

## Further Education (FE) Initial Teacher Education (ITE) bursaries – 2026-27 academic year

An ITE bursary is a financial incentive to attract high-quality individuals into the teaching profession in the Further Education (FE) sector.

There are a number of bursaries available for trainees starting their course in the 2026-27 academic year and these are awarded to trainees based on their relevant qualifications or professional experience, and their intention to teach a designated priority subject in the FE sector.

Bursary awards are fixed for the duration of the trainee's ITE programme, and are for programmes starting in or after September 2026, and finishing no later than August 2027 (for full-time courses) or August 2028 (for part-time courses), only.

Awards will be made from a finite funding pot on a first-come-first-served basis.

| Subject                                               | Bursary                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mathematics                                           | £31,000                             |
| Science, including Biology, Chemistry, and/or Physics | £31,000                             |
| Engineering (and/or manufacturing)                    | £31,000                             |
| Computing                                             | £31,000                             |
| Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)     | £15,000                             |
| English                                               | £10,000 (only 100 places available) |

To be eligible, a trainee must:

- be eligible to receive student support (e.g. a Student Loan to pay the course fees)
- hold GCSE grade C/4 (**Level 2 Functional Skills is currently not considered equivalent**) in English and mathematics, and at least a Level 3 qualification in their subject of training (or have appropriate professional experience)
- be taking a qualifying pre-service ITE course in England
- not already be in possession of a Diploma in Education and training (DET), DET compliant qualification or equivalent
- not already hold, or be eligible to receive, early years teacher status (EYTS), qualified teacher status (QTS) or qualified teacher learning and skills (QTLS) status
- not be undertaking paid teaching work which contributes to their training when in receipt of the bursary
- not be simultaneously undertaking any other ITE course, training scheme or programme that leads to a DET or DET-compliant qualification
- meet other related expectations, including intending to seek an FE teaching post in England after qualification

Bursary awards are only available to those trainees who 'volunteer' their time in a teaching placement. Trainees who are already undertaking paid teaching work (including those on a Teaching Apprenticeship) will not be considered. To meet the conditions of the bursary the placement must be in the subject area that attracts a bursary (as above).

Payments will be made to the trainee on a monthly basis throughout the course. They are not intended to be used to pay the course fees associated with the programme. Bursary applications must be received by the DfE before September 2026 (ideally before the course starts).

If you feel that you are eligible and would like to apply for an ITE bursary please contact the Head of Teacher Education at the Bedford College Group; Mark Brookes [mbrookes@bedford.ac.uk](mailto:mbrookes@bedford.ac.uk)