

Schools Direct - FAQ

What is School Direct?

School Direct (SD) is an innovative school based teacher-training route for graduates. The Brent Teaching School Alliance (BTSA) is part of this new programme. Our SD programme is delivered in partnership with the outstanding Initial Teacher Training (ITT) provider- The Institute of Education.

School Direct has two routes:

The SD Training Programme - often referred to as SD un-salaried -is open to graduates and funded by tuition fees paid by the trainee, who may receive a bursary from the Teaching Agency (TA) - dependent on degree classification and/or subject - and a student loan. *Click here for information on bursaries.*

<http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/funding?keywords=schools+direct+bursary>

The SD Training Programme (salaried) - often referred to as School Direct salaried - is an employment based route into teaching for high quality graduates with three or more years' career experience. The trainee is employed as an unqualified teacher by a school. The Teaching Agency (TA) provides funding, which the school can use to subsidise the trainee's salary and/or training.

We offer both routes and they are delivered in partnership with the Institute of Education.

Will I be paid a salary?

There are two "varieties" of school direct programmes: the salaried and unsalaried. Applicants need to be clear about which version they are applying for and about the salary level to be offered with the salaried route, which will depend on your placement school.

What are the advantages of the two versions of the programme?

If you are on the salaried route, you will be paid a salary which is determined by the school. You are an employee of the school, and you will not be eligible for loans or bursaries. On successfully completing the training you will be awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

If you are on the unsalaried route, you will be a student to the University and you will be eligible for a loan to help you pay the fees. You may also receive a training bursary, but this depends on a number of factors. Upon successfully completing the training you will be awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and a Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE).

Can I gain a PGCE on both the salaried and unsalaried route?

Both the salaried and unsalaried versions of the programme lead to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Upon successfully completing the Primary un-salaried programme candidates will also be awarded a Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE).

Primary and Secondary Salaried trainees will have the option of joining a PGCE pathway mid-way through the year, which continues into their Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) year, mainly via distance learning. This is a separate programme which students will apply for and need to self-fund.

What are the entry requirements?

All trainees will need to pass the Professional Skills Tests in Literacy and Numeracy before starting their course. For more information please click here <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/apply-for-teacher-training/skills-tests>

Depending on your subject choice, entry qualifications are a 2:1 degree (required for most subjects) or above however students with a 2:2 will be considered in exceptional cases.

GCSEs in Maths and English. For graduates intending to train to teach pupils aged 3-11(Primary) you must also have a grade C in GCSE Science

I'm not a recent graduate - can I still apply?

Yes - we're looking for the best, both graduates and career-changers. We want the brightest and best people for our children. That doesn't just mean graduates - it means those looking to change career too. Our current trainees have been nurses, soldiers, lawyers and doctors and can bring their skills and experience into the classroom.

What support will I get?

The IOE requires Secondary schools in its partnership to provide you with a Curriculum Mentor (a subject specialist) and a Professional Coordinator Mentor (PCM) to provide you with regular support. This includes a commitment to a weekly mentor meeting including a review of your progress and setting future targets of at least one hour and regular observation of your teaching.

In Primary Schools you will have a mentor, who may or may not be the class teacher of your main class.

What subjects are available?

Below is a list of the subjects we offer:

- Two salaried places at Claremont High School Academy in Maths or Science
- Two Primary unsalaried places

I have a disability. How will you support me?

We want to make sure that our training programme is open to everybody, so if you do have a disability we will do everything we reasonably can to make special arrangements. If you would like us to do so at the interview stage, please provide details on your application form. This will in no way affect your application.

I am a Teaching Assistant/Cover Supervisor employee who has an interest in training to teach; what would you advise?

We recommend that you look at the Initial Teacher Training SD section of our website in order to find out more, including entry requirements. www.btsa.london

The TA website is also a useful source of information. [Insert website details ?](#)

How is my training split up?

Secondary programme: You will spend a minimum of 120 days in School based training. You will spend 90 days and a further 30 days in contrasting placement. You will also have the opportunity to spend five days in both a primary school and post 16 setting.

Primary - Salaried route: Students are employed by the school from the start of September. A comprehensive training and development programme is delivered by the BTSA (45 days) and the IoE (15 days) over the year. Students gain further experience of training in a contrasting placement for a minimum of 5 weeks in the Spring term, returning to their original school thereafter.

Primary - Un-salaried: The programme commences in September with students engaging with School based training in their main school placement, gaining further experience in a contrasting school for a minimum of 5 weeks in the Spring term and study blocks at the Institute of Education.

What qualifications do I gain on completion of a School Direct place?

Secondary - Salaried: On completion of your School Direct Training you will be awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

Primary: Un-Salaried route- On completion of your School Direct Training you will be awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and a Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE)

Primary: Salaried route - On completion of your School Direct Training you will be awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

What are my career opportunities at BTSA?

It is our intention to train teachers for the schools within our Alliance and the borough of Brent. The schools delivering the School Direct programme will endeavour to recruit their outstanding SD teachers dependent on vacancies available and ensure they receive an outstanding Continued Professional Development (CPD) programme as part of their Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) year. However, if this is not possible the school will recommend individuals for vacancies within the Alliance and beyond.

Do I need previous teaching experience?

In order to strengthen your application it is recommended that you have some experience of working or volunteering in a school setting. For Primary places applicants must have a minimum of 10 days experience.

Do BTSA offer pre-training experience placements?

If you are applying to us we will endeavour to provide you with the necessary experience.

In addition to a passion for teaching and your subject we are looking for potentially outstanding teachers who are:

- Approachable
- Organised
- Professional
- Demonstrate an aptitude to teaching
- Have a commitment to our approach to learning;
- Have the desire to approach curriculum planning in a creative and imaginative way;
- Have very high standards for the children and themselves;
- Be committed to inclusion in terms of social class, race and ability;
- Have the ability and willingness to continuously reflect, improve and learn from mistakes;
- Have high levels of interpersonal and communication skills;
- Have the ability to sustain optimism, energy and a positive outlook under pressure and challenge;
- Have the capacity for hard work and a sense of humour.

How do I apply?

Go to <http://www.ucas.com/apply>

SD entry requirements can be checked using the link below:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/teacher-training-options/school-based-training/school-direct-eligibility>