

The PSTT Primary Science Enhancement Award for Initial Teacher Education



INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE SCHEME FOR 2022/23

Introduction

PSTT has developed the Primary Science Enhancement Award (PSEA) scheme for Initial Teacher Education (ITE) for student teachers wanting to increase their experience and understanding of teaching and learning in primary science. The scheme supports the student to undertake additional activity and development in primary science during their ITE phase. It draws on rationales, processes and resources developed by the Primary Science Teaching Trust, the Primary Science Quality Mark, and by Stranmillis College, Belfast (who developed their own primary science accreditation scheme for their student teachers).

Following two pilot years, PSTT is intending to roll out the scheme, making it available to any UK ITE provider interested in taking part. **PSTT is seeking a contractor to deliver the scheme for the academic year 2022/23. The appointed contractor would work on a consultancy basis.**

Aims of the scheme

For Initial Teacher Education providers:

- To have access to a scheme to enhance their support for student teachers in science
- To stay up to date with primary science education developments through engaging with PSTT and their wider collaborations

For student teachers:

- To start their careers with increased competence and confidence to teach science
- To be confident to take up a position of school leadership in science

For schools:

- To make more informed/confident appointments of teachers/science subject leaders

For PSTT:

- To develop a recognised scheme for supporting ITE providers and student teachers
- To connect and build supportive relationships with teachers as they start their careers

Background to the PSEA for ITE scheme

There are currently several different routes into teaching in the UK:

- University based courses, e.g. B.A. with QTS, PGCE, B.Ed.
- School based training, e.g. Schools Direct, Teach First, SCITT, and some academy trusts run their own programmes.

The science component of these different teacher education programmes varies significantly in both quantity and quality. Teachers might start their career having had a few hours of input in science, weekly sessions of science over one or more terms or anything in between, and there are some Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers who offer a science specialism course. What is covered in the input provided also varies hugely. Students often do not feel confident with their own science background knowledge and this can influence the nature of the course content provided at the ITE stage, i.e. a large proportion of time might be spent on developing more secure science background knowledge, and as a result, less time might be spent on developing pedagogical understanding.

Principles of the scheme

The award is made to students who have successfully and actively engaged in reflective practice and development in primary science beyond the statutory content of their initial teacher education phase. At the start of the scheme, in consultation with their ITE tutor, the student identifies their intended outcomes and devises their own programme of reflective activity and a timeline for this. As far as possible the student is responsible for organising any additional/enrichment experiences for themselves. The ITE provider is responsible for agreeing any internal timelines for the students and giving additional support as appropriate. PSTT makes all relevant information, supporting documents and key dates available on their website.

Pilot schemes 2020/21 and 2021/22

Due to covid-19 circumstances, a small first pilot (30 students across 4 ITE providers) was carried out in 2020/21. Outcomes of this suggested that there is an appetite among students (both science specialists and non-science specialists) to engage in a programme of additional activity and development in primary science. Students reported increased confidence to teach science, and a greater awareness of where to find support for this. They also stated that they found the scheme to be manageable, valuable, and useful for their future careers. The scheme was updated in the light of tutor and student feedback and a larger pilot carried out over the year 2021/22. Working with over 200 students across 15 ITE providers has enabled us to examine how the scheme might work at a much larger scale.

The student is responsible for producing a portfolio of evidence. This is signed off by their own ITE tutor before they submit it to PSTT through the website. The Primary Science Enhancement Award is made at one level, i.e. the standard has been reached or not, and a certificate is issued by PSTT to all students whose portfolios meet the standard.

Specification of work for the appointed contractor to run the PSEA for ITE scheme

Responsibilities

Communications

- contact point for all the ITE providers registered for the scheme
- initial meeting in September 2022 (1.5 hrs long, repeated twice)
- facilitation of the arrangements for all students to conduct a PSQM subject leader interview
- regular email reminders of key information, timeline and actions needed
- questions and concerns as they arise
- regular liaison with PSTT

Moderation of student portfolios

- standardisation meeting for all ITE tutors in November 2022 (1.5 hrs long, repeated twice)
- moderation process for student submissions in July 2023 (see process diagram on page 5)

Evaluation - working with PSTT

- co-develop and implement the evaluation process
- review and evaluate the scheme

Currently it is expected that between 40 and 45 ITE providers will take part in the PSEA scheme next year. On average, there will be 15 students per organisation. All meetings will be online.

Profile of the contractor

We invite expressions of interest from individuals or organisations with the following expertise, skills and attributes:

- Strong knowledge and understanding of primary science education and in particular of initial teacher education for primary science
- Experience of managing moderation and standardisation for students' work submissions
- Experience of developing and implementing evaluation processes
- Excellent organisational skills, attention to detail and the ability to work to deadlines
- Familiarity with the PSEA for ITE scheme (desirable)

The appointed contractor will be expected to liaise with PSTT's Outreach Director and with PSTT office administrators.

Costs

The total budget available is £8,000, inclusive of VAT (if applicable). The costs you indicate in your expression of interest should be a fully inclusive figure, covering your time, any travel, expenses, administration and any other relevant costs.

Expressions of interest

In a maximum of two pages of A4 (plus a separate data security plan - see page 5), expressions of interest should outline the following:

- relevant experience in the primary science education sector, and in particular, in primary science initial teacher education, including in moderating and evaluating programmes
- professional qualifications and skills relevant to the role
- fee requested for the work

Expressions of interest must be submitted electronically in a word document or pdf to info@pstt.org.uk by 5pm on Friday 22nd July 2022. We anticipate awarding the contract by 12th August 2022, with a view to the successful applicant starting work as soon as possible after that date, and by the start of September 2022 at the latest.

To ensure quality of delivery, and to distinguish between competing proposals, each expression of interest will be assessed against four factors:

- Knowledge of the primary science initial teacher education landscape (25%)
- Experience with moderating and evaluating programmes (20%)
- Organisational skills and ability to work to deadlines (20%)
- Value for money (20%)
- Familiarity with the PSEA for ITE scheme (15%)

If you would like any further information about this opportunity, please contact PSTT's Outreach Director, Ali Eley, on ali.eley@pstt.org.uk or the PSTT office on info@pstt.org.uk

Appendix 1: Summary of process and timeline of the PSEA for ITE

	Student actions	ITE tutor actions	Contractor actions
Sept 2022			Hold/attend meeting for all ITE providers taking part.
Sept/Oct 2022	Register with ITE tutor to take part.	Introduce scheme to students. Notify PSTT of many students are registered to take part. Manage communications and keep records of students.	
By end Oct 2022	Audit own needs and complete action plan.	Support students to audit needs and sign off their action plan. Agree timeline with students.	Send all ITE tutors set of sample portfolios in advance of standardisation meetings.
Nov 2022	Complete all compulsory and optional activities, and associated reflective statements.	Review sample portfolios and attend moderation meeting.	Hold portfolio standardisation meetings for all ITE tutors.
From Dec 2022			Work with PSQM to identify subject leaders willing to participate in interviews with students. Facilitate contact between subject leaders and ITE tutors to arrange the PSQM subject leader interviews for students.
Dec 2022 – Mar 2023			Work with PSTT to implement agreed evaluation process.
By end Jun 2023	Complete final reflection in portfolio. Engage in peer assessment. Submit portfolio to tutor for validation. Complete PSTT feedback form and submit validated portfolio to PSTT.	Review and validate students' portfolios. Where unable to validate portfolio, give feedback to student who can then re-submit for a second review and validation opportunity.	
By 7 Jul 2023		Send PSTT list of all students' names to indicate if their portfolios have been validated or not.	
7 – 21 Jul 2023			Manage moderation process.
24 – 28 Jul 2023			Create certificates. Notify students of outcome.
Jul/Aug 2023			Work with PSTT to review and evaluate the scheme

Appendix 2: Terms

PSTT will ensure that all expressions of interest are given equal and fair consideration. Pre-tender negotiations are **not** allowed.

Contract period

The contract is to be for a period of 1 year.

Receipt of expressions of interest

Expressions of Interest will be received up to the time and date stated. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their expression of interest is delivered not later than the appointed time.

Acceptance of expressions of interest

By issuing this invitation, the PSTT is not bound in any way and does not have to accept the lowest costed, or any expression of interest.

Inducements

Offering an inducement of any kind in relation to obtaining this or any other contract with the PSTT will disqualify your expression of interest from being considered.

Confidentiality of expressions of interest

Please note the following requirements - you must not:

- Tell anyone else what your cost expression of interest cost is or will be, before the time limit for delivery of expressions of interest
- Try to obtain any information about anyone else's expression of interest or proposed expression of interest before the time limit for delivery of expressions of interest
- Take any arrangements with another individual or organisation about whether or not they should express an interest, or about their or your expression of interest cost

Failure to comply with these conditions may disqualify your expression of interest.

Costs and expenses

You will not be entitled to claim from the PSTT any costs or expenses which you may incur in preparing your expression of interest whether or not your expression of interest is successful.

VAT

When submitting costs, please state clearly whether or not VAT will be charged. Where the contract price agreed between the PSTT and contractor is inclusive of any VAT, further amounts will not be paid by the PSTT should a vatable supply claim be made at any later stage. Where the overall contract price is exclusive of VAT, the PSTT will pay any VAT incurred at the prevailing rate (currently 20%). If the VAT rate changes the PSTT will pay any VAT incurred at the new rate. It is the responsibility of tenderers to check the VAT position with HMRC before submitting a bid.

Security of data

Please submit a security plan (on a separate page to your expression of interest) that explains how you will ensure that PSTT or personal data will be protected.

Liability

Contractors are expected to have suitable public liability and personal indemnity insurance.

