

## What qualifications do I need?

1. **A University degree**
  - a. This can be from outside of the UK
2. **English and maths qualifications**
  - a. Equivalent of a GCSE (grade 4) in maths and English
  - b. If training to teach children age 3-11 you will also need the equivalent of GCSE (grade 4) in a science subject

[Contact UK ENIC to find out if your qualifications meet the standard](#)

All providers will require a statement of comparability from UK ENIC and will need to see your original high school and university certificates.

1. If your degree does not meet the required standard, please talk to your provider about how you may be able to top up your degree in the UK
2. If your high school qualifications do not meet the required standard, please check with your individual provider if there are any other recognised qualifications that they will accept. For example:
  - a. Equivalency tests – available in English, maths and science subjects. You don't need these in place in order to apply but must be passed before starting your training programme
  - b. IELTS – overall score of 6.5 or above

**Get Support from a teacher training advisor**, who can help you get a statement of comparability from UK ENIC.

Visit <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/international-candidates> and click on [Get an Advisor](#) at the bottom of the page.

## What VISA or status do I need?

Information taken from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/train-to-teach-in-england-non-uk-applicants/train-to-teach-in-england-non-uk-applicants#visas-and-immigration>

*Please note the guidance is correct at time of writing but may be subject to change by the UK Gov.*

### **Check whether you can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme**

If you are a citizen of a country inside the [European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#) or Switzerland, and you were living in the UK on 31 December 2020, you can apply to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#). The deadline for the scheme is 30 June 2021. If your application is successful, you can continue to live and study in the UK after 30 June 2021 without applying for a visa.

# Information for International Trainees – May 2021

## Apply for a visa for your teacher training course

The main visa routes for teacher training in England are:

1. Student visa
2. Skilled worker visa

Depending on your personal circumstances, you may be eligible for other visas including:

3. Graduate visa
4. Youth Mobility Scheme visa
5. Other visas
  - a [Family visa](#)
  - a [UK Ancestry visa](#)
  - if you are from Hong Kong, a [British National \(Overseas\) visa](#).

### Unsalaries courses (SCITT and School Direct fee-funded)

Visa options:

- **Student Visa** (requires sponsor)
- **Graduate Visa** (no sponsor required)
- **Youth Mobility Scheme Visa (age 18-30)** – no sponsor required

### Salaried courses (School Direct Salaried and PG Teacher Apprenticeship)

Visa options:

- **Skilled Worker Visa** (requires sponsor)
- **Graduate Visa** (no sponsor required)
- **Youth Mobility Scheme Visa (age 18-30)** – no sponsor required

## 1. Applying for a student visa

- Student visas must be sponsored by a Home Office licensed student sponsor.
- Contact your chosen training provider to check they are a Home Office licensed student sponsor – sponsors can help you apply for your visa. You can also refer to the UK government's [Register of licensed sponsors: students](#), which lists all training providers who can sponsor students.

You'll be able to apply for your visa if you:

- have a confirmed offer of a place on a course with a Home Office licensed student sponsor teacher training provider
- have a reference number, called a confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS), which your training provider will give you

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- [have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course](#)
- [can speak, read, write, and understand English](#)

### [Apply for a student visa](#)

## 2. Applying for a skilled worker visa

Skilled worker visas are sponsored by Home Office licensed employers.

You will need to find out whether the school you'll be employed by during your training is a Home Office licensed employer sponsor. Sometimes it will be the [local authority or academy trust](#) that holds the sponsor licence instead of the individual school. You could check the Home Office's [Register of licensed sponsors: workers](#), but you should also check directly with your chosen teacher training provider. Sponsors can help you apply for your visa.

You'll be able to apply for your visa if:

- you have an offer for a salaried training place at a school that is a licensed Home Office employer sponsor
- [you can speak, read, write, and understand English](#)
- your salary meets the requirement for a skilled worker visa

### Salary requirement for a skilled worker visa

The salary threshold you must meet depends on the region you work in as a salaried trainee. This table shows the minimum salary non-UK salaried trainee teachers must earn to be eligible for a skilled worker visa, by region.

Inner London	Outer London	London fringe	Rest of England
£22,849	£21,582	£20,480	£20,480

## 3. Graduate visa for salaried and unsalaried teacher training courses

If you are already an international student in the UK, you can apply for a [graduate visa](#) on successful completion of your degree. To apply, you will need to have been sponsored by a Home Office licensed student sponsor over the course of your studies. The graduate visa will be available from July 2021.

The graduate visa will allow you to study, work, or look for work in the UK for up to 2 years after completing your studies (3 years for PhD students), without a sponsor. This includes training as a teacher on a salaried or unsalaried initial teacher training course, if the course does not meet the requirements needed for you to apply for a student visa.

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You will be able to switch from a graduate visa to another visa (such as the [skilled worker visa](#)) without having to leave the UK, if you meet the requirements for the new visa.

### 4. The Youth Mobility Scheme visa

The [Youth Mobility Scheme](#) allows young people from [certain countries](#) to come to the UK to study or work without a sponsor. This includes training as a teacher via either a salaried or unsalaried initial teacher training course.

A Youth Mobility Scheme visa lasts up to 2 years. You may be able to switch from a Youth Mobility Scheme visa to another visa route (for example, the [skilled worker visa](#)) without having to leave the UK. You'll need to meet the requirements for the other visa route.

### 5. Other visas

Depending on your personal circumstances, you may be able to work or study in the UK on alternative visas – for example, a [Family visa](#), a [UK Ancestry visa](#) or, if you are from Hong Kong, a [British National \(Overseas\) visa](#).

### Biometric Residence Permits

A [biometric residence permit](#) (BRP) can be used to confirm your:

- *identity*
- *right to study or work in the UK*
- *right to any public services or benefits you're entitled to*

You'll usually get a BRP if you:

- *apply to come to the UK for longer than 6 months*
- *extend your visa to longer than 6 months*
- *apply to settle in the UK*
- *transfer your visa to a new passport*
- *apply for certain Home Office travel documents*

**You will need to show your BRP to your provider or employer to confirm your eligibility for the teacher training programme and any related funding.**

### Can I get financial support for unsalaried teacher training courses?

Information taken from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/train-to-teach-in-england-non-uk-applicants/train-to-teach-in-england-non-uk-applicants#visas-and-immigration>

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#### 1. Applicants from countries ***outside*** the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland

If you are an applicant from outside [the EEA](#) or Switzerland, you are unlikely to be eligible for financial support.

To be eligible for student support, you must usually have settled status and have been living in the UK throughout the three years immediately before the start of your course.

For more information, contact [Student Finance England](#).

#### 2. Applicants from countries ***within*** the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland

If you have [settled or pre-settled status](#) under the EU Settlement Scheme, you may be able to get some or all of the following types of financial help with your living costs or teacher training course fees known as tuition fees.

Special provisions apply to [Irish citizens](#).

### Types of financial help

This section explains the types of financial help you can get.

- **Tuition fee loan**

Your tuition fees are paid, with the money going directly to your teacher training provider. This is a loan you have to pay back, but you'll only start your repayments when your income is over £27,295 per year.

- **Maintenance loan**

Money is paid directly into your bank account to help with living costs. This is a loan you have to pay back, but you'll only start your repayments when your income is over £27,295 per year.

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- **Home fee status**

You are charged tuition fees at the domestic rate which is usually lower than the rate charged to international students.

- **Extra financial support**

You can apply for extra help if you have a disability, or children or other people to care for. You do not have to pay this money back.

- **Teacher training bursary or scholarship**

Money is paid directly into your bank account and you can use this as you wish. You do not have to pay this money back.

### Check your eligibility for financial support

This section tells you how to check whether you are eligible.

#### a) Tuition fee and maintenance loan

You will generally be eligible for both a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan if you meet these requirements. You must:

- have settled status under the [EU Settlement Scheme](#)
- have been resident in the UK throughout the 3 years before the start of your course

You will also generally be eligible for both a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan if you meet these requirements. You must:

- have settled or pre-settled status under the [EU Settlement Scheme](#)
- have been resident in the UK, EEA or Switzerland throughout the 3 years before the start of your course
- be an EEA or a Swiss worker, or a family member of one

A worker is someone who is employed or self-employed in the UK. A family member is a spouse or civil partner, child and, sometimes, parent or grandparent.

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### b) Tuition fee loan without maintenance loan

If you are not eligible for both a tuition fee loan and maintenance loan then you may be able to get a tuition fee loan without a maintenance loan if you:

- are an EU national with settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme
- and have been resident in the UK, EEA or Switzerland throughout the 3 years before the start of your course

More detailed guidance is available for [EEA and Swiss students about eligibility for tuition fee and maintenance loans in the academic year 2021 to 2022](#).

### Irish citizens

Special provisions apply to Irish citizens. If you are an Irish citizen then you do not need to have settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme as you already have settled status in the UK.

You will generally be eligible for a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan if you meet these 2 requirements:

- you are an Irish citizen
- you have been resident in the UK throughout the 3 years immediately before the start of your course

You may be able to get a tuition fee loan without a maintenance loan if you meet these 2 requirements:

- you are an Irish citizen
- you have been resident in Ireland, or Ireland and the UK, throughout the 3 years before the start of your course

- **Home fee status**

If you meet the requirements for a tuition fee loan, or tuition fee and maintenance loan, we anticipate that providers will award you home fee status.

- **Extra financial support**

If you have a disability, children or adult dependents, and you are eligible for a tuition fee loan and maintenance loan, you may be able to apply for extra help. You could apply for:

- [Disabled Students' Allowance \(DSA\)](#)

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- [Childcare Grant](#)
- [Parents Learning Allowance](#)
- [Adult Dependants' Grant](#)
- **Teacher training bursary or scholarship**

If you meet the eligibility requirements for a tuition fee loan, or tuition fee and maintenance loan, you may also be eligible for a teacher training bursary or scholarship.

[Bursaries and scholarships are only available in certain subjects.](#)

### Apply for financial support

You can apply for financial support when you've accepted your place on an unsalaried teacher training course.

Apply to [Student Finance England](#) for:

- tuition fee loans
- maintenance loans
- extra help if you have a disability, children or adult dependents

Talk to your training provider about:

- home fee status (they are likely to offer this if you've been awarded a tuition fee loan)
- a [bursary or scholarship](#)

### Further information on financial support

There's more detailed information at:

- [Guidance for EU Students studying in the UK](#)
- [New eligibility rules for home fee status and student finance for 2021 to 2022](#) academic year
- [Access to student finance FAQs](#)

[Student Finance England](#) have a dedicated service for EU students and for EEA citizens working in the UK.

You can also contact the [UK Council for International Student Affairs](#) for advice.