



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Requesting early years initial teacher training places

Process for the 2017 to 2018 academic year

July 2016

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Introduction

1. The National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) allocates places for early years initial teacher training places.
2. This document sets out the process that accredited initial teacher training providers and School Direct (Early Years) Lead Organisations will need to follow in order to register their requests for places for the academic year 2017 to 2018.
3. NCTL currently accredits providers to deliver initial teacher training (ITT) leading to the award of qualified teacher status (QTS).
4. Early years ITT leads to the award of early years teacher status (EYTS) conferred by NCTL. NCTL will only award EYTS to trainees who have undertaken training delivered by an accredited ITT provider awarded early years ITT places.
5. Provider accreditation covers the delivery of ITT for both QTS and EYTS provision. Accredited organisations will however need to express an interest in delivering early years ITT and make a request for an allocation of places.
6. Early years teachers are specialists in early childhood development, trained to work with babies and young children from birth to five years old. Early years teacher status is awarded to graduates who have been judged to have met all of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) in practice from birth to the end of the [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#).
7. The process described in this document will apply to the allocation of places for the 2017 to 2018 academic year. NCTL, or any successor organisation, may modify or amend the approach it takes to allocate places in future years.

Early years initial teacher training routes 2017 to 2018 academic year

8. There are four routes to become an early years teacher. These are:

- graduate entry route (funded by NCTL)
- graduate employment-based route (funded by NCTL)
- undergraduate entry route, through an Early Childhood related degree blended with early years teacher status (funded via [Student Finance England \(SFE\)](#)).
- assessment only route (self funded)

Details of the routes and related funding are outlined at Annex A.

9. The funding will be used to support:

- the graduate entry route through postgraduate training grants to pay course fees plus bursary payments for high quality trainees
- the graduate employment-based route with an employer incentive to encourage employers to support the development of existing staff

10. Funding for the **undergraduate entry** route may be accessed by eligible trainees through tuition fee-loans via [Student Finance England \(SFE\)](#). Trainees will be liable for the repayment of course fees.

11. The table below summarises the training routes and funding arrangements for 2017/18.

| Route | Funding method | Funding Source | Allocated Places |
|---------------------------|---|--|------------------|
| Graduate employment-based | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Graduate Training Grant • Employer incentive | NCTL | Yes |
| Graduate entry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Graduate Training Grant • Bursary if degree classification achieved | NCTL | Yes |
| Undergraduate entry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition Fees • Maintenance Loans | BIS/ Student Finance England (SFE) | Yes |
| Assessment Only | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil | Individual/Employer | Yes |

The request period

12. NCTL allocates places to currently accredited initial teacher training (ITT) providers and School Direct (Early Years) Lead Organisations.
13. ITT providers and School Direct (Early Years) Lead Organisations have from **15 July 2016** to **midday on 30 September 2016** to request early years ITT places for the 2017 to 2018 academic year.

Deadline

14. We will not consider requests submitted before the start of the request period on **15 July 2016**. ITT providers and School Direct (Early Years) Lead Organisations have until **midday on 30 September 2016** to submit requests.
15. Further details of the approach we will take to allocating places will be published later in the summer. ITT providers and School Direct (Early Years) Lead Organisations should request places based on a realistic assessment of local need and viability.

How to request places

16. ITT providers and School Direct (Early Years) Lead Organisations should specify the number of places requested per route on the early years ITT places for the 2017 to 2018 academic year - request template.
17. When requesting places, providers must be realistic about the number of places they ask for, considering, for example, their capacity for training and ability to attract high quality trainees.
18. Instances of significant under or over recruitment may be subject to future allocation penalties.

Requirements

19. As part of the request process, ITT providers and School Direct (Early Years) Lead Organisations are required to:
 - Submit all requests for places before the deadline (**midday 30 September 2016**) by completing the request template.
 - School Direct (Early Years) Lead Organisations are required to identify a partner accredited ITT provider.
 - Send the request template by e-mail to earlyyearsteachers.nctl@education.gsi.gov.uk by **midday 30 September 2016**.
 - Inform NCTL if they do not receive confirmation of their request by **5 October 2016**.

E-mail confirmation

20. The NCTL early years team will provide a confirmation e-mail for all requests received. If you do not receive this e-mail, we may not have received your request. It is the responsibility of ITT providers and School Direct (Early Years) Lead Organisations to contact earlyyearsteachers.nctl@education.gsi.gov.uk if they do not receive an e-mail confirmation by **5 October 2016**.
21. NCTL cannot be held responsible if e-mails are not received because the requestor has used an incorrect e-mail address.

Next steps

22. **Publication of the Allocations Methodology:** we expect to publish further details of the approach that we will take to allocating places to providers and School Direct (Early Years) Lead Organisations later in the summer.
23. **Announcement of allocations:** when the allocation of places has been determined, we will write to ITT providers and School Direct (Lead Organisations) with details of their allocations and a deadline for the confirmation of acceptance.

Annex A – Early years ITT routes and funding

| | Graduate employment based | Graduate entry | Undergraduate entry | Assessment only |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Description of typical trainee | Graduate employed in an early years setting who requires training and further experience to demonstrate the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) | Graduate undertaking Early Years ITT through a mainstream academic route. | Undergraduate completing a degree in an Early Childhood related subject including Early Years ITT | Graduate with experience of working with children from birth to five and able to demonstrate the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) without further training e.g. overseas EY teachers. |
| Normal duration | 12 months (part time) | 12 months (full time) | 3 years (full time) | 3 months |
| Funding | NCTL | NCTL | BIS (student loan) | Self-funded |
| Post Graduate Training Grant | £7,000 | £7,000 | - | - |
| Bursary to candidate if degree classification achieved* | - | 1st Class Degree 2:1 Degree 2:2 Degree | - | - |
| Incentive to employer | £7,000** | - | - | - |

* Bursary levels will be announced in due course

** This funding for the employer could be used for example, for supply cover or salary enhancement.



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