

Question	Previous Response (Jan 2022)	Updated April 2022
Are you able provide some more detail about the timeline for procurement? I can see that the deadline for submitting an expression of interest is 25 th Jan, but can you tell us what the 14 th March closing date refers to?	The PIN closing date is intended to give the market an indication of the period during which the Department (Department of Education) plans to undertake its market engagement activity in relation to the notice. As the questionnaire is the first part of our engagement the closing date is earlier and gives us a chance to review responses and undertake further engagement with interested parties either in 1:1 or group meetings after the questionnaire deadline but before the PIN deadline.	As we have moved forward in the process we have updated the closing date on the PIN as a reflection of our expectations to issue the tender. The current closing date for the Market Engagement period is 9th May.
For the purposes of the ITT Scholarships programme what subjects fall under the priority subjects category?	The Department reviews bursaries (including Scholarships) each year before deciding the offer for trainees starting ITT the following academic year. In doing this, the Department takes account of a number of factors including historic recruitment, forecast economic conditions, and teacher supply need in each subject. As the PIN for the future ITT Scholarships programme has been issued in advance of decisions on the overall bursary (and Scholarships) package for ITT 2023 we intentionally left the subject coverage of the Scholarships programme open in the PIN to give us maximum flexibility to respond to the need to attract new teachers.	In the Schools White Paper: 'Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child' which was published in March 2022, the Government confirmed that alongside other measures to support recruitment to shortage subjects, a scholarship will be available for the most talented language graduates to the profession (see para 38-40 on pg 23). For the purposes of our proposed procurement this means we will be procuring for providers to deliver Scholarships programmes in five subjects for ITT 2023 and beyond: chemistry, computing, languages, mathematics, and physics. Further details of the standard bursaries and scholarship bursaries including amounts for ITT2023 will be announced as part of the wider ITT financial incentives package later in the year.
Q24: How do you suggest we respond if we have different answers depending on whether we're thinking about 'attracting' or 'retaining' candidates?	The question is intended to seek views on the importance of each aspect to the Scholarships programme overall rather than the importance to 'attracting and 'retaining' separately.	
Q24: Can you also clarify the timescale 'retaining candidates' refers to? Is retention just for the ITT year or a longer time period	As above the question is intended to seek views in relation to the Scholarship programme which in most cases currently would mean the ITT year only but may in some cases span into the first year post ITT	
Q27: What do you think could be done as part of the ITT Scholarships programme, to promote equality and diversity among scholar participants, across your subject and/or in schools? Please could you clarify what is meant by 'and/or in schools' in this question?	The question is seeking views on what you think could be done as part of the ITT Scholarships programme to promote equality and diversity in three different areas: among scholar participants; across your subject; and/or in schools. In this case we are mainly referring to the schools in which the scholars undertake placements in their ITT year but you may wish to explain how this might subsequently have an impact in the schools in which they ultimately work in as alumni of the programme	
Q33: What subject specific activities do you think will enhance the impact of scholars in the classroom as their careers progress? Can you clarify whether this question is asking about subject specific activities that scholars undertake during their time on the programme - which will subsequently help them as their careers progress, or are you asking more generally about subject specific activities throughout ex-scholars' careers?	For clarification this question is asking about subject specific activities that scholars undertake during their time on the programme - which will subsequently help them as their careers progress.	
Q39: What can the department do to facilitate and grow the provider market for the ITT Scholarships programme? Please can you clarify what this question means	This is a commercial focused question and is looking for suggestions on what, if anything, you think we could do to encourage and facilitate other organisations to consider bidding to deliver the ITT Scholarship programme.	
Q47: Would you be interested in developing a new recruitment and retention service to support high quality scholars in the relevant subject areas into teaching? In this question does 'new' refer to a new scholarship programme that is similar to the current model or is it asking about something different?	One of the objectives of the market engagement process is to determine what a future Scholarships programme might look like. It might be similar to the current model but equally it might be different. We are mainly looking to understand which organisations might be interested in bidding for a programme to support high quality scholars in the relevant subject areas into teaching going forward	
'the delivery of the Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Scholarships programme starting in Oct 2022 to recruit to the AY2023/24 cohort.' Can you clarify if this is implying this is recruiting during 2022/23 and supporting in 2023/24, or recruiting in both 2022/23 and 2023/24 (whilst supporting in 2024/25 as well)?	Our expectation is that any procurement process will be looking for providers to deliver more than one cohort of ITT Scholarships programme as was the case in 2018. Any agreements would be subject to annual review and dependent on wider decisions on the financial incentives package for trainee teachers.	We are currently proposing to award grant funding agreements covering the recruitment and bespoke support package for up to three cohorts beginning at the start of academic year 2022/23 with recruitment to the ITT2023 cohort.
Questions arising during the Market Engagement Event March 2022		
What does this procurement process mean for the support package for scholars recruited this year?	Response Updated April 2022	
	Following questions raised at the market engagement event the Department has decided that scholars recruited in academic year 2021/22 by current Scholarships programme providers will be supported by the existing providers rather than be transitioned across to new providers. The new grant funding agreements will cover the recruitment and bespoke support package of up to three cohorts beginning at the start of academic year 2022/23 with recruitment to the ITT 2023 cohort.	
We have made plans for the support package for the 2022 cohort, will these change if there is a new provider	Following questions raised at the market engagement event the Department has decided that scholars recruited in academic year 2021/22 by current Scholarships programme providers will be supported by the existing providers rather than be transitioned across to new providers.	
Can you tell me when the list of subjects will be announced	In the Schools White Paper: 'Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child' which was published in March 2022, the Government confirmed that alongside other measures to support recruitment to shortage subjects, a scholarship will be available for the most talented language graduates to the profession (see para 38-40 on pg 23). For the purposes of our proposed procurement this means we will be procuring for providers to deliver Scholarships programmes in five subjects for ITT 2023 and beyond: chemistry, computing, languages, mathematics, and physics. Further details of the standard bursaries and scholarship bursaries including amounts for ITT2023 will be announced as part of the wider ITT financial incentives package later in the year.	
Do you expect the overarching aims mentioned today to be the same in the procurement process or might something else be added	The overarching aims of the programme will remain as stated in the slides presented at the market engagement event on 17 March. The Department asked a number of questions in the market engagement questionnaire linked to the new requirements for public sector organisations to consider potential suppliers' approaches to social value as part of the procurement process. However as, following the market engagement activity, the Department is proposing to have grant funding agreement rather than a contract for the ITT Scholarships programme, we are not required to include social value questions as part of the procurement process. Suppliers are still encouraged to consider how their offer will support the social value themes.	
Just in terms of clarity of language the slides use 'Subject Associations' - which are typically understood to be membership associations for just teachers. Rather than the Subject Bodies / Learned Societies/ Professional (Subject) Associations that venerate the current providers of the scholarships. This may be inadvertent - however if it is used in the subsequent procurement process it may be read as a specific signal from the Department about preference for a particular type of organisation - currently not involved with the scholarship	For clarity the Department will expect bids for the delivery of the ITT Scholarships programme to be aligned to, and/or involve, a royal chartered professional body, or professional organisation with similar standing, specialising in one of the priority subjects i.e. chemistry, computing, languages, mathematics, and physics. The use of the term 'subject associations' in the slides was used as a general term not a specific reference to membership associations for teachers.	
At what stage will you be able to give us specific dates on award date and programme start date.	As indicated on the slides presented at the market engagement event our aim to award grants in August for a programme start in October.	
Do you want us to draw attention to the current recruitment market and what you think providers could bring to this	Potential suppliers are encouraged to read the documents for the procurement when issued and consider what information to include to demonstrate how they are best placed to successfully deliver the Scholarships Programme and meet the overall programme objectives.	
The 160-180K per subject per academic year, is that covering all the cohorts that are being included and all the transition arrangement	The Scholarship programme budget of between £160-180k is the estimated budget available per subject to cover the recruitment and bespoke subject support offer for each cohort of the programme. As mentioned above there will be no transition arrangements as we expect existing Scholarships Programme providers to deliver support to scholars recruited in academic year 2021/22.	
Does DfE plan to approach this procurement on a subject by subject basis or combine this into one provider covering all subjects	As a result of the responses to the PIN and with consideration of the customer journey, the Department have decided that a subject specific focus is needed.	