

L6 Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship: FAQs for Schools

Are you interested in the apprenticeship route into teacher training? If so, this document aims to answer some initial questions when considering this route for potential ITT candidates, working in partnership with UH. If your school's apprenticeship levy is administered by Hertfordshire County Council then you can use UH as your training provider. An Apprentice incurs no fees for training, are employed by the school and receive a salary to train.

What is the Apprenticeship route into teaching?

The Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship (PTA) is an employment-based route into teaching that combines paid work with on- and off-the-job training.

Does the Apprenticeship route offer QTS?

Yes. Apprentices are awarded QTS if they meet the Teacher Apprenticeship Standards (which are identical to the Teachers' Standards). This requires a school to work in partnership with an accredited ITT provider, such as UH, to deliver the off-the-job training. The Apprentice will, therefore, spend part of the required off-the-job training attending sessions at UH (usually one day a week during term time). Having been awarded QTS, the Apprentice will then go through an End Point Assessment (EPA) which will lead to the award of their apprenticeship certificate.

How long does the Apprenticeship route into teaching take?

An apprenticeship is required to take (a minimum) of 1 year, meaning that the initial period of training, leading to the award of QTS, must span 12 months.

After the award of QTS there is a further period allowed for consolidation of knowledge, skills and behaviours as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT). Following this, an Apprentice completes the EPA and will qualify for the apprenticeship certificate. The minimum amount of time required for both training and the EPA is 372 days.

How much off-the-job training is required?

The Apprentice is allocated at least 20% off-the-job training as part of their contracted hours. This is likely to be a combination of opportunities and experiences that support the development of the Apprentice's teaching skills, designed in partnership with UH.

How much teaching can the Apprentice take on in my school?

As a training route into the teaching profession, an Apprentice on the PTA route is entitled to progressive and scaffolded training experiences that allow them to develop into outstanding classroom practitioners. To enable this, UH advises that an Apprentice's teaching load is built up over time but it must not exceed 16 hours per week until QTS is awarded.

Does the Apprentice require training experience at a second school?

Yes. In line with all routes into teaching, the training programme must meet the requirements set out by the Department for Education for ITT provision. The Apprentice will, therefore, have a structured programme of training. This includes a minimum period of 6 weeks at a school which can provide a contrasting experience. The Apprentice will be assessed against the Teacher Apprenticeship Standards (identical to the Teachers' Standards) and must meet the minimum requirements in the second school in order to continue with their training. It is the responsibility of the school to arrange this second school experience in a setting that is able to provide high quality training.

What does the End Point Assessment (EPA) look like?

The EPA is a holistic and independent assessment of the knowledge, skills and behaviours which is reviewed against the Teachers' Standards. It consists of a lesson observation followed by a short professional dialogue between the Apprentice and a panel composed of an independent assessor, a representative from UH (the training provider) and a representative from the school.

Details can be found at: https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/media/1470/teacher-apprenticeship-assessment-plan_revised-clean-version.pdf

How much will I have to pay the Apprentice?

The school will need to employ the Apprentice for the period from the commencement of their training to the completion of their EPA. While the Apprentice is working towards QTS, a maintained school must pay a salary of at least point 1 on the unqualified teachers' pay scale. They will need to ensure that pay rates are clearly advertised to the apprentice beforehand.

Once the Apprentice has been awarded QTS, they must be paid in line with, and have the same employment rights as, an NQT.

Can I access the apprenticeship levy to pay for the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship?

If you pay into the Hertfordshire Schools' apprenticeship levy you will be able to access funds to pay the cost of the training up to a maximum of £9000. The levy only covers the cost of training and EPA and cannot be used to cover salary costs.

What are the entry requirements for the PTA?

They are the same as existing routes into ITT at UH. These include an honours degree at 2:2 or above, GCSE in English language and mathematics at grade 4 or above (plus GCSE science for those training in the primary phase) and passes in the professional skills tests. More details can be found on the University of Hertfordshire website:

www.herts.ac.uk/study/schools-of-study/education/initial-teacher-education/school-direct/entry-requirements

What are the training dates for next year if the school works with UH?

The PTA will start on 1st June 2019. On this date, the Apprentice must begin their employment with the school and they will be registered with the university.

The initial period of training will last 12 months. It is expected, therefore, that the Apprentice will have met the requirements for QTS in June 2020.

Once QTS has been confirmed by the Department for Education, the Apprentice will be employed as an NQT with the school, affording them the opportunity to pass the EPA before the end of the summer term 2020 if the school believes they are ready.

Who can I contact at UH if I have further questions?

If you have any questions relating to the PTA, or you would like further guidance, please contact Rob Dawson at the University of Hertfordshire. His details are:

Telephone: 01707 286438

Email: r.d.dawson@herts.ac.uk

Where can I find more detailed information about the PTA so that I can assess its suitability for me as a prospective training school?

www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-funding-rules-2018-to-2019

www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/media/1470/teacher-apprenticeship-assessment-plan_revised-clean-version.pdf

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/teacher/

www.gov.uk/guidance/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses-in-england