

Do you have a member of staff who you wish to support to gain their QTS via the Postgraduate Apprenticeship route?

Secondary



TCP are an established Initial Teacher Training Provider and a Registered Apprenticeship Training Provider (RoATP), working with schools across the eastern region offering various ITT routes, including the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship with QTS. We have put together the following information as a guide to help you decide if you can support a member of your staff to gain their QTS via the Apprenticeship route.

Entry requirements

Firstly, all apprentices **must** meet the minimum entry requirements for ITT – GCSE English, maths (and science for Primary) level 4/grade C or above; or equivalent and a Bachelor's degree (*they may have completed Year 1 of the Paid Teacher Internship for TAs, and are now ready to progress to the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship with TCP, which forms Year 2 of the Internship programme, where they gain QTS. Please contact info@campartnership.org for more information on the internship.*

How will it work in your school? – The apprentice must be employed by you (the employing school) full time 100% for the duration of the apprenticeship (*the apprenticeship course runs 1 July 2026 to 31 July 2027 of the following year.*)

In our experience we have found apprentices who have been most successful following this route have been able to develop their knowledge and understanding of the curriculum through observation of good/outstanding teaching. To do this their teaching timetable should not exceed 60% (3 days a week) teaching in one class. This then allows for 20% off-the-job training with TCP* and time in a Contrasting School Placement where they will also be required to teach. The remaining 20% (1 day) should allow for PPA and for professional development visiting alternative year groups to experience a wider knowledge of the Primary Curriculum.

Our experience shows that starting with a teaching commitment of 30/40% and rising to 60% by the end of term one gives apprentices the time they need to adjust to their new role. This ultimately gives the apprentice the best chance of success and will result in a stronger teacher at the end of the programme. It should be remembered that when apprentices are completing their CSP, their teaching commitment will rise to 75/80% which is in line with the requirements for an ECT.

How the ITT Criteria impacts on the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship – There is a requirement to teach each statement from the Core Content Framework explicitly via **Intensive Training & Practice** weeks, which require trainees to be out of their regular school, working on one specific area of pedagogy for an additional 4 weeks.

ITAP	During which placement?	When	Length
ITAP 1	Main school Placement	July 2026 (during 2-week induction period)	1 week
ITAP 2	Main school Placement	Autumn 2	1 week
ITAP 3	Contrasting School Placement	Spring 1	1 week
ITAP 4	Contrasting School Placement	Spring 2	1 week

Employed trainees will start their course on 1st July, need releasing for 2 weeks induction in July, be out of school for one day each week throughout the year for training, and need releasing for the ITAP weeks. They must also attend a Contrasting School Placement, please see below details of how this works.

How does the 2-week induction in July work? Apprentice contracts start July 1st, however all employed trainees will need to attend the pre-course training during the first 2 weeks of July. During these 2 weeks the trainees will attend 2 mandatory central training days and ITAP 1. This will provide all employed routes trainees the opportunity to build on their teaching experience prior to taking on full class responsibility, as an employed trainee in the following academic year. They will also need to undertake a 1-day special school visit and 2-days

alternative phase visit. *(It will be the trainee/employing school's responsibility to ensure the alternative phase and Special School visits are arranged to take place during this period, or beforehand if possible).* The ITAPs, school visits and CSPs are mandatory parts of the programme, therefore if for some reason it is not possible for the trainee to attend, the employing school must organise for this to be completed before QTS can be awarded.

You can opt to choose for your apprentice to follow a slightly shortened course starting 1st September 2026 – 31st July 2027, however there is still the same ITT requirements for ITAPs and CSPs, meaning they will still need to be released for these additional weeks during the academic year, following the same calendar as our tuition fee routes.

How does the Contrasting School Placement (CSP) work? The Contrasting School Placement (CSP) takes place in a different school. This placement is either one day per week for the duration of the course or a 6-week block in the first half of the spring term. The employing school can choose whichever option best suits their setting. It is the employing school's responsibility to arrange this CSP, however we can offer assistance if needed.

Please note: *If the apprentice is working in an alternative provision, then a longer CSP is required to ensure they have the sufficient experience of teaching across the whole age and ability range, for the age they are registered in – please speak to one of our team to discuss this further.*

How much does the apprenticeship cost? The tuition fees are £9000, (which includes End Point Assessment-EPA) which is paid using your Apprenticeship Levy. *(In the event that the apprentice completes the course and is awarded QTS, but fails to complete EPA, the apprentice could be liable for the 20% funding held back until EPA is complete.)*

The trainee will need to be employed on UQT1** for the duration of the course as detailed above. It's worth noting that this differs to the Schools Direct Salaried route, where although the cost of the course is lower at £8535 (there is no End Point Assessment), the school is invoiced for the tuition fees directly, meaning you cannot use your Levy funds to pay the tuition fees.

We are interested in this route, what do we do next?

For local authority schools in the Cambs and Peterborough area, please register your interest with the Schools Recruitment Team:

CCC Local Authority schools.recruitment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

PCC Local Authority apprenticeships@peterborough.gov.uk

The Team will discuss your individual trainee and whether they need to begin Year 1 of the Internship or move directly onto Year 2 with us.

For Academies and Trust schools, initially you must confirm with your levy holder that they are happy to release the levy funds, then complete the steps below.

You will then need to complete the form below to authorise for a DfE apply code to be raised by using this link:

[PGTA with QTS 2026-27 course code request](#)

Or scan this QR code:



This will give us the necessary information and authorisation to raise an application code for your location, so the candidate can apply through our normal recruitment process via DfE Apply, to the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship with QTS.

Once the potential apprentice has applied, they will be interviewed by 2 members of our management team to assess that they meet the necessary entry standards for the course. Trainees are notified via DfE Apply of the

decision, which is followed up by all the necessary paperwork. **Any conditions of offer which will include the apprentice providing the original certificates for the minimum entry requirement, must be fulfilled before the apprentice can be registered as starting the QTS course.** In addition to this they will need to complete the literacy and numeracy diagnostic tasks (*which replaced the government skills tests that were removed in April 2019*).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact TCP for more information, or to speak to one of our team.

Contacts:

Local Authority Schools recruitment team schools.recruitment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk / apprenticeship@peterborough.gov.uk

TCP General enquiries: info@campartnership.org

Claire Mott – Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship Manager cmott@campartnership.org

**This means trainee must attend TCP training days on day a week and will be in school the other 4 days each week, when not on CSP or attending ITAPs.*

*** Academy school have discretion on this please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recruit-a-postgraduate-teacher-apprentice-guidance-for-employers#salaries> for more details.*

