



# Cambridge Training Schools Network CTSN SCITT

## Frequently Asked Questions

As with any career, we appreciate that joining the education profession is a big decision. We are here to help you every step of the way and are always happy to discuss your questions to ensure that you make the correct decision. This is a key ethos for CTSN SCITT. We want all our applicants to make informed decisions.

### WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE CTSN SCITT?

Providers may appear to be very similar, and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) is the ultimate objective. However, while the qualification may be the same, the training experience, style, and curriculum will differ between providers. It is important to explore these differences.

Some providers only offer a QTS. Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) is a legal requirement to be able to teach in state schools, under local authority control, in England and Wales. We also offer a PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate of Education), an academic qualification for our non-salaried Trainees. There are many reasons for this. It is another feather in the cap for our Trainees, and our teacher training is strongly research-focused, which lends itself to a PGCE qualification. Also, we have carefully selected the Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) PGCE programme, which is a good fit with our Teacher Education Curriculum, reducing the workload for our Trainees.

Our curriculum is ambitious, going beyond the minimum requirements set by the DfE, as we want our Trainees to be as classroom ready as they can be when finishing our programme. All CTSN's training is both practically focused and research engaged. Our training at every level is linked to the latest educational research into effective teaching and learning. CTSN is not just about initial teacher education. Training to teach with CTSN is more than just a one-year commitment. We have not one but three Teaching School Hubs within our partnership, and a Maths Hub. This is unique.

### WHICH SCHOOLS WILL I BE PLACED IN FOR MY TRAINING?

All CTSN Trainees will have two school placements, which CTSN will find for you. For our non-salaried Trainees, the first runs from September to December, and the second runs from January until the end of the course. Please note that CTSN is a large SCITT with 30+ secondary and 80+ primary partnership schools, giving us flexible placements. We always try to consider your individual circumstances (discussed at the interview) when allocating schools, which will be confirmed in July. We allocate schools based on location and whether the school can offer training in the appropriate key stage. We aim for your travel time to placements to be a maximum of 45 minutes, but if you travel via public transport, this may be longer.

Salaried Trainees spend most of the year in their employing school, with a shorter placement in another school (usually 6 weeks in the spring term).

We aim to place trainees in schools that are as close to them as possible.

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### WHAT DOES THE CTSN SCITT PROGRAMME LOOK LIKE?

Your training starts at the beginning of September and continues through to mid-July. You will have one day a week of centre-based training and will be taught the programme. Full-time trainees will spend 4 days a week in school, and part-time trainees two days a week. When in school, you will spend some time teaching in a supported way, with this increasing throughout the year to 80% teaching in your final 6 weeks. During your training, you will also get the opportunity to:

- Observe experienced teachers;
- Work with students in smaller groups, or in one-to-one tutoring;
- Spend time on assessment & planning;
- Read, write & research into effective learning and teaching.

Secondary centre-based training: Fridays alternate between subject and centre-based training. From Monday to Thursday, we are in placement school training, collecting evidence in school and combining the theory with the practice.

Primary (5-11yrs & 3-7yrs) Centre-based training: Fridays (occasionally Thursday) centre-based training. Mon-Thurs in placement school training, collecting evidence in school, and combining the theory with the practice.

### WHAT SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE FROM CTSN SCITT'S PROGRAMME?

CTSN SCITT is proud of the support it affords our Trainees. Our Trainees are supported & encouraged by a diverse ITT team drawn from across our partnership. Our centre-based training is delivered by experienced practitioners & subject specialists to develop subject knowledge & pedagogy. Each Trainee has a designated Mentor in each placement school (hosting weekly 1:1 meeting with the Trainees, discussing lesson planning, teaching, observations, supporting deliberate practice and setting targets). A designated Senior Tutor works with each Trainee to guide them through the programme, overseeing all aspects of the ITT year. Senior Tutors are not based in a trainee's school but visit the Trainees throughout the course and regularly communicate with them.

CTSN is committed to the well-being of our Trainees and, as such, has dedicated Mental Health First Aiders. Our programmes incorporate well-being to help develop habits and life choices to support welfare as an integral part of their teaching career. We don't just want you to learn how to teach; we want to help you thrive in your career. You'll have:

- A mentor and professional tutor in your placement school.
- A senior tutor who will visit you at each placement.
- Access to the programme lead and peer support from fellow trainees.
- Well-being support from our Mental Health First Aiders.

### I AM WORRIED I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL A CLASS?

We know from experience that this is one of the major concerns for Trainee Teachers. Our behaviour management programme is carefully planned. Our Trainees are taught skills and techniques across several

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Centre-based Training sessions. Trainees begin their time observing other teachers in the classroom, then gradually start 'team-teaching' lessons with their mentor, until they are comfortable planning and teaching a whole lesson. Trainees also teach smaller groups or tutor one-to-one. Whilst CTSN has a carefully planned programme of recommended teaching milestones, we recognise that our trainees are individuals, and their journey to reach the final 12 hours of teaching per week by the end of the summer term will differ.

### HOW DO I GET ASSESSED ON THE COURSE?

Trainees are assessed weekly by their mentor and senior tutor through their personal reflections and evidence from the training tasks and lesson observations collected in the trainee's online portfolio. Specific and constructive feedback is then given to support the trainee's progress. They then set personal targets when appropriate and assess the trainee's actions to support these. At the end of each block of learning (three times a year for full-time trainees), trainees present a bundle of their most effective evidence to their senior tutor. The last presentation is the trainee's QTS Viva.

### WHAT DOES THE PGCE INVOLVE?

The ARU PGCE is taught in addition to the centre-based training through the autumn and spring terms (blended learning). It covers two modules: focusing on a reflective practice and a practice-based research investigation. It is assessed through a patchwork of submissions, building to two marked pieces at the end of the autumn and spring terms.

### WHAT WILL I BE ASKED AT THE INTERVIEW?

Your letter inviting you to the interview will include a task for you to prepare. Following this, you will be asked questions about your motivation to be a teacher, followed by some questions about logistics and any limitations affecting your ability to train on the course. You will then have a chance to ask our interviewers any questions that you may have.

If you are applying to be a secondary trainee teacher, we will also discuss whether you need to take a Subject Knowledge Enhancement course (SKE).

### SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE ENHANCEMENT COURSES (SKEs):

There are some Subject Knowledge Enhancement Courses available for secondary subjects. If it has been a long time since you did your degree or if your degree is not at least 50% in the subject that you want to teach, then there may be an SKE that you can take. For more information, follow **this link**.

An SKE must be part of your conversation at the interview. If you agree that you need to do an SKE, this is added as a condition of your offer of a place. The DfE may then fund the course (funding of courses changes each year with the DfE).

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### WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE INTERVIEW?

If you are successful, you will be emailed an 'offer' letter for a place on the course you have applied for. The letter will provide details of any offer conditions you must meet before the course starts in September. DfE Apply will be updated to show that you have been offered a place with CTSN SCITT. There will be a list of conditions you may need to meet before you start the course in September. You will then need to either accept or decline the offer. Yes, you can have other interviews and decide once you hear from everyone you have applied to, or you can decide to accept immediately.

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I HAVE ACCEPTED A PLACE TO TRAIN WITH CTSN SCITT?

Once you have accepted our offer, you will receive an invite to one of our Document (qualifications & Identification) checking days in the spring term and also to our course Induction Day in July. At the Document Checking Day, we will also ask you to complete Maths and English skills tasks, which allow us to assess whether we need to provide you with any further support in these areas during the course.

Equivalency in Maths/English or Science GCSE: We accept an equivalency test in these subjects from the following test centres (which must be completed and passed before you start the course on September 1st).

If you have any overseas qualifications, then please use the following link to ENIC to have your overseas qualifications converted to a Statement of Comparability to equivalent UK qualifications: [Statement of Comparability | UK ENIC](#)

### HOW AND WHEN DO I APPLY TO STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND (SFE)?

SFE opens in March. For details about how to apply, click [here](#).

Student Finance England can provide help in the following ways:

- Tuition fee loan. Please follow the link here to see details
- Maintenance loan (based on income). You may also be eligible for additional support if you have dependents or a disability.

### IS THERE A BURSARY AVAILABLE FOR MY COURSE?

Funding depends on your subject and degree classification:

- Tax-free bursaries (up to £28,000) for subjects like maths, physics, and computing.
- Scholarships from subject associations.
- Click [here](#) for more information.

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## HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT I WILL GET A JOB AFTER THE COURSE?

Most CTSN SCITT trainees are offered jobs at their placement schools or other schools in the region before the end of the course. The practical experience and networking often lead to strong employment prospects. After you qualify, you will continue to receive support through the Early Career Teachers (ECT) programme. Many of our trainees have had successful careers and continued to roles such as:

- Subject or phase leadership.
- Pastoral roles (e.g., Head of Year).
- Senior leadership (e.g., Assistant Head, Headteacher, Trust CEO).
- Specialist roles (e.g., SENDCo, curriculum lead). Further qualifications like NPQ (National Professional Qualifications) support career growth.

## CAN I TEACH ABROAD WITH A UK TEACHING QUALIFICATION?

If you have a PGCE, many international schools recognise UK qualifications. However, requirements vary by country, so check local regulations.

## END OF COURSE CELEBRATION!

We have a celebration event in July where we get together with our colleagues and tutors to congratulate you all and celebrate your achievement of Qualified Teacher Status!



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