



The Cambridge  
Partnership

# Do you have a member of staff who you wish to support to gain their QTS via the Postgraduate Apprenticeship route?

TCP are an established Initial Teacher Training Provider and a Registered Apprenticeship Training Provider (RoATP), working with schools across the eastern region offering various ITT routes, including the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship with QTS. We have put together the following information as a guide to help you decide if you can support a member of your staff to gain their QTS via the Apprenticeship route.

Firstly, all apprentices must meet the minimum entry requirements for ITT - GCSE English, maths (and science for Primary) level 4/grade C or above; or equivalent\* and a Bachelor's degree (*ideally, they will have completed Year 1 of the Cambridgeshire Paid teacher Internship <https://www.teachincambs.org.uk/train-to-teach/cambridge-paid-teacher-internship>, before undertaking the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship with TCP, which forms Year 2 of the Internship programme where they gain their QTS*). We cannot accept anyone onto the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship if they do not meet the minimum entry requirements.

**How will it work in your school?** -The apprentice must be employed by you (the employing school) full time 100% for the duration of the apprenticeship (*the Apprenticeship course runs 1 July to 31 July of the following year, which fulfils the 4-term requirement of a Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship*).

In our experience we have found apprentices who have been most successful following this route have been able to develop their knowledge and understanding of the curriculum through observation of good/outstanding teaching. To do this their teaching timetable should not exceed 60% (3 days a week) teaching in one class. This then allows for 20% off-the-job training with TCP\*\* and time in a Contrasting School Placement where they will also be required to teach. The remaining 20% (1 day) should allow for PPA and for professional development visiting alternative year groups to experience a wider knowledge of the Primary Curriculum.

Our experience shows that starting with a teaching commitment of 30/40% and rising to 60% by the end of term one gives apprentices the time they need to adjust to their new role. This ultimately gives the apprentice the best chance of success and will result in a stronger teacher at the end of the programme. It should be remembered that when apprentices are completing their CSP, their teaching commitment will rise to 75/80% which is in line with the requirements for an ECT.

## How does the Intensive School Placement and Contrasting School Placement (CSP) work?

w/c 27<sup>th</sup> June (1 week) *Alternative Phase and Special School visits*

Apprentice's contracts start 1 July 22, however all employed trainees will need to attend the pre-course training on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June. During the remainder of this week the trainees will need to undertake a 1-day special school visit and 2-days alternative phase visit. (*It will be the trainee/employing school's responsibility to ensure this is arranged to take place during this week*).

*\*If you member of staff does not have GCSE English, maths (and science for Primary) please seek advice from us to check their equivalency meets the Apprenticeship Gateway requirements. Those applicants meeting the required standard by taking an equivalence test will need functional skills qualifications or equivalent qualifications at level 2 in mathematics and English to meet the apprenticeship gateway entry criteria.*

*\*\*This means trainee will be in school Mon-Thurs and must attend TCP training days on Fridays.*

w/c 4<sup>th</sup> July (1 week) – *Intensive school placement*

After a training session with TCP on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July, all apprentices will attend a week's intensive group placement at one of four host schools. This will provide all employed routes trainees the opportunity to build on their teaching experience prior to the taking on full class responsibility as an employed trainee in the following academic year.

The Contrasting School Placement (CSP) takes place in a different school and teaching is in a different Key Stage. Therefore, if in their main placement the apprentice is in Year 5, the CSP would be in KS1 either Y1 or Y2. This placement is over 15 Fridays starting at the end of January through until June. This means that the apprentice is with the employing school Monday-Thursday throughout the programme.

**How much does the Apprenticeship cost?** The tuition fees are £8800, (which includes End Point Assessment) which is paid using your Apprenticeship Levy. The trainee will need to be employed on UQT1\*\*\* for the duration of the course as detailed above. It's worth noting that this differs to the Schools Direct Salaried route, where although the cost of the course lower at £7250 (there is no End Point Assessment), but the school is invoiced for the tuition fees directly, meaning you cannot use your Levy funds to pay the tuition fees.

**We are interested in this route, what do we do next?** Initially please register your interest with the Schools Recruitment Team at the Local Authority [schools.recruitment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:schools.recruitment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). The Team will discuss your individual trainee and whether they need to begin Year 1 of the Internship or move directly onto Year 2 with us. We then arrange for the necessary application codes for your location to be raised and the trainee will go through our normal recruitment process by applying via DfE Apply to the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship with QTS.

Once the potential apprentice has applied, they will be interviewed by 2 members of our management team to assess that they meet the necessary entry standards for the course. Trainees are notified via DfE Apply of the decision, which is followed up by all the necessary paperwork. Any conditions of offer which will include the apprentice providing the original certificates for the minimum entry requirement, must be fulfilled before the apprentice can be registered as starting the QTS course. In addition to this they will need to complete the literacy and numeracy diagnostic tasks (*which replaced the government skills tests that were removed in April 2019*).

**If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the TCP for more information, or to speak to one of our team.**

*Contacts:*

Local Authority Schools recruitment team [schools.recruitment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:schools.recruitment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

TCP General enquiries: [info@campartnership.org](mailto:info@campartnership.org)

Claire Mott – Senior Administrator [cmott@campartnership.org](mailto:cmott@campartnership.org)

\*\*\* Academy school have discretion on this please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recruit-a-postgraduate-teacher-apprentice-guidance-for-employers#salaries> for more details.