

Frequently Asked Questions about the TDA

1. How much time will I spend at university?

You will be at university for 40% of your time over the course of your degree apprenticeship. In practice this means you will have workshops on two consecutive days during block teaching (6 week modules). There are 4 blocks in each year with an assessment week and an enhancement week at the end of each one.

Typically, workshop timings may look something like this:

Thursday: 10-12 and 1-2pm

Friday: 10-1pm

You would use the rest of your time on these days to do recommended reading, catch up with lecturers or your academic mentor, or work on your assignment for assessment.

2. How much time will I spend at my school?

Over the course of the degree apprenticeship you will spend 60% of your time in school. How this is spread out depends on the time of year and the year of study. During the university term time when you must attend workshops you will be in school 3 days a week (typically Mon-Weds). During this time in school you will be given PPA time (preparation and planning time) for your lessons, time with your mentor and time for marking and other school-related activities.

During the university holidays, when schools are still open, you will be in your school 5 days a week (the whole of September, most of June and July). In years 3 and 4 you will only be studying during 2 blocks so will be in your school 5 days a week for half of the year. Some of this time will also be spent on training days with Leicester SCITT.

3. What does 'off the job' training mean?

Off the job training is an essential part of an apprenticeship. It refers to training, mentoring and other activities which you must undertake in order to meet the apprenticeship standard. This takes place during your working hours and will include time spent with the team and Leicester and Leicestershire SCITT.

For more information about what kind of activities this could entail visit: [Apprenticeships: off-the-job training - GOV.UK](#)

4. How do I apply for the TDA?

Applications will open in April and should be made through the DfE Apply website: [Find teacher training courses - GOV.UK](#)

Interviews will take place between April and the end of June. Applications will close in July.

5. How much will I be paid?

You are paid 52 weeks a year as a full-time employee. Schools will pay apprentices according to existing pay structures. The salary is likely to be similar to that of an unqualified teacher.

Schools do NOT need to pay anything towards your university degree or ITT tuition fees.

6. Do I have to pay the fees for the course?

No, the apprenticeship levy will cover the cost of the fees for the programme and will be paid directly through your employing school's apprenticeship service.

7. How much time will I spend with SCITT?

There will be training with the SCITT team at different points throughout the 4-year programme, with more intensive training periods in years 3 and 4 when you are only going to study 2 modules per year at DMU.

8. Will I be teaching classes on my own?

This will depend on your prior experience but most apprentices will not be teaching classes on their own at first. At the start of the course you and your mentor will audit your prior learning and assess your needs and experience. Your teacher training will be scaffolded to enable you to gradually build your skills and confidence. You may start by observing and reflecting on lessons, then teaching short segments of a lesson or teaching small groups of children to eventually taking whole classes by yourself. At first you will always have another teacher/your mentor with you but it is the expectation that this won't be necessary as you progress through to your final year.

9. Will I have a mentor?

Yes. You will have 2 mentors. One is an academic mentor at De Monfort University who will be there to guide you through academic matters. You will also have a school mentor who will support you in your teaching. They will observe your lessons, offer feedback and meet with you for a minimum of 30 minutes every week.

Your two mentors, along with the team at SCITT will communicate with each other regarding your progress in each part of the degree apprenticeship. They will all contribute to progress review meetings and a record of this will be kept on a central system accessible to all.

10. Will I have an induction to the university?

Yes, you will have an orientation day in late August to which you and your mentor will both be invited. This will allow you to meet your academic mentor in the Education Studies team, meet the representatives from SCITT Leicester and have a tour around the DMU campus. You will also meet other teacher apprentices on your course on that day.

You will also be invited to the Education Studies induction events in late September where you will meet all the other undergraduates on your degree course as well as the Education Studies lecturers who will be teaching you. You will be able to have an introduction to the library and the services offered there too.

11. What will my responsibilities be at school?

This will depend both on your prior experience in schools and on the stage you are at in the TDA. Schools must provide apprentices with the opportunity to experience all aspects of life as a teacher.

You will need to be involved in: planning, teaching across the curriculum, assessment, marking, managing behaviour, SEND, extra-curricular activities, school duties and more. How your time is

organised will be at the discretion of your employer. However, certain aspects of teaching will need to be experienced at different points in the apprenticeship as recommended by the team at SCITT. You will be regularly observed by your school mentor and will have a mentor meeting for feedback and discussion for at least 30 minutes every week (this will be included as part of your PPA time). **13.**

How will my progress towards QTS be assessed?

The SCITT team and your school mentor will be responsible for assessing you against the Teacher Apprenticeship Standard: [Teacher / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](#)

You will need to demonstrate and provide evidence for the knowledge, skills and behaviour set out in this, which replicate the Teacher Standards used to assess whether teachers can be awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). You will have formative observations throughout your apprenticeship by your mentor in school and visits from the SCITT team too. Every 8 - 12 weeks there will be a tripartite review of your progress to which you, your mentor and your academic mentor from university will be invited.