

Hints and Tips for applying for a BCS scholarship

This guide has been produced to help you prepare to submit an application for a BCS teacher training scholarship. Throughout this document you will find useful tips to ensure your application is as strong as it can be. This guide also provides more details about the overall process. You are advised read through this document before completing your online application.

General Information for completing the application

- Your application is your first opportunity to make an impression on us. Please ensure you complete it as accurately as possible. Elements of your application will also be passed to the schools and industry partners that are involved in our selection process. Therefore it is advisable to pay close attention to things like spellings and usage of grammar. We will not edit any aspects of your application so what you enter is what our partners will see.
- The application form is not timed; however you may want to be mindful of your own internet browser timing out.
- You may want to consider writing your personal statement and relevant experience details in a separate document and then pasting them into the application form when you are ready to submit.
- If you are unsure about any aspect of completing the online application, please do not hesitate to contact us on; scholarships@hq.bcs.org.uk

Applying for an Initial Teacher Training (ITT) course

There are a number of avenues into teaching and the following courses can be applied for in conjunction with the scholarship application. You will need to do this separately from your scholarship application. The types of course that qualify for a bursary or scholarship are:

- Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE)
- School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)
- Schools Direct (non-salaried)

For more information on applying for a teacher training place and the range of options that are available, please visit The National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) website; <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching>.

If you are recommended for a scholarship it will be on the condition that you subsequently obtain a place on an eligible teacher training course, if you have not already done so.

Applicants who wish to study via the Schools Direct (salaried) or Teach First schemes will not be eligible to receive scholarship funding as these are employment-based schemes.

Eligibility to study in the UK

As part of the application form, you will be asked whether you are an EU national and whether you have been an EU resident for the past 3 years or more.

If you answer 'no' to either of these questions, you will need to provide evidence of your eligibility to receive student finance. Scholarships can only be offered to those who would be eligible to receive the standard teacher training bursary. Further details on bursary eligibility can be found on the NCTL website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching>

The best way to provide evidence of your eligibility is to apply for an ITT course. They will be able to assess this based on your residency.

Qualifications

To be eligible to receive the scholarship funding, you must have achieved (or go on to achieve) at least a 2:2 UK degree classification or a recognised equivalent.

If you are yet to finish your degree course, please ensure that you state what your 'expected' results are - as opposed to marking them as results already achieved. A drop-down list on the application form includes all of the possible options.

If you do not have a 2:2 but have a Masters or PhD, you will be eligible for the scholarship funding. Masters and PhD qualifications act as the equivalent to a 2:1 and 1st degree respectively.

If you do not have UK qualifications, you will need to provide evidence of how your qualifications are equivalent to the minimum of a UK 2:2. You can provide evidence of this by visiting the UK NARIC website; <http://www.ecctis.co.uk/naric/default.aspx> or by applying to an ITT provider. We also use the following document to help us identify equivalencies: [Overseas Grade Comparison document](#). On the application form, you will have the option to specify your grade for an overseas degree. If you have an overseas qualification, please ensure that you choose this option.

ITT application

If you have not yet applied for your ITT course, please go to the NCTL website; <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching> to find more information on the different courses available.

We would also advise that you arrange for some school experience and research the course you are applying for. This will help to prepare you for the interview stages of the scholarship application.

Availability

You will be asked to provide details of dates that you would be unavailable for interview. We only require your availability for the application cycle that applies to you. Please look over the following application and interview schedule before you complete your application; <http://academy.bcs.org/scholarships>

About you – personal statement

Your personal statement is your chance to express your motivation to become a Computing teacher. You will have a maximum of 300 words for this. You will need to tell us why you want to become a teacher and why you believe that you will make a good teacher.

Use this section to tell us about the range of your subject knowledge. You should also mention areas that are of particular interest to you or that you would like to see taught in secondary schools and why.

Please pay particular attention to the spelling and grammar in your personal statement. This statement is not only read by BCS - it is also seen by our schools and industry partners. This is your chance to make a great first impression.

About you – relevant experience

Here, you should detail any classroom experience you have or indeed any other relevant experience with 11-18 year-olds. You will have a maximum of 300 words for this. We would recommend arranging some time in a classroom, if you have not done so already. As well as organising this independently, you can also do so via the NCTL website; <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/school-experience.aspx>

You should also detail any industry experience you have – paying particular attention to the Computing skills and knowledge that you have used within past and present roles.

If you have any relevant interests or hobbies that you feel would support your application you should also mention them here.

Please pay particular attention to the spelling and grammar in your personal statement. This statement is not only read by BCS - it is also seen by our schools and industry partners. This is your chance to make a great first impression.

Referee details

You will need to choose a referee who is able to comment on your subject knowledge and your potential to become a secondary school teacher. We would recommend that you choose someone who is a university tutor (if you completed your degree within the last 3 years) or a recent employer.

The progress of applications can be delayed due to non-receipt of references. Please ensure that your referee is aware that they may be contacted to provide a reference for you. We typically ask referees to provide their reference within a week of the request.

Computing test

The application form will include a 15 question multiple choice test so we can get a feel for your subject knowledge. This test is based on the subject knowledge requirements document on our website so you may wish to familiarise yourself with this prior to completing your application: <http://academy.bcs.org/scholarships>

School interview

You will be asked to attend a school interview at one of our partner schools. When arranging your interview, we will keep location in mind – we will always try to allocate you to a school as near to you as possible. However, this is not always possible.

Schools will be looking for familiarity and awareness of the school environment and knowledge of the National Curriculum. They will also be looking to find out why you have chosen to become a Computing teacher.

Our schools will also be looking to see if you have spent some time in the classroom. This doesn't have to be time that you have spent in front of a class – observing lessons in a local school would be just as beneficial. You can arrange some school experience via the following website; <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/school-experience.aspx>

You will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Understanding of school education environments and current teaching practices
- Engagement with pupils through classroom activities
- Familiarity with Computing resources available to teachers and their potential for engaging pupils

- Leadership and management potential in the school context
- Potential for professionally developing other school teachers in the future
- Computing subject knowledge

Further information regarding the school interview, will be provided at the relevant stage.

Industry Interview

You will be asked to attend an interview with one of our industry partners, should you progress from the school interview stage. This will be fixed dates and will take place at the offices of our industry partners. Although we will try to allocate you to an industry partner as close to you as possible, there is likely to be more travel involved at this stage of the process.

We strongly believe that Computing teachers are IT professionals and that our scholars should be leading figures in school-level Computing education once qualified and in teaching positions. The industry interview will therefore assess your **potential** for achieving the following professional capabilities [Skills Framework for the Information Age \(SFIA\)](#):

- Autonomy
- Influence
- Complexity
- Business Skills
- Understanding of the technology sector

Further information regarding the industry interview, will be provided at the relevant stage.

Next Steps

If you are successful in both the school and industry interview, we will recommend you for the BCS scholarship. At this stage, we will provide you with further information regarding being a BCS scholar and answer any questions you may have.