



The National Association of  
School-Based Teacher Trainers

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## **NASBTT responds to ITT GCSE entry requirements announcement**

The Department for Education (DfE) has today published its guidance for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) providers on entry requirements which allows for the attainment of GCSEs, or their equivalents, to be demonstrated by 30th November 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-itt-requirements-supporting-advice>

In response, NASBTT Executive Director Emma Hollis said: “Whilst this is currently only published in the Early Years ITT criteria, we have been given permission by the DfE to confirm that these allowances will apply to all QTS programmes. We are extremely pleased to see this guidance officially published as this issue had been a cause of concern for our members. Our survey of ITT providers in March found that large numbers of applicants would need to sit an equivalence test for one of more of their GCSEs this year. Of these, and based on last year’s data, it is likely that only 8% would not pass and would therefore not be able to start their teacher training programme in September. There was also an issue around individuals who had lost their GCSE certificates and could not get replacements because the exam boards have stopped providing them until Covid-19 crisis is over. As things stood, there were large numbers who may potentially have been prevented from entering the profession if they could not get their certificates or take and pass a test. As always, we have worked closely with the DfE to present a potential solution and the guidance published has unblocked a potential major disruptor to teacher recruitment for the 2020-21 academic year. The Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET) also provided insights from its members, therefore presenting a sector-wide view.”

**-ENDS-**

NASBTT is a registered charity committed to promoting high-quality schools-led programmes of training, education and professional development of teachers. NASBTT represents the interests of schools-led teacher training provision in relation to the development and implementation of national policy developments. Our members include SCITT providers, School Direct Lead Schools, Teaching Schools, HEIs as well as a range of other organisations involved in the education and professional development of teachers. We have over 200 members representing more than 10,000 individual trainees.

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