becoming a teacher, including introducing new services designed to make finding and applying for the right initial teacher training much easier and more user-friendly.



# 'Apply' is part of a larger set of services



# Objectives for the Apply service

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Drive the recruitment of **excellent teacher trainees** from a wider and more diverse pool of talent



Integration with HEI **training providers**, to enable swift and accurate decision-making with minimum disruption



Deliver a streamlined application process, **improving candidate experience**



Provide DfE with new data, informing and **improving policy design**

# What does this mean for you?

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By October 2021, DfE Apply for teacher training will be the **only source** for postgraduate teacher training applications for training providers and schools.

We want to run an early adoption programme a year in advance, in October 2020.

By working with early adopters in the pilot we aim to ease the path to transitioning across to DfE Apply.

Being an early adopter will allow you to work closely with our team and get specialist advice. Our specialists will help you to:

- shorten integration times,
- reduce time spent on the transition,
- and subsequently reduce overall costs compared to if you transition in October 2021.

There will be support for all adopting universities during the transition, but DfE will deliver one-on-one, tailored support for early adopters.

If you are an early adopter, but your candidate wishes to apply to other providers who have not yet adopted, we will provide candidates with the necessary support to enable them to do so.

Finally, we will spend the next 12 months working closely with the vendor of your student record system to ensure that DfE Apply will integrate seamlessly with your student record system.

This close work with your vendor will ensure that the integration has been thoroughly tested prior to the early adoption and that the service will meet your needs as a training provider.

# What does this mean for your candidates?

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By October 2021, DfE Apply for teacher training will be the **only place** for postgraduate teacher training candidates to submit applications.

Potential users have already feedback that:

*“It was really easy to navigate....it didn’t feel overwhelming when I was writing a personal statement which has actually been my whole reason for not applying”*

*“I like the look of this because if you’ve used a gov.uk website it’s familiar and feels more updated”*

*“All the sections gave quite a lot of information about what to put in so my answers were clearer, I felt like I knew how to answer and address each question”*

**The story so far**

# HEIs and our new apply service

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Over the last year we've conducted extensive research across the entire training provider market.

We understand university training providers experience a unique set of challenges, starting with their:

- need to maintain quality of enrolled trainees
- complexity of process
- existing application management software
- numbers of applicants
- workload and budgetary constraints

DfE Apply will create a platform for future policy improvements and we will work with you to ensure a smooth transition.

Building on the success of [Find postgraduate teacher training](#), we're confident we can deliver a service which works for the entire training provider market as well as aspiring teacher trainees.

# The pilots – our Aims

**We are planning to run two pilots (one for Schools and SCITTs and the other for HEIs) of the Apply service with a group of providers.**

The aim of running the pilots is to:

1. Generate real-time insights into candidate and provider needs by testing with real applications
2. Gather evidence to support additional scaling of the service
3. Continuing to build out the service, whilst delivering real value for users
4. Give providers and candidates a chance to shape an early version of the service

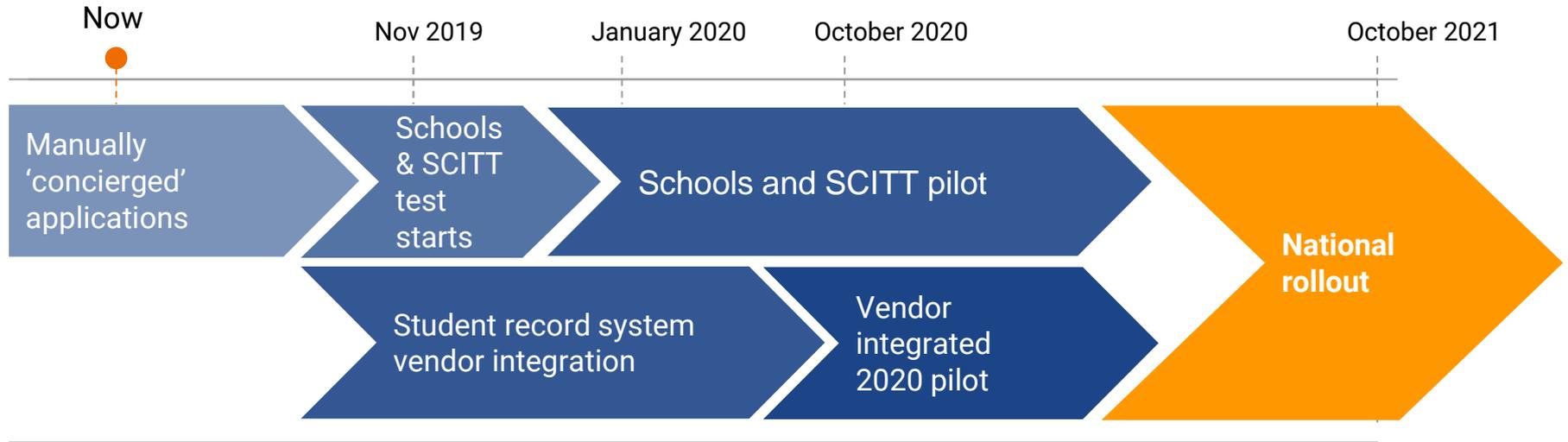
# The pilots – Our plans

Initially, the pilot will focus on SCITTs and Schools. This allows us to gather information about the service without needing to integrate with software vendors who provide Student Record Systems (SRS) for HEIs.

We will run a **6 month pilot** with SCITTs and Schools. We intend to recruit **~50 providers** over this period and target the processing of between **10 - 50 applications per month**.

In order to allow time for integration with software vendors, the HEI pilot will take place in October 2020.

# Our roadmap to national rollout for Apply



Our roadmap shows how we plan to onboard HEIs, SCITTs and Schools.

To mitigate risk and test the service, we'll begin by working with selected early adopter universities.

Alongside, we'll be collaborating with the remaining vendors of your student record systems to achieve full-coverage integration with DfE Apply.

**Providers who opt in to the pilots will gain early access to the new service and help to co-create its design and development**

# What to expect from Apply Early Adoption

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## Get involved when the time is right

- Opted-in universities will have the opportunity to co-create and trial DfE's Apply service as it's developed
- We will work with you to deploy Integrations at the appropriate moment in your recruitment cycle

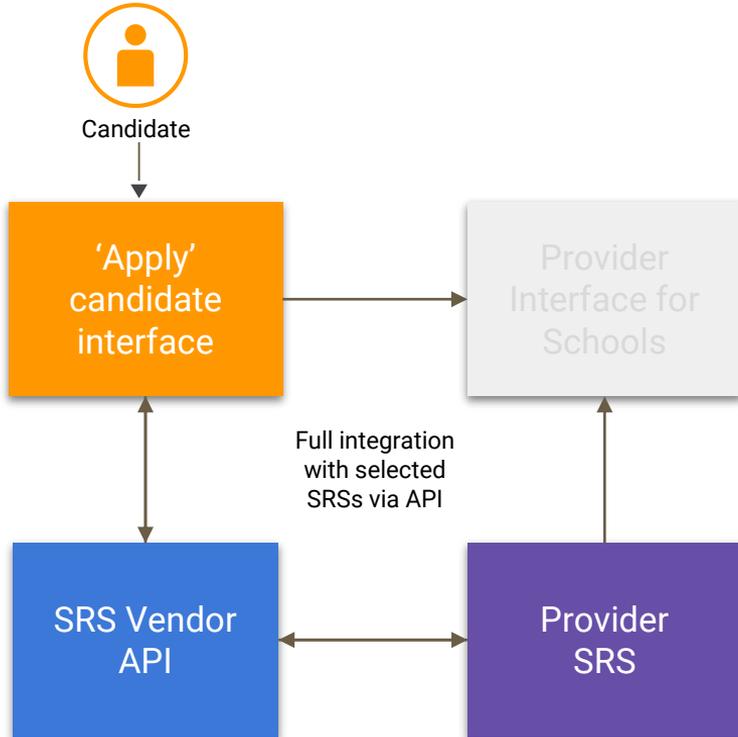
## How will our 2020 Early Adoption work?

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- We will work with select providers to adopt the new DfE Apply system by October 2020
- For those select providers, candidates will apply solely through DfE Apply in October 2020
- Application data will be imported to your SRS using these integrations
- You'll then be able to manage applications and decisions through your SRS, as you do currently

# What Early Adoption in 2020 looks like

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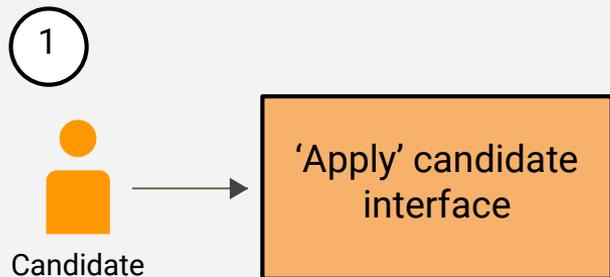
## Our service

A candidate will be able to apply via our candidate interface.

Your SRS will then call on our API to retrieve the candidate's application data and allow you to review and make decisions through your SRS.

Once decisions have been made, you can input the data into your SRS, our service will then be automatically updated and we will notify the candidate of your decisions.

# A candidate's view



Candidate interface ([click to view](#))

We have designed a clear and easy-to-complete application form for candidates. Our form gives providers the relevant information to make decisions, but in a format that enables candidates to pick the right courses, understand what's required and submit without confusion.

The screenshot shows the 'Your application' page on the GOV.UK website. At the top, the GOV.UK logo is visible on the left, and the page title 'Apply for postgraduate teacher training' is on the right, with a 'Sign out' link below it. A blue banner at the top of the page content area contains the text: 'PROTOTYPE This is a prototype of a new service. Some parts of this prototype do not work yet.'

## Your application

### Courses

You can apply for up to 3 courses.

[Add course](#)

### About you

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[Personal details](#)

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[Contact details](#)

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[Work history](#)

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[School experience and volunteering with young people](#)

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### Qualifications

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[Degree](#)

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[Maths GCSE or equivalent](#)

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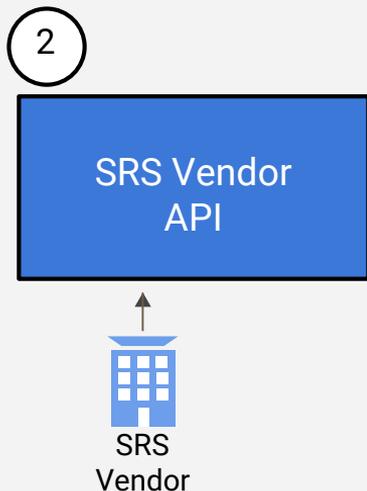
[English GCSE or equivalent](#)

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[Other relevant academic and non-academic qualifications](#)

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## A vendor's view



SRS Vendor API [\(click to view\)](#)

We have created a spec for the API that vendors can use in student record systems and we are working closely with your SRS vendor to implement against this.

**Introduction** ▼

**Usage scenarios** ▼

**API reference** ▲

Use the Swagger Editor

API info

**GET /applications**

Parameters

Possible reponses

GET /applications /{application\_id}

Parameters

Possible reponses

POST /applications /{application\_id}/offer

Parameters

Request body

Possible reponses

**GET /applications**

Get many applications

Applications are returned in the order t created.

**Parameters**

Parameter	In	Type	Requ
since	query	string	true
provider_ucas_code	query	string	true

**Possible reponses**

**HTTP 200 - An array of applications**

# A provider's view

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Provider  
Interface for partner  
schools



Partner  
Schools

Provider interface ([click to view](#))

Over the course of the pilot, we will deliver a provider interface that makes decision-making simpler for your partner schools, saves them time and reduces data entry. Going forward, we aim to create a seamlessly integrated service, eliminating the need for other systems such as DTPP.

Sign out (Jane Doe)

**PROTOTYPE** This is a prototype of a new service. Some parts of this prototype do not work yet.

## 2019-20 recruitment cycle

# Applications

**Find an application**  
You can search by candidate name or application number

All applications

Name	Course	Status	Received	Reject by default
<a href="#">Poppy Noor</a>	Mathematics (GX11)	NEW	1 Sep 2019	22 days
<a href="#">May Cole</a>	Primary (2PPM)	NEW	28 Aug 2019	18 days
<a href="#">Jeremy Brown</a>	History (33MP)	NEW	27 Aug 2019	17 days
<a href="#">James Khan</a>	Computer Science and Information Technology (IX99)	NEW	26 Aug 2019	16 days
<a href="#">Francis Platt</a>	Religious Studies (V6X9)	NEW	26 Aug 2019	16 days
<a href="#">Ester Fairley</a>	Media Studies (33MP)	REJECTED	9 Aug 2019	-
<a href="#">Elizabeth</a>	Business studies (2P27)	CONFIRMED	24 Jul 2019	-

**All applications (12)**

**New (5)**  
[References pending](#)  
[References submitted](#)

**Interviewing (2)**

**Offer made (2)**  
[Conditional](#)  
[Unconditional](#)  
[Accepted \(conditional\)](#)

**Confirmed (3)**

**Rejected (2)**  
[Rejected by us](#)  
[Rejected by default](#)  
[Withdrawn](#)  
[Offer rejected](#)  
[Declined by default](#)

**What you can expect from DfE**

# Operational support for Early Adopter providers

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## Managing peak application periods

We'll be adding providers gradually over time, so we're able to offer tailored support and quality delivery even during very busy periods.

## An online support desk powered by Zendesk

Our rapid response email service will answer service and operations queries around the pilot, applications and future phases of the project within the working week.

## Supporting providers

A dedicated delivery team, consisting of:

- Relationship managers offering phone support
- Individuals with experience of SRS integrations

who will work closely with early adopters to deliver SRS integrations by October 2020 and ensure they are happy with the progress of the pilot.

## Supporting candidates

Teacher Training Advisors (TTAs) will be fully briefed to offer support to candidates.

# What to do next if you're interested in helping us

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By becoming an early adopter, providers will receive bespoke advice and technical support to ensure a smooth transition to DfE Apply.

As a next step, we would need you to:

- express an interest in participating (business and tech teams)
- have a student record system staging area for processing test applications
- commit to passing some of your candidates through our early adoption service
- sign our terms of use and data sharing agreements

If you're interested, please respond to our email and we will follow up shortly to schedule a call.

# Thank you!

If you have questions, please contact us via email at [becomingateacher@digital.education.gov.uk](mailto:becomingateacher@digital.education.gov.uk)