



The National Association of
School-Based Teacher Trainers

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Change to bursary and scholarship eligibility for international candidates – statement from NASBTT

The Department for Education (DfE) has [changed bursary and scholarship eligibility for international candidates](#). This applies to candidates who do not yet have an initial teacher training (ITT) offer for the 2026 to 2027 academic year.

From 5pm on 7th May 2026, international candidates in physics and languages must be eligible for student finance to receive a bursary or scholarship, unless they already hold an ITT offer. In response, NASBTT CEO Emma Hollis commented:

“This last-minute change to bursary and scholarship eligibility for international candidates is exceptionally unhelpful and creates avoidable disruption for ITT providers. Our members are particularly concerned by the lack of fair warning and the absence of a transparent way to understand when funding pots are close to depletion. We strongly believe DfE should consider clearer monitoring and early-warning mechanisms, such as live funding indicators, to support better planning and provide greater stability for the sector.”

-ENDS-

The National Association of School-Based Teacher Trainers (NASBTT) is a registered charity committed to promoting high-quality schools-led programmes of training, education and professional development of teachers.

NASBTT is the voice of schools-led initial teacher training and represents our Members' interests, ensuring that sector views are shared and help to inform future policy decisions. Our representation and advocacy work is informed by consultation with our Members and key priorities for the sector.

Our Members include School Centred Initial Teacher Training providers (SCITTs), HEIs, Teaching School Hubs and organisations engaged in the education and professional development of teachers.

Website: www.nasbtt.org.uk

Media Resources: www.nasbtt.org.uk/media-hub

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