Department for Education

ITT criteria: update ahead of publication

The Department for Education will be publishing the ITT criteria update later this month. Please refer to the below table outlining clarifications in the criteria for the 25/26 update. Providers should continue to use the 24/25 criteria noting the below changes, including the removal of minimum time requirements for lead mentor training.

Change to ITT criteria 2025/26	Further information
Change from three routes to teaching to four and outline four routes	This acknowledges the new undergraduate salaried route, bringing the total routes to 4.
Ofsted inspection cycle- change to every 4 years instead of 3	This reflects the changes to cycle length as outlined in the new Ofsted toolkit (9 September). School inspection: toolkit, operating guide and information - GOV.UK
Fee changes	This reflects the wider position on the fees for AY25/26, as communicated with the sector in November 2024. Non-OfS registered and OfS approved (fee cap) providers may charge up to £9,535 for a full-time and £7,145 for a part-time course. Further details can be found in designation letters, which were sent to providers in autumn 2024.
Line on provider responsibility to determine equivalency of qualification	This clarifies that it is the provider's responsibility to determine the equivalent of a qualification for entry into ITT.
Clarification on apprenticeship wording heading	We have simplified wording to reflect that apprenticeship requirements are the same regardless of TDA or PGTA route.
Provider responsibility on confirming trainee has met requirement for QTS	Changes have been made to clarify the provider's role in the process of a trainee gaining QTS. Accredited providers are responsible for ensuring that a trainee meets the requirements for QTS before updating DfE's Register service. These requirements are to:

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	1. Hold a first degree or equivalent qualification 2. Successfully complete a course of initial teacher training at an accredited institution, or a provider offering a course on behalf of an accredited institution 3. Undertake a period of practical teaching experience for the purpose of the ITT course 4. be assessed by the accredited institution as meeting the Teachers' Standards.
Changed 'physical capacity' to 'capacity' to teach in 'Health and capacity to teach' under C1.3 Suitability	This allows for a wider interpretation of capacity to train to teach. It also aligns with the latest version of KCSIE, which now references the physical and mental capacity for specific roles in education.
Added a paragraph to outline provider responsibilities under the Equality Act to provide reasonable adjustments for trainees	This reaffirms that providers should ensure trainees with declared disabilities are supported with reasonable adjustments suitable to teaching profession.
Removal of Lead Mentor minimum time requirements	This reflects the wider policy position on removing minimum time requirements for lead mentors and general mentors. As communicated in July 2025, lead mentor funding has been calculated to reflect the expectation that the requirements of the lead mentor role should be embedded into the practice of ITT providers. A single funding rate of £2,000 per lead mentor or lead mentorship team per 25 trainees will be available to support providers with this transition. The requirements of this role will continue, but the requirement for minimum training times for lead mentors will be removed, bringing this in line with the prior changes to general mentor training.
Change of term from 'lead partner' to 'training partner', and 'Accounting Officer' to 'Accountable Officer'	To provide a more accurate description of the particular role of a 'training partner' amongst wider partners and align with digital services (all but Register use 'training partner') and prevent confusion with 'lead schools'. The criteria define a training partner as: **Training partner(s)** – will have an operational or strategic role with responsibilities delegated to them by the accredited

	provider and their role will include delivering training and may include trainee recruitment. The change from ‘accounting officer’ to ‘accountable officer’ is made to avoid confusion with financial terms. **Accountable officer** – the person with overall accountability for ITT in the organisation
Clarifications around training partners and the changes DfE needs to be informed of/ approve	The criteria will confirm the position that DfE needs to approve if providers add or remove a training partner. DfE maintains a register of training providers, which contains details of accredited providers (including legal entity, operating name, UKPRN and Accountable Officer) and details of all training partners who: • Recruit on behalf of the accredited provider • Deliver training • Manage or receive student fees from the Office for Students (OfS) DfE may request additional information from accredited providers to ensure the Register of Training Providers is accurate and up to date.
Update CCF to ITTECF	This reflects the ITTECF coming into effect from September 2025.

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