

Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship (PGTA) - Level 6



Education & Skills
Funding Agency



Apprenticeships

What is a postgraduate teaching apprenticeship (PGTA)?

The PGTA is a 12 month, fully funded and salaried teacher training programme, which leads to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

A PGTA consists of two parts:

1. A 12 month apprenticeship. The apprenticeship runs from 1 September to 31 August the following year. The apprentice's contract must cover the entire 12 months.
2. A teacher training course leading to QTS. The QTS course runs from the beginning of September to the beginning of July.

There are three stages to the PGTA:

Stage 1 Pre QTS:

This involves bespoke support to get you ready for the QTS programme to ensure that you can successfully engage with the programme. This may include GCSE equivalency tests or subject knowledge enhancement courses.

Stage 2 QTS programme:

Our unique course is designed to help you fulfil a wider teaching role (including that of pastoral care) within your chosen educational context. This course will provide you with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and the additional option to obtain a PGCE at Master's level. Working closely with our experienced staff, aspiring teachers gain the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to become successful early careers teachers.

Stage 3 End Point Assessment (EPA):

The end point assessment is the same as the award for QTS and takes place during the assessment board meeting at the end of the course.



The apprenticeship is not complete until all 3 stages of the programme have been assessed.

What is the difference between a PGTA and an unsalaried teacher training route?

- As a PGTA you will have a higher teaching load than on an unsalaried course. The teaching load is up to 80% for a PGTA whereas on a unsalaried route your teaching load will gradually increase throughout the year to up to 70%.
- On the salaried PGTA route you will not be eligible for student finance or train to teach bursaries as you will be receiving a salary.
- As a PGTA you can take your own classes and you have sole responsibility for their academic achievement and pastoral care. On an unsalaried teacher training course the overall responsibility remains with the host teacher who needs to be present in every lesson to give informal feedback. As a PGTA you are observed formally once per week.

What you can expect from your school:

- PGTAs must have 20% free time for off-the-job learning. The 20% will be your weekly training day where you will attend live training sessions which take place either face-to-face or via Teams.
The 20% off-the-job training does not include PPA time or in-school training like training days or twilight sessions. PGTA should be given an additional 10% PPA time.
- PGTAs need one formal observation per week.
- PGTAs need to complete a substantial contrast placement. This will be 6 weeks (full-time) and must include a joint observation by the school mentor and the lead mentor. To minimise the impact of this we aim to swap PGTAs wherever possible, but your school must allow you to complete this contrast placement.
- Provision of an in-school mentor. This must be a qualified teacher. For the secondary course it must be a subject specialist in the subject that the apprentice is training in. They will meet with you every week and look after your professional development.



What you can expect from us:

- A bespoke training programme tailored to your specific phase and subject requirements.
- Personalised support from either the programme lead (for our primary course) or your professional mentor (for our secondary course).
- Dedicated pastoral and wellbeing support from our pastoral mentor and through the employee assistance scheme.
- Access to our online resources . All your evidence and records will be kept online in one easy to access place so that you, your mentor and your professional tutor can access them wherever you are.



What about the cost?

The apprenticeship course is fully funded, so there is no cost to the apprentice.

The PGTA leads to QTS—qualified teacher status. We also offer the option to complete a PGCE alongside the apprenticeship. This is not included in the cost of training and the additional cost of about £1000 must be met separately either by the apprentice or the school. Due to the increased workload of an apprentice teacher compared to an unsalaried trainee teacher, we do not recommend completing the PGCE, unless you are planning to teach abroad.

