



Gloucestershire Initial Teacher
Education Partnership



“ GITEP’s training was excellent and one thing that stood out, when I spoke to trainees on other courses, was the amount of practical, classroom experience, which helped build my confidence a lot more. ”

Train to teach in Gloucestershire

GITEP SCITT is a highly successful school-centred initial teacher training provider, rated outstanding by Ofsted in May 2023 and recognised by the Department for Education as one of their top teacher training providers.

About the course

The programme has six strands which run throughout the year:

- Centre Professional Studies
- Intensive Training and Practice
- School-based Professional Studies
- Subject Pathway
- PGCE with the University of Bristol
- School Placements

Centre Professional Studies sessions, which take place at key points throughout the year for all trainees, are led by expert speakers, giving a background to educational issues and theoretical aspects of learning. Sessions also cover topics such as applying for jobs and safeguarding.

Intensive Training and Practice consists of four weeks spread across the year, each focused on a fundamental aspect of teaching and learning. Each of these weeks combines theory, observations in schools, and practice in a low-stakes environment.

School-based Professional Studies sessions are held weekly in your placement school, led by the Professional Lead and other expert colleagues from the school.

Subject Pathway sessions also take place every week, with the GITEP Subject Lead and other trainees in your subject. These usually take place in the subject lead's school but can take place in other schools, with expert colleagues from across Gloucestershire and beyond. These sessions focus on developing and enhancing subject expertise for teaching.

GITEP Subject Leads

The training offered by GITEP SCITT is distinctive because our subject leads are all current teachers who are seconded to us to provide weekly training in subject specific pedagogy. Trainees benefit from experienced teachers who are committed to initial teacher education and able to share their own current practice. Our subject leads are drawn from schools across the partnership.

Subjects offered:

Art & Design

Biology

Business with Economics

Chemistry

Computing

Design & Technology

English

Geography

History

Mathematics

Modern Languages

Music

Physical Education

Physics

Psychology

Religious Education



“ I’m from Cheltenham and wanted to stay local, partly because everybody I asked said that Gloucestershire is a great place to train to teach. GITEP came highly recommended and offer PGCE through the University of Bristol. ”

How to apply

All applications are through GOV.UK Apply.

Part-time, flexible routes are available for all subjects.

The provider codes for GITEP SCITT and partners are:

GITEP SCITT - G48

Balcarras Teaching School Hub - 14B

Odyssey Teaching School Hub - 1ZB

Assessment

The course leads to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Trainees will need to demonstrate that they have met the Teachers' Standards.

Towards the end of each placement trainees are required to produce an evidence bundle for a class they have been working with, showing an understanding of the class and how their teaching has made a difference. There will also be an end of placement report, written by the subject mentor and trainee together.

“ You have to be good at managing your time and that includes finding time to do things you enjoy and to rest. It's important to look after yourself and use your time effectively so that your pupils get the best out of you. Being organised is the key to success – I couldn't live without my planner! ”



Assignments and PGCE

In addition to the award of Qualified Teacher Status, assessed by GITEP SCITT, our programme also leads to a PGCE awarded by the University of Bristol. Both GITEP SCITT and the University of Bristol are among the top secondary ITT providers in

the country. Trainees benefit from a strong partnership between two very experienced and highly rated providers who share a commitment to developing subject expertise in teachers.

The PGCE part of the programme is assessed by three assignments – one per term. The first is focused on special educational needs and disabilities and is common to all trainees. The other two have a subject focus. The programme leads to 60 Master's level credits (a full Master's degree is 180 credits).

All GITEP SCITT PGCE trainees are registered as students with the University of Bristol, giving them access to the full range of student services offered by the University. This includes support with academic assignments, access to their extensive education library and all the University student support services.

How school placements work



“ I liked what GITEP offered, which was a great opportunity: their school placements were well-considered and they truly care about the experience given to the trainees. I certainly enjoyed the experience! ”

Placement schools are mostly in Gloucestershire but we also work with a few schools in neighbouring counties - around 40 schools in total. When placing trainees, we take account of travel distance, travel costs, particular needs and trainee requests.

GITEP SCITT is extremely fortunate to have the backing of Gloucestershire Association of Secondary School Leaders and has close links with all the secondary schools in the county . Our partner schools include some of the highest performing schools in the country and placements are 'selected with extreme care to ensure that trainees develop a broad knowledge of school contexts' (Ofsted, May 2023).

The GITEP SCITT programme follows a parent/twin/parent structure, with three school placements. Trainees are placed in a parent school from October to December, a contrasting twin school from January to March and return to the parent school from April to July.

Placements are 9-10 weeks in length. Whilst on placement, trainees have the support of a subject-specific mentor as well as the Professional Lead in each school.

“ The GITEP programme has all the training, and on the job experience, you need to make you ready to work as a teacher. In simple terms, I have no doubts that GITEP has set me up to be a successful teacher. The GITEP programme blends education theory and the learning of concepts with real life classroom teaching to great effect. ”

Fees 2025/26 £9,535

Bursaries or scholarships are available for most subjects. Tuition fee and maintenance loans are available for all subjects. Teacher training is treated differently from other postgraduate courses and tuition fee loans are available even if you have already had one for a postgraduate course.

The trustees of Gloucestershire Association of Secondary School Leaders have established an Access Fund to help trainee teachers who are not in receipt of a bursary or scholarship. Any awards made (awards are up to £1,500) do not have to be repaid. Applications can be made at any point in the programme. With some subjects still ineligible for bursaries we are aware that finance could be an issue for some trainees and the trustees have made available an amount that reflects this.



Requirements

Applicants will need to meet the requirements for all postgraduate teacher training courses:

- an honours degree, normally at 2:2 or better
- GCSE Grade C/Level 4 (or equivalent) in English and maths

Your degree should usually be in a related subject. If it is not we advise contacting us at an early opportunity to discuss your application.

“ The partnership is highly inclusive and ensures that all trainees receive equitable opportunities. Additionally, through the curriculum, trainees learn about their responsibility to provide equitable opportunities for pupils to achieve. Trainees develop a strong understanding of how to teach the literacy required for their specific subjects. ”
(Ofsted, May 2023)

“ GITEP’s training is really thorough and well structured. Having the lectures at the start gave all the trainees an excellent opportunity to meet each other. ”

Lead Partners

Applicants can apply directly to GITEP SCITT or to one of our Lead Partners. The course is identical across all routes and trainees with our Lead Partners do all the same professional studies sessions and subject pathway sessions as other GITEP trainees.

Our two Lead Partners for 2025/26 are:





Trainees feel extremely well supported by all members of the partnership. They value the close relationship between mentors, subject leads and professional leads. Trainees receive well considered, personalised support to enable them to succeed. This support is both academically robust and suitably adapted to ensure that all trainees have equitable opportunities. One trainee's view that the course was 'transformational' in helping him to develop as a teacher was echoed by many others." (Ofsted, May 2023).

Support

Trainees are supported by:

The Subject Mentor:

a teacher in your placement school who will see you virtually every day and meet with you once a week to review progress and set targets.

The Professional Lead:

a senior member of staff in the placement school who will meet every week with all trainees in their placement school.

The Subject Lead:

who will lead subject development sessions every week and come to visit you in your placement schools.

The Subject Tutor:

at the University of Bristol, who will provide advice on assignments.

The SCITT Director and Programme Lead:

who will keep an overview of all your training. Liaison between schools and the GITEP SCITT leadership is very strong and we are used to making reasonable adjustments to help trainees, both short term and over the whole course.

Subject Knowledge Enhancement

Many of our trainees benefit from a subject knowledge enhancement course, designed to boost subject knowledge before starting the course.

GITEP SCITT offers SKE courses in partnership with Vidlearn, an established online provider.

Applicants have access to the online resources through Vidlearn and are supported by a tutor from GITEP SCITT.

As they are expected to be able to teach all three sciences, at least in Key Stage 3, applicants who train to teach Biology, Chemistry or Physics have additional subject knowledge enhancement sessions as part of their weekly subject pathway sessions.



Interviews

Our interviews are designed to assess your potential to train to teach. We are not expecting you to be the finished article.

Many of our applicants also apply to one or both of our Lead Partners. Someone from GITEP will be on the interview panel for Lead Partner interviews and we will do our best to avoid calling you for a separate interview with GITEP – the process is the same.

You can find guidance on the interview process on our website (<https://www.gitep.org.uk/interviews/>).

“ The support that you're given is terrific, both from the leaders at GITEP and from the individual subject leaders. It's amazing how much, from the workshops and lectures that we have, you can improve incredibly quickly, especially if you've got any issues. There'll always be somebody there to support you: in school on your placement, at GITEP, or one of your peers on your course. ”



Why choose a SCITT?

We offer outstanding support at every stage of your training!

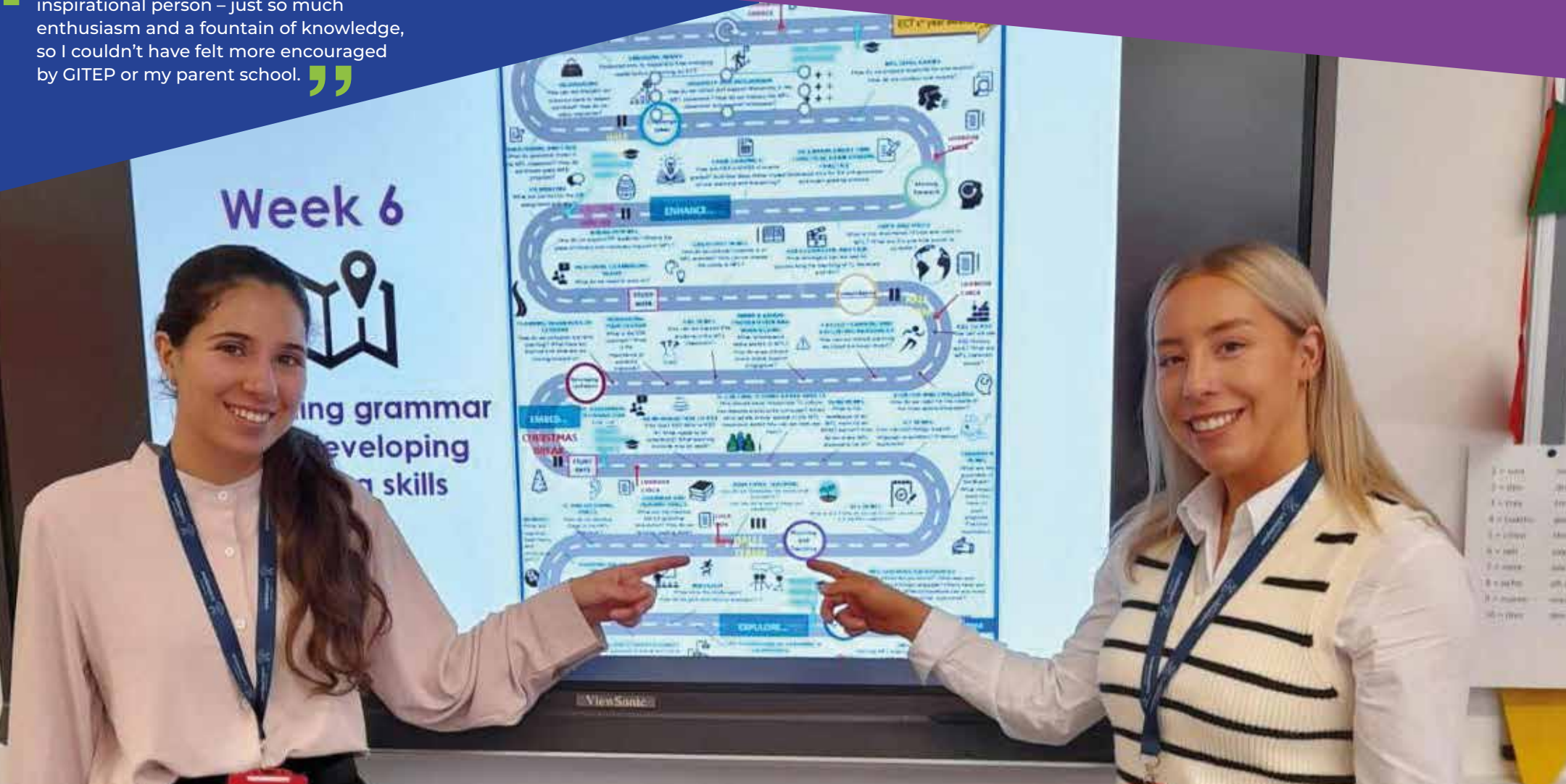
“ My subject mentor is an amazing, inspirational person – just so much enthusiasm and a fountain of knowledge, so I couldn't have felt more encouraged by GITEP or my parent school. ”

Tuition fees are capped at £9,250 for both SCITTs and universities and both routes attract the same bursaries, scholarships, tuition fee loans and maintenance loans. GITEP SCITT offers an access grant for those not eligible for a bursary or scholarship.

We offer full academic input for PGCE through the University of Bristol.

Our PGCE results are comparable to, and sometimes better than, top Russell Group universities.

With GITEP SCITT you benefit from a rich variety of school experiences throughout your course, with two placement schools and lots of support for your training. All aspects of training and mentoring are provided by current classroom practitioners.





Liz, Design and Technology Trainee, 2023-2024

After many years of being a part time stay at home mum, I decided to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher.

As soon as I began my placement everything fell into place and I realised that this was exactly where I wanted to be. Being part of a school and a whole new family of colleagues and students was empowering and the joy of seeing students fully engaged in my lessons, and achieving new goals is like no other job I have done.

GITEP was instrumental in developing this. The school-centred approach allowed me to experience school life as early as week 2 of my training. Weekly subject pathway sessions were great fun and allowed all the D&T trainees to meet with our subject lead, develop our practical skills and share our experiences of our various schools.

Returning to education as a more mature student did bring its concern. I was worried I would be too old, and perhaps not fit in with the younger trainees and teachers, but this was far from the truth. In fact, having had many years of life experience and my own children has helped immensely, and the support from GITEP, my mentors and school colleagues has been fantastic.

Trainee Experiences

Our aim is to ensure our trainees enjoy their training year and get the most out of it, both professionally and personally. We asked our 2023-24 trainees what they have gained alongside their teaching qualification?

- “ A sense of identity
- New friends
- Improved resilience
- Confidence
- Amazing experiences
- A greater love for my subject



And some final thoughts from our trainees:

“ As a teacher you will always be learning and developing. Your journey doesn't end now, it is just the beginning.

Seeing the positive impacts I have had on my classes when I completed my placements.

I'll never forget the first lesson I taught and the people I have met throughout the year.

You are training to teach and completing a professional qualification in only 10 months – what a hero!!



Employment

Our main purpose is to recruit, train and employ the best teachers possible for our partner schools. That is one of the reasons we have their full support and are able to offer such a rich and diverse set of training placements.

Over the last three years more than 70% of our trainees have found employment in partnership schools, contributing well over 100 new teachers to our partner secondary schools.

Our overall employment rate is always close to 100% and we actively help our trainees to find employment at the end of their course. If you remain in Gloucestershire, our support continues with the Early Career Teacher programme, led by the local Teaching School Hubs.

“ The support from GITEP is excellent: they always take the time to listen and are only an email away if you ever have a problem. I also had amazing mentors at both of my placement schools. They had high expectations but took the pressure off by making it clear that perfection can take a few years. ”



Centre Professional Studies session on numeracy across the curriculum

Training with GITEP can lead to a wide variety of roles across the partnership including in leadership, pastoral care, specialist teaching or mentoring the next generation of trainee and early career teachers. Here's where some of our alumni are now:

Qualified Position and School

2024	Teacher of RE, English and Personal Development, Winchcombe School
2023	Head of Modern Languages, Pittville School
2020	Assistant Head of English, Churchdown School Academy
2020	Teacher of D&T and Head of House, Churchdown School Academy
2019	Head of Geography, Pittville School
2018	Pastoral Mentor and Teacher of PE, Severn Vale School
2017	Teacher of English and Head of House, Balcarras School
2016	Head of Politics and KS4 History Lead, Dene Magna School
2016	Deputy Head, Pastoral, The Crypt School
2016	Teacher of English and Literacy Coordinator, Archway School
2015	Teacher of Science and Primary Outreach Lead, Stroud High School
2015	Deputy Head of Modern Languages and Classics, Marling School
2013	Head of Performing Arts, Dene Magna School
2013	Professional Lead for GITEP, St Peter's High School
2011	Assistant Pastoral Team Leader, Cirencester Deer Park
2010	Assistant Headteacher, Dene Magna School
2010	Teacher of Art and Initial Teacher Training Coordinator, Cheltenham Bournside School
2010	Teacher of English and Teaching and Learning Lead, Churchdown School Academy
2010	Headteacher, Holmleigh Park High School



To find out more about our Assessment Only route to QTS,
Salaried and Primary initial teacher training courses,
please visit www.gitep.org.uk

Now recruiting for our 28th year of teacher training.



www.gitep.org.uk



Contact us on 01242 505945
or teach@gitep.org.uk

