



Department
for Education

Initial Teacher Training (ITT): The accreditation process

Frequently Asked Questions

1 December 2021

Introduction

This frequently asked questions (FAQs) document is to support the ITT accreditation process and will be updated on an iterative basis throughout the ITT accreditation process.

Q1: How do I find out more information on how I can apply to become an accredited provider?

Alongside the response, the government has also published documentation for those wishing to apply for accreditation and new organisations wishing to become accredited ITT providers. This consists of draft 2024/25 ITT criteria, 'Accreditation – How to Apply Guidance', an Expression of Interest form, assessment questions and marking criteria, and this FAQs document, which will be updated on an ongoing basis throughout the process.

Guidance for organisations seeking ITT accreditation can be found [here](#). This guidance is aimed at both existing ITT providers and new organisations who wish to apply to deliver ITT courses leading to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) for the first time.

Q2: Will there be any further DfE support available to help me with my application?

We will be holding information sessions to support organisations to complete their application form and answer any questions. Questions raised at these sessions will be included in future versions of this FAQs document. On an ongoing basis after the information sessions have taken place, organisations can log questions, not covered in the FAQ, via the Jaggaer system. This is detailed in Section 3 of the Accreditation – How to Apply Guidance.

Q3: If I am a new provider that successfully passes stage 1, do I have to wait until 2024/25 before I can deliver ITT?

No, not necessarily. If you are a new entrant, you can ask DfE for permission to begin recruiting trainees from the academic year following your accreditation. DfE will consider, based on the outcomes of the application process and the follow-up stage, whether you could begin recruiting trainees earlier than the academic year 2024/25.

Q4: Will the application process be any different depending on what routes, phases and subjects I want to deliver?

The Secretary of State accredits providers of courses or programmes of ITT as opposed to accrediting individual courses. Once accredited, you can offer all routes and phases

leading to the award of QTS. As the accredited provider, you will be accountable for your provision and inspected by Ofsted against all aspects of the proposed ITT provision.

You will not be required to submit multiple applications if you intend to offer multiple routes, phases, and subjects. The accreditation questions ask you to demonstrate your approach to designing and delivering ITT, but also for examples, such as a curriculum map for a subject and/or phase. Stage 1 of your application will only need to include one curriculum map. This should be for the subject/phase that you anticipate recruiting most trainees to from day one.

Q5: If my organisation is unsuccessful following both rounds, will there be any other opportunities to become an accredited ITT provider?

You must be successful in one of the two accreditation rounds to recruit during the 2023/24 academic year and deliver training from 2024/25 onwards. If you are wishing to provide ITT from the 2024/25 academic year, you should apply at this opportunity.

DfE reserves the right to run additional accreditation rounds as appropriate. The only rounds currently planned are the two set out in the ITT Accreditation – How to Apply Guidance.

Q6: How long will my accreditation status be valid for if I am successful in the process? Will I have to go through this process again in the future?

If successful, your accreditation status is not time limited. As it stands, there are no plans to routinely undertake a re-accreditation exercise. This process aims to ensure that all accredited ITT providers are delivering against the new Quality Requirements which will become part of the ITT criteria from 2024/25 academic year onwards.

Q7: I am an existing ITT provider. What happens if I decide not to apply in either round? Similarly, what if I would like to withdraw my accreditation and stop delivering training immediately?

Your current accreditation status will typically expire at the end of August 2024 unless you are successfully accredited to deliver training against the new Quality Requirements from the 2024/25 academic year.

If you are an existing ITT provider and you do not want to apply to deliver ITT as an accredited ITT provider from the 2024/25 academic year onwards, you should continue to deliver against the existing ITT criteria requirements until the end of the 2023/24

academic year before withdrawing from the market, this will mean ceasing recruitment of trainees from the 2023/24 academic year. The process for withdrawing your accreditation at any point is set out in the [ITT provider closure and withdrawal of accreditation](#) guidance.

Q8: What impact do the accreditation rounds have on the Ofsted inspection cycle?

Ofsted will continue to inspect ITT delivery in parallel with the accreditation process. The current inspection cycle will be completed by July 2024. As part of our approach to external quality assurance, Ofsted will move to a 3-year inspection cycle from January 2025, inspecting against their framework and the ITT criteria 2024/25 requirements.

If a currently accredited ITT provider is judged as less than good by Ofsted inspection, they will be subject to re-inspection within 12 months. If a provider is repeatedly less than Good, DfE reserves the right to withdraw accreditation, regardless of whether the provider has passed stage 1 of the accreditation process.

Q9: I am currently an accredited provider who is interested in applying. What happens if my organisation is inspected and receives a 'less than Good' Ofsted rating?

If you have been judged as less than Good in a recent Ofsted inspection you will have a re-inspection within 12 months of that inspection. Ofsted inspection judgements within the current inspection cycle will not form part of the decision to award accreditation as part of this accreditation process. Ofsted inspection looks at current provision, whereas the accreditation process will consider your ability to meet the ITT criteria 2024/25 requirements from academic year 2024/25.

You can apply but before doing so you should carefully consider your ability to deliver against the new Quality Requirements. Even if you are successful in stage 1 as set out in the Accreditation – How to Apply Guidance, if you are repeatedly less than Good at re-inspection, DfE reserves the right to withdraw accreditation.

Q10: I am currently a provider of undergraduate courses, but if I am unsuccessful in the accreditation process, what does this mean in terms of how I should recruit to courses?

If you are unsuccessful you should continue to recruit and deliver training as normal until 2023/24 when you should cease recruitment of trainees across all routes and phases. Our expectation is that trainees recruited before this point should complete their training

with you. When you no longer have trainees on a course to recommend QTS for, your accreditation will be removed.

Q11: If I am successful in the accreditation process and have some trainees on courses that started before 2024/25 but are not due to finish until after this point, which ITT criteria requirements will apply to them?

There will be some ITT courses that start before the start of the 2024/25 academic year and are not due to finish until after this point. For example, there will be some who started in undergraduate courses in 2022/23 or 2023/24, and there will be some trainees who started one-year postgraduate courses on flexible start dates, for example in January or April 2024.

DfE policy is that the ITT criteria requirements which apply to a trainee when they start a course will be the requirements until the course is completed. The goalposts will not move for trainees mid-course. All courses starting from the 2024/25 academic year will need to be compliant with the ITT criteria 2024/25.

Q12: Who will be involved in assessing applications for accreditation?

Applications for accreditation will be assessed by DfE officials, supported by Ofsted. This assessment will be based on the content of applications against the questions and scoring criteria and will not take into account Ofsted inspection outcomes from the current inspection cycle.

Q13: Will I be subject to due diligence checks at stage 1?

Standard due diligence checks will be conducted as part of stage 1 on all applicants whose legal entity does not have accreditation status at the time of applying. If you are applying as a new legal entity but you do not consider yourself to be a new entrant delivering ITT for the first time as an accredited ITT provider, then raise this with us. On an ongoing basis as set out in the ITT criteria, you must contact DfE to seek approval for any proposed significant changes to your governance and/or operational structure.



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