FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions
Teaching Bursary Scheme 2026/27

Skills Development Scotland

v20260729a

Issued 29th July 2026

Q1. When did applications for the Teaching Bursary Scheme open for the 2026/27 academic year?

Applications for the 2026/27 academic year opened on 18/05/2026.

- Please note that the Teaching Bursary Scheme replaces the old STEM Bursary Scheme.

Q2. For PGDE courses starting in August 2026, when did Bursary applications close?

Applications for the 2026 Teaching Bursary closed on 25/06/2026, and the application process has now concluded.

Q3. I do not meet the eligibility criteria but would like my circumstances to be taken into consideration… Is this possible?

No, all eligibility criteria must be met in full before an award of a Teaching Bursary Scheme can be made.

Q4. How and when are Bursary payments made?

Payments are made directly from the university, starting at the end of September 2026.
If your application is successful, university staff will contact you to make payment arrangements.

Q5. Where can I find out more about how to train as a teacher in Scotland?

More information on a teaching career in Scotland can be found at:

myworldofwork.co.uk

- Careers website with general information about becoming a teacher.
- includes contact details of your local careers centre should you wish to make an appointment with a careers adviser to discuss your career ideas.
- Advisers won't be able to answer specific entry qualification questions but can offer careers guidance and advice.

teachinscotland.scot

- Useful website with information about becoming a teacher in Scotland.

gtcs.org.uk

- The website of the General Teaching Council for Scotland.

gaidhlig.scot/en/education/latest-information

- Information from Bòrd na Gàidhlig on routes into Gaelic Teaching.

Q6. I don't meet the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) criteria for tuition fee support; can I still apply for the bursary?

No, you must meet the eligibility criteria for SAAS tuition fee support to be eligible for the Teaching Bursary Scheme. Please see Terms and Conditions 2.1.4.
For more information on eligibility, support available and the application process from the Student Awards Agency for Scotland visit www.saas.gov.uk.

Q7. Am I able to apply for University hardship funding if I am eligible for the Teaching Bursary Scheme?

Yes, recipients of the Teaching Bursary Scheme are not excluded from applying for a University financial hardship fund, though it would be for the individual to check the eligibility criteria of any other sources of funding and ensure that they disclose receipt of any Teaching Bursary Scheme payments if required by the hardship fund provider.

Q8. I have a degree obtained outside of the United Kingdom. Can I apply for the Teaching Bursary?

Yes, you can apply for the Teaching Bursary. Checks will be completed as part of the application process to ensure that your degree is equivalent to a UK 2:2 Honours Degree or above/ Masters Degree at SCQF Level 11 that is in a subject relevant to your chosen PGDE course.

Q9. How quickly do I need to send in my evidence of Bursary Scheme eligibility?

We aim to send all new applicants a welcome email within 3 working days. We ask that evidence is sent back to us within 5 working days of receipt of the welcome email.
We reserve the right to close off an application should an applicant disengage from the application process. In such cases, a previous applicant would be able to reapply with a new application as long as the Bursary remains open for new applications.

Q10. Does gaining a place on a PGDE course mean that I am automatically eligible for the Teaching Bursary Scheme?

No. The eligibility criteria for the Teaching Bursary Scheme differ from the entry requirements for PGDE courses.
As such, not everyone who has been successful in gaining a place on a PGDE ITE course will be eligible for the Teaching Bursary Scheme.
We advise interested individuals to review the eligibility criteria of the Teaching Bursary Scheme (available on this website) before sending an application to the Teaching Bursary Scheme.
Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria in full will not be eligible for the Bursary and will have their application rejected.
For more information, please refer to the Eligibility Flowchart and the Terms and Conditions.

Q11. I have an ordinary degree and don't have any other university level qualifications… Am I eligible for the Teaching Bursary Scheme?

No, you would not be eligible to apply to the Teaching Bursary Scheme.

Q12. My undergraduate degree is an Ordinary and I don't have a Masters Degree (SCQF Level 11) but I do have a Post Graduate Diploma… Am I eligible for the Teaching Bursary Scheme?

No, you would not be eligible to apply to the Teaching Bursary Scheme. We cannot accept a Post Graduate Diploma in lieu of a Masters Degree at SCQF Level 11.
If you do not hold a 1st-class, 2:1 or 2:2 Honours Degree, you must meet the minimum entry requirements of your chosen PGDE course, and in addition you must hold a Masters Degree which is at SCQF Level 11.

Q13. I have a conditional offer from a University… Can I apply for the Teaching Bursary Scheme?

Yes, we welcome applications from individuals who meet the Teaching Bursary Scheme eligibility criteria and who hold a conditional offer of a place on the PGDE course.
Successful Bursary applicants who hold only a conditional place will be issued a conditional Teaching Bursary Scheme award.
A conditional Bursary award will be converted to a full (unconditional) Teaching Bursary Scheme award ONLY if the applicant meets the conditions of their University PGDE offer by no later than the 31st December 2026.
As per terms and conditions 3.6, no payments of the bursary will be made to the successful recipient until they hold a full (unconditional) bursary award.

Q14. I graduated from a full-time 4-year undergraduate course in 2025… Am I eligible?

No, your full-time education must have completed no later than 30th September 2024, other than exceptions detailed in 2.1.3 of the Terms and Conditions.

Q15. I graduated in 2017 and recently completed a one-year full-time Masters Degree from 2024 to 2025… Am I eligible?

Yes. Your full-time course did not exceed 12 months as detailed in 2.1.3 of the Terms and Conditions. But please note that you must also meet the other eligibility criteria and the Terms and Conditions.

Q16. I graduated in July 2024 and then went on to complete a one-year full-time Post Graduate Diploma from September 2024 - June 2025… Am I eligible?

No, because you completed a full-time education course in 2024 and then started a further full-time course within 12 months of the completion date of the first period of full-time education.
This would be deemed a continuation of full-time education and therefore means you are ineligible.
Please see 2.1.3 of the Terms and Conditions for further information.

Q17. I graduated in 2024 and then completed a 4-month full-time top up course to allow me entry into the PGDE… Am I eligible?

Yes, we would not consider a course of 7 months or less as full-time education, but please note that you must also meet the other eligibility criteria and the Terms and Conditions.

Q18. The primary PGDE is included for the Gaelic Medium… Is the Teaching Bursary Scheme also available for primary teacher training in English Medium?

No, the Teaching Bursary Scheme is not open to those undertaking PGDE in primary education in the English Medium.
For entry to the Gaelic Medium PGDE (Primary), you must be a fluent Gaelic speaker and be able to read and write in Gaelic. This will be assessed by the University as part of your application to the PGDE.

Q19. Is the Teaching Bursary Scheme available for all secondary PGDE teaching subjects?

No, for those undertaking secondary PGDE training in the English Medium, the Teaching Bursary Scheme is ONLY available in the following subjects: Physics, Chemistry, Maths, Computing Science, Technological Education, Home Economics and Modern Languages (Chinese, French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian and Spanish).

However, for those looking to teach in Gaelic, the following shortage subjects are included in the Bursary for those undertaking a one-year PGDE ITE course:

- Gaelic as a Language/Subject at Secondary School Level
- Gaelic Medium across all Secondary Subjects
- Primary Education in Gaelic Medium

Q20. My PGDE will be in dual teaching subjects… Can I apply for the Bursary?

Yes, provided that at least one of the subjects is eligible for the Teaching Bursary.
In addition, you must complete your probationary period teaching a `bursary-eligible subject`. For example, if your dual subjects were Chemistry and Biology, you would be required to teach Chemistry for the duration of your probationary period.

Q21. What if I am approved for the Bursary to teach a Secondary School subject in Gaelic Medium but then wish to change to English medium… Is that allowed?

Only if the Secondary School subject in question is eligible for Teaching Bursary funding: one of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computing Science, Technological Education, Home Economics and Modern Languages (Chinese, French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian and Spanish).

Q22. What if I am approved for the Bursary to teach Primary Education in Gaelic Medium but then wish to change to Primary Education in English medium… Is that allowed?

No, that would not be allowed.

Q23. Can I receive the Teaching Bursary for a PGDE in the Gaelic Medium and then complete my required probationary period in English Medium?

No, you must complete the probationary period in Gaelic Medium Education.

Q24. I am looking to apply for Maths in the Gaelic Medium but I am not sure how to complete the Application form… What should I do?

Please select `Gaelic Medium across all Secondary Subjects` from the drop-down menu.

Q25. I am looking to apply for one of the Modern Languages but I am not sure how to complete the Application form... What should I do?

Please select `Modern Languages` from the drop-down menu.