



Department
for Education

Initial Teacher Training Mentor Training Times Announcement

The 2024/25 Initial Teacher Training (ITT) criteria currently states that ITT providers should provide a minimum of 20 hours of initial general mentor training and 6 hours of annual refresher training; and that ITT providers should take into consideration relevant prior learning that a mentor has completed, which may reduce the total number of training hours they would need to complete.

Having listened to feedback from ITT providers and schools, we recognise that further flexibilities regarding the quantification of the initial mentor training times would be beneficial, particularly for mentors supporting trainees in second school placements.

Therefore, we have removed the 20-hour general mentor training and the 6-hour refresher training minimum time requirements, with immediate effect.

While there is no longer a minimum training time requirement, accredited ITT providers should ensure that all mentors receive sufficient high-quality training to ensure they can effectively support a trainee teacher to obtain the knowledge and skills they need to successfully complete their ITT school placement. Mentor training (and relevant prior learning) should provide mentors with the knowledge and skills they need to undertake the role, including knowledge and understanding of the ITT core content framework and its underpinning evidence, and of the ITT curriculum which the trainee will be following.

There is strong evidence that effective mentoring is critical to teacher training and ensuring high quality mentor training and support for trainees remains an important part of ITT and the other requirements for mentoring set out in the ITT criteria continue to apply. Ofsted will continue to review the quality of mentor training as part of their inspections.

This change is effective immediately and we will update the ITT criteria and other relevant guidance shortly to reflect these changes. Schools will still be able to claim up to 20 hours of funding per mentor for this academic year.