

Bursaries appear to have boosted the number of trainee teachers of RE in England in 2024/5

We are pleased to pass on the news that for the second successive year, those who wish to train as teachers of Religious education in England in 2025/6 will be awarded a bursary from the government. Yet again, despite very poor recruitment in Wales, no such bursary is to be offered to trainees in Wales. NATRE has been campaigning for an increase in the value of the bursary, but given how early in the term of the current government this decision was made, it is perhaps unsurprising that trainees will continue to be offered £10,000 which will usually cover the fees for their course.

We are awaiting an announcement on whether the subject knowledge enhancement grants, so vital for RE recruitment, will be funded. We recruit a significant number of trainees who do not have a degree in RE or a related subject, who need a subject knowledge boost to be accepted for training.

The final number of trainees for this academic year has not yet been announced but as of September 2024, 415 people had accepted a place, when at the same time last year, just 247 people had accepted a place. That represents a rise of more than 40% but a long way short of the target for the year, which was 580.

There are significant regional variations in this data. This table records the area described in candidates' contact address when applying, not necessarily to the area where they chose to train.

Area	2024	2023
Unknown	1	0
Scotland	2	1
Wales	3	1
North East	20	4
Northern Ireland	6	4
Rest of the World	11	6
European Economic Area	3	4
South West	46	12
East Midlands	27	17
Yorkshire and the Humber	31	18
Eastern	34	27
South East	44	29
North West	55	30
West Midlands	49	34
London	83	60
Grand Total	415	247

[Initial teacher training application statistics for courses starting in the 2024 to 2025 academic year - Apply for teacher training - GOV.UK \(apply-for-teacher-training.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training)

NATRE calls on both the English and Welsh governments to fully fund initial teacher education for Religious Education and to offer subject knowledge enhancement grants to those that need them.

Bursaries and scholarships for postgraduate teacher training

The figures on this page apply if you're starting your training between September 2025 and July 2026.

Eligibility for bursaries

What funding could I get for teacher training?

Choose the subject you want to teach

Religious education

Check funding >

Religious education - Secondary

Bursaries of £10,000 are available for trainee religious education teachers if you're eligible.

You can receive this alongside a [tuition fee and maintenance loan](#).

You could also get extra funding support if [you're a parent or carer](#) or [if you're disabled](#).

You do not need to apply for a bursary. If you're eligible, you'll automatically receive it.

You must be eligible for student finance to receive a bursary (unless you're training to teach physics or languages). You'll also need at least one of the following:

- a bachelor's degree class 2:2 (honours) or higher
- a master's degree
- a PhD

If your course combines 2 subjects (for example, English and history), at least 50% of your course content must be made up of the bursary subject to be eligible.

How bursaries are paid

A bursary is paid over a minimum of 10 months by your teacher training provider across the duration of your course. They will confirm when you will get the payments.

You will not need to pay tax or National Insurance on bursary payments.

How to get a bursary

You do not need to apply for a bursary. When you apply for teacher training, your provider will check if you're eligible for a bursary. If you are, your provider will confirm this in writing before you start your course.