

FAQs ON PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Eligibility

Q: Will a provider be eligible to receive a partnership grant if they apply for a grant with an organisation in a listed area?

Yes, as long as the partner is located in one of the areas listed in Annex A, the provider will receive a partnership grant based on the number of trainees recruited by that partner in 2021/22. The partner also needs to meet the other criteria set out in the partnership grant guidance, e.g., they must be either a previously accredited partner or a delivery partner previously involved in ITT.

Q: Are providers who have already agreed to establish a new partnership in one of the listed areas eligible to apply?

Providers will only be eligible to receive a partnership grant if they are establishing or formalising a new partnership following the accreditation round 2 outcomes on 29 September 2022 with either a non-accredited provider or a delivery partner. They will also need to meet the other conditions set out in the Partnership Grant guidance.

Q: If an accredited provider partners with an organisation not previously involved in ITT will they be eligible for the Partnership grant?

Providers will need to evidence in their application that their partner is either an accredited provider who was unsuccessful in the accreditation process for 2024 or an existing delivery partner of a provider. The application form also asks providers to include further information about their partner. For example, the number of trainees the partner recruited or trained in 2021/22, the strategic role of the partner in ITT and a link to the partner's website.

If a provider cannot evidence the strategic role the partner has played in ITT before, then they will not be able to receive the Partnership grant.

Q: I'm an accredited provider looking to partner with another organisation. Can I apply for a grant?

Yes, accredited providers will be able to apply for a grant of up to £20,000 to partner with either an organisation who was unsuccessful in securing accreditation to deliver from 2024/25, or other organisations directly involved in delivery of ITT, both of which must be offering ITT provision in one of the named eligible areas listed in the [Partnership Grant guidance](#). The grant will support with costs associated with establishing new partnerships in a named area.

Q: I'm an accredited provider looking to partner with 2 [or more] non-accredited providers. Can I apply for more than one grant?

Accredited providers who wish to partner with 2 or more non-accredited providers or lead partners delivering in an eligible area will be able to claim for the total sum of trainees recruited across those non-accredited providers or partners in 2021/22. For example, where an accredited provider partners with provider 'X' who had 50 trainees in 2021/22 and provider 'Y' who had 120 trainees, they would be able to claim up to £15,000.

Q: Will accredited providers be eligible to claim the partnership grant where the partner is an accredited provider using the dormancy policy?

Where an accredited provider is partnering with another accredited provider in one of the named eligible areas, they will only be eligible for the partnership grant if this partnership utilises the accreditation dormancy policy to ensure that only one provider acts as the accredited and accountable provider within the partnership.

Q: We are developing new ways of working with our existing School Direct partners. Are we eligible to receive the Partnership grant to support this?

Providers agreeing new Partnership arrangements with existing School Direct partners do not meet these criteria.

The Partnership Grant supports the costs of establishing new partnerships in target areas outlined in the guidance. To be eligible for a partnership grant, providers must evidence that they are partnering with either:

1. An existing accredited provider who didn't get accreditation to deliver from the academic year 2024/25, or
2. A lead partner of an existing accredited provider, who has a strategic role in the delivery of ITT.

Q: Are we able to claim funding for developing partnerships with new placement schools, who will provide trainee placements and general mentors in the 11 areas?

No, the Partnership grant is to support the costs associated with setting up new partnerships with organisations who have had a previous strategic role in ITT. For example, partnerships with providers previously accredited to deliver ITT prior to September 2024 or lead partners of non-accredited providers who were previously involved in delivering ITT.

Eligible Areas

Q: Why and how have you chosen 11 eligible areas for the partnership grant?

Following both rounds of accreditation and the subsequent appeals process we have identified 11 areas which we believe require targeted support to increase ITT provision through partnership formation. Providers and those delivering ITT in other regions will still benefit from the support from the Department as needed and can utilise our new [Partnerships guidance](#) for further information.

Q: How have the areas listed in Annex A of the Partnership Grant guidance been defined?

The areas listed in Annex A of the [Partnership Grant guidance](#) have been defined using the Office for National Statistics (ONS) International Territorial Level 2 (January 2021) areas. These areas can differ to the usual LA and county boundaries. Further information on the ITL2 areas can be found at the following links:

List of ITL areas

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/ukgeographies/eurostat#south-west-england>

Map of ITL2 areas

<https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/datasets/ons::international-territorial-level-2-january-2021-uk-buc-v2-1/explore?location=55.347618%2C-3.316972%2C12.71>

Q: How will you determine the location of the partners of an accredited provider?

Providers will be asked to provide a postcode of their partner's location as part of their application. We will confirm if the partner location falls within one of the areas listed in Annex A by using the [ITL2 areas map](#). These areas can be slightly different to the local authority and county boundaries.

Where organisations deliver across multiple sites, further evidence will be requested as part of the grant assurance process to confirm that ITT will be delivered in one of the 11 eligible areas named in the [Partnership Grant guidance](#).

Q: We are a new provider and some of our lead partners (current ITT providers) are in areas not listed in Annex A. Does this mean that we cannot claim any grant for establishing partnerships with them?

The Partnership Grant supports the costs of establishing new partnerships in target areas outlined in the guidance. To be eligible for a partnership grant, providers must evidence that they are partnering with providers who are located in, or delivering ITT training, in these areas.

Providers will be asked to provide a postcode of their partner's location as part of their application. We will confirm if the partner location falls within one of the areas listed in Annex A by using the [ITL2 areas map](#). These areas can be slightly different to the local authority and county boundaries.

Where organisations deliver across multiple sites, further evidence will be requested as part of the grant assurance process to confirm that ITT will be delivered in one of the 11 eligible areas named in the [Partnership Grant guidance](#).

Q: We are not based in one of the eligible areas listed in Annex A of the Partnership grant, are we ineligible to receive the grant?

The accredited provider does not need to be based in one of the eligible areas, but they must be partnering with a new partner who is either based in, or delivering ITT, in one of the eligible areas. Providers will be asked to provide a postcode of their partner's location as part of their application. We will confirm if the partner location falls within one of the areas listed in Annex A by using the [ITL2 areas map](#). These areas can be slightly different to the local authority and county boundaries.

Where organisations deliver across multiple sites, further evidence will be requested as part of the grant assurance process to confirm that ITT will be delivered in one of the 11 eligible areas named in the [Partnership Grant guidance](#).

Q: Setting up partnerships in new areas increases our geographic spread. Can we claim for programmes like IRIS that enable us to deliver remote lesson observations, for example?

No, the Partnership grant is to support the costs associated with setting up new partnerships with organisations previously involved in ITT. For example, partnerships with providers previously accredited to deliver ITT prior to September 2024 or lead partners of non-accredited providers who were previously involved in delivering ITT.

Application Form

Q: What type of response are you looking for under the partner's strategic role question?

There are two options on the application form to describe the strategic role of new partners.

Option 1: Accredited prior to September 2024 (accredited providers either unsuccessful in gaining accreditation for 2024 or who chose not to apply), and
Option 2: Delivery partner (select this option if you are partnering with an organisation who was a delivery partner of a previously accredited provider)

Q: What's the deadline for submitting the application form?

The deadline for submitting the Partnership grant application form is 28 February 2023. However, we encourage providers to submit their applications as soon as possible. We do not need partnerships agreements to be in place, but do require written confirmation (e.g., an email) from both organisations that they have an agreement in principle or intent to partner.

Applications will be processed as quickly as possible upon receipt so that providers can submit their Annex C(i) by the 15 March deadline.

Q: Can we submit separate applications for partnering with 2 or more different partners?

No, the Partnership grant is paid based on the sum of trainees recruited across all new partnerships with non-accredited providers or lead partners who are delivering in one or more of the eligible areas. For example, where an accredited provider partners with provider 'X' who had 50 trainees in 2021/22, provider 'Y' who had 120 trainees, and provider 'Z' who had 100 trainees they would be able to claim up to £20,000.

Q: We are partnering with more than 3 providers, but the application form only includes information for 3 partners. How do we inform you about our other providers?

Please email the ITT Reform Funding mailbox (ITTReform.Funding@education.gov.uk) and we will send you a new form to complete.

Grant Assurance

Q: Can we claim for admin time for existing staff? How do we evidence this?

Yes, you can claim for additional admin time for existing staff as long as you can evidence that it relates to the setting up of a new partnership. You will need to keep a record of activities undertaken and invoices or remittance documents relating to the activity as we may ask you to provide evidence of the stated expenditure. This evidence of expenditure needs to be retained as per the [Department's Terms and Conditions](#).

We will carry out some checks to ensure that this activity has not been previously claimed through other grants, e.g., the ITT Reform Set-Up grant.

Q: Can you provide a copy of Annex C(i)?

Annex C(i) is an annex within the grant funding agreement letter. The letter will be sent to those who have submitted an application and been successful.

Q: Some ITT providers are using the set-up grant to pay for legal costs associated with partnerships. Is it ok for us to use the partnership grant for these legal costs (assuming no overlap)?

The partnership grant can be used for legal costs as long as they do not duplicate funding claimed through the set-up grant. We will carry out assurance checks on activities claimed on Annex C(i) and C(ii) of the partnership grant and we may ask for evidence of the stated expenditure.

Q: Will an audited annex G be required?

Yes, providers will be required to submit an externally audited 'Annex G' certificate of expenditure return by 31 December 2023 confirming that the funding has been spent on the activities detailed in their claim forms (Annex C of the grant funding agreement).

Q: Can we use some of the Partnership grant to cover the Annex G costs incurred?

Yes, you can use the Partnership Grant to cover the cost of fees for your Annex G return.

Q: What is the maximum amount we can claim regardless of the number of partnerships?

The maximum amount of funding that can be claimed for all new partnerships is £20,000.

Q: If we were to use a member of school staff to carry out additional QA can the recharge to the school, be claimed for? For example, we use are paying the school for the QA time of their member of staff.

Costs associated with paying a school staff member for their time spent on additional QA is eligible expenditure for this grant. We will carry out some checks to ensure that this activity has not been previously claimed through other grants, e.g., the ITT Reform Set-Up grant.

You will need to keep a record of payments to the school, e.g., invoice from the school and remittance document as we may ask you to provide evidence of the stated expenditure. This evidence of expenditure needs to be retained as per the [Department's Terms and Conditions](#).

Q: Please can you provide more information and examples as to what could be included in: "additional administration requirements associated with partnership development"?

This is any additional activity in your organisation that needs to take place in order to develop the partnership, which can be evidenced. For example, developing the partnership agreement, staff time on aligning different back-office systems or the time taken on the overall coordination of the partnership process. This isn't exhaustive and we will consider any activity which you can evidence is additional, and which supports the formation of the partnership.

Miscellaneous

Q. What's the difference between the Partnership grant and the set-up grant?

The partnership grant will be available in specific named areas to support accredited providers with the costs associated with partnering with another organisation. The set up grant is available to all providers who have been accredited to deliver from 2024/25 and is designed to support with the costs associated with making the necessary changes to ITT courses to meet the new quality requirements.

Q: Will information submitted as part of a partnership grant application be kept confidential and not released as part of an FOI request?

As a matter of course, we will treat all partnership information as confidential and won't share this externally unless we have your written agreement. However, we can't guarantee that information will not be released in response to an FOI.

In a scenario where we do receive an FOI about partnerships, there a number of considerations to take into account when responding, including whether the information would fall under Section 43 of the FOI act, which grants a protection for commercially sensitive information. We would consult with you about any FOI request that might involve having to name your partners and as per FOI procedure, we have to take any concerns you may have into consideration before deciding whether to release or withhold the information.