

Department for Education update FE teacher training support for AY20/21

Wednesday, 29 January 2020

The Department for Education (DfE) will be offering new financial support for further education (FE) teachers training in priority subjects, for academic year 2020/21.

In response to feedback from the sector about our previous bursaries programme, new financial incentives will cover both pre-service training (through bursaries) and in-service training (grants) for the 2020/21 academic year, as well as a wider range of priority subjects, and be available to skilled non-graduates as well as graduates.

The pre-service bursaries are a tax-free cash incentive paid to the individual trainee teacher completing a Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training (DET), or higher-level DET-compliant qualification, for the duration of their training programme. Bursary subjects and rates are:

Subject	Bursary rate
Computing, engineering (and/or manufacturing), maths, and science (including biology, chemistry, or physics)	£26,000
SEND	£15,000
English	£12,000

The in-service grants will be paid to a trainee's employer (eg FE college) to support the trainee while training "in service" (ie whilst in receipt of a salary) by providing a specified teaching qualification (at Level 5 or above), remission from teaching time, and the provision of additional support (eg mentoring). The £18,200 grants will be available to those training to teach English or maths, or provide SEND specialist support.

Funding is available for at least 300 pre-service bursaries and 150 in-service grants, on a demand-led, first-come-first-served basis.

We will announce full details of the application process for providers soon, and anticipate being able to accept applications from March.

We are unable to confirm funding beyond the academic year 2020/21, and therefore no assumptions should be made about the future availability or otherwise of this support.

Taking Teaching Further

To support FE providers to recruit high-quality teachers, we developed the Taking Teaching Further programme (TTF) in 2018 to test how best to attract industry professionals to teach in FE. We have run two rounds of the pilot since 2018 with a £5m investment.

Building on what we've learned so far and to further test what works best, we are now launching a third round, investing £10m in 2020-21 to expand the programme to offer up to 550 new initial teacher education places to people with industry experience to train to become FE teachers across a range of technical subjects.

Further information on how FE providers can access this programme will be made available soon.

Questions and answers

Why are these incentives only available for one year?

The 2019 Spending Round provided one year of funding for FE – this allows us to make incentives available for the academic year 2020/21. We recognise that the challenges the sector faces will not be solved in a single year, but these incentives will tackle some of the most pressing issues by supporting recruitment in priority subjects. We will use this offer to inform decisions around future FE workforce support investment and delivery.

We've been recruiting for AY20/21 since September, can we retrospectively apply for bursaries or grants?

The bursaries and grants are intended to help with the recruitment of additional new teachers, as opposed to those who have already been recruited onto training programmes.

Why have you chosen just these subjects for bursaries/grants?

We have looked carefully at the evidence about the subjects to which FE providers find it most difficult to recruit teachers. With limited funding, we are targeting STEM subjects and English, which are among the most challenging. We are also responding to feedback from the sector about the difficulties of recruiting specialist teachers to support learners with special educational needs and disabilities.

If you're removing the degree requirement, what evidence will be required instead to demonstrate appropriate 'skill'?

We will set out more details around eligibility and other requirements in the bursary and grants manuals we will publish soon.

Are the new incentives only available for those training to teach in FE colleges?

No – they are not limited to colleges. We will provide full details on provider eligibility soon.

How do the new grants relate to TTF? Doesn't that support in-service training?

TTF is focused on improving the quality and industry relevance of teaching in technical/vocational subjects in the FE sector. The new training grants complement TTF by providing support for those training in-service in other priority subjects, specifically maths, English and SEND teaching.

Why are you extending TTF?

With the challenges that technical education reforms pose – particularly for the successful delivery of T Levels and apprenticeships – we need sufficient numbers of highly-skilled teachers in place to deliver high-quality, work-relevant skills training.

Having tested TTF through earlier rounds, we are now scaling up delivery so that more FE providers can benefit from the support on offer, and further testing what will work best.

What do you hope TTF will achieve?

Building on the success of the first two rounds, TTF aims to support providers to recruit and train high-calibre people from industry into FE teaching, boosting the quality and industry-relevance of teaching.

What if I have questions before you provide more details?

If you have any urgent questions before we provide more details, please email FE.workforceincentives@education.gov.uk and we will review them as soon as possible.