

Guide for Universities

Background to the programme



The National Tutoring Programme (NTP) launched in November 2020 to provide additional, targeted support for pupils whose education has been most disrupted by the pandemic. As we return to pre-pandemic ways of living, the focus of the programme has shifted towards supporting disadvantaged pupils to help narrow the attainment gap.

The government has invested over £1 billion into the programme. 87% of schools are participating and have delivered 2.85 million tutoring courses (by Oct 2022).

Schools will receive funding until 2024 which they can use to subsidise tutoring and choose how to deliver tutoring in a way that meets the needs of their pupils.

Primary and secondary schools (pupils aged 5-16) are eligible.

Why should universities get involved?



To promote the university: student tutors could double up as ambassadors, promoting the university to pupils. Universities could, for example, incorporate an introductory session at the university itself for pupils to attend.



An opportunity for more engagement with schools: students have an opportunity to help raise attainment of pupils, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, raising aspirations of pupils in the process.



If a university is an initial teacher training (ITT) provider this could encourage new entrants: particularly reaching students who previously haven't considered a career in teaching by exposing them to the school environment.



Contribute towards student success: through opportunities to gain valuable work experience.



Act on civic and social responsibilities: by encouraging students to work with disadvantaged pupils/local communities.



How can university students benefit?



Delivering tutoring as part of the National Tutoring Programme provides university students with an opportunity to:



Develop their leadership and communication skills.



Undertake valuable work experience – boosting CVs and career prospects, particularly in teaching.



Have a taste of what it's like to work in a school.



Earn whilst studying or volunteer – giving back to local communities.

Recruitment of university students as tutors

Universities could promote and incentivise students to become tutors as part of the National Tutoring Programme in a number of ways including:



Promoting paid tutoring routes through the university's careers service.



Using student ambassadors to promote the programme, for example through lecture shout-outs.



Integrating tutoring as part of an existing (or new) module offered by the university, for example liaising with the university's education or volunteering department.



Promoting the programme at freshers, careers and volunteering fairs.



University students as tutors: considerations

The following suggestions outline ways to approach using university students as tutors and how to support them to deliver tutoring:



To support students who have less experience in tutoring, a mechanism could be established for students who have experience in tutoring or working in schools to share their reflections and insights with new tutors.

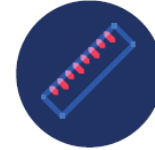


To support students to balance their study commitments alongside tutoring, universities could encourage schools to schedule tuition sessions outside of peak university exam periods.



To help ensure quality tuition, universities could set minimum grade requirements and/or target specific cohorts such as those undertaking degrees in the subjects they will tutor in.

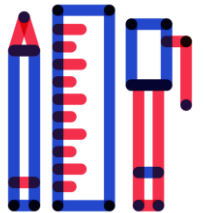
Current tutoring routes for schools



School-led Tutoring*	Tuition Partners	Academic Mentors *
<p>This offers schools the flexibility to use existing staff or newly engaged staff for this purpose.</p>	<p>External tutoring organisations that are quality-assured by DfE through our delivery partner, Tribal Group.</p> <p>They can provide tutors to deliver online or face-to-face tuition to pupils.</p>	<p>Academic mentors are full or part-time in-house staff members who provide intensive support to pupils who need it the most.</p> <p>Our delivery partner, Cognition Education, recruits and deploys academic mentors to schools.</p>

*Comprehensive and free training for both school-led tutoring and academic mentor routes is provided via our delivery partner, Education Development Trust.

Universities can get involved in the National Tutoring Programme through one or a combination of the above routes. The following sections outline suggested models for how these routes could work for universities to facilitate their university students to become tutors.

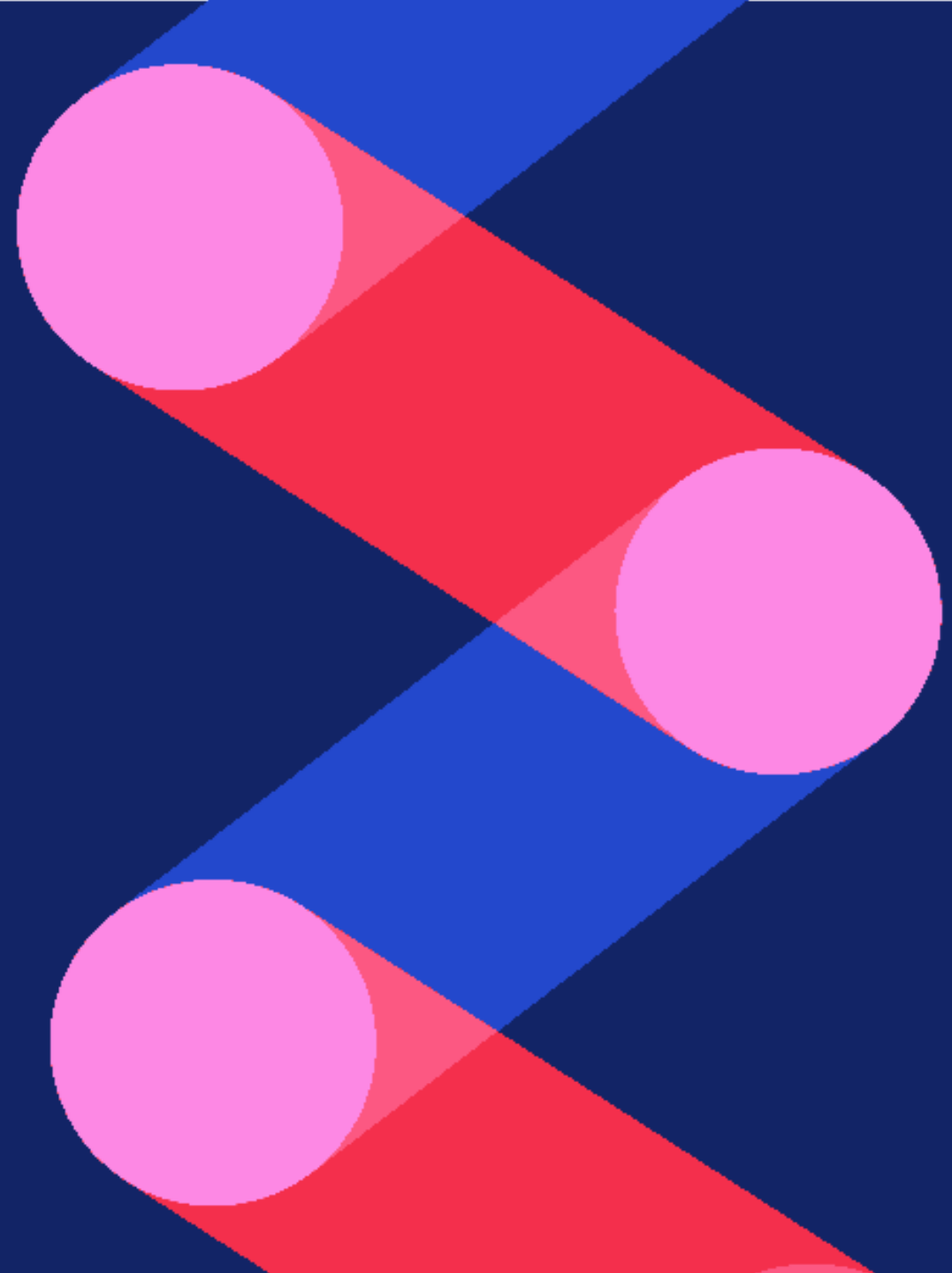


Summary of models

The following descriptions provide a broad outline of the suggested models for universities to facilitate tutoring which universities can combine and/or adapt to suit their circumstances.

Model	Description
Model 1: School-led tutoring (paid role for students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universities source interested students looking for paid tutoring opportunities and contact schools directly to offer them as tutors. Suitable for universities who want to build on existing relationships with schools and want to have more autonomy over how students are deployed to schools.
Model 2: School-led tutoring (volunteering role for students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universities source interested students who wish to volunteer as tutors in schools and contact schools directly to offer them as tutors. Provides universities with an opportunity to act on their civic and social responsibilities through facilitating additional opportunities for students to volunteer. This could be directed towards local schools with high levels of disadvantage. Particularly adaptable for universities who wish to integrate tutoring as part of their learning offer, for example developing a tutoring module as part of an ITT course.
Model 3: Tuition partners – University works with existing Tuition Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brings in quality-assured external capacity to organise and deliver tutoring to schools on behalf of universities. Suitable for universities who have less capacity to facilitate tutoring opportunities for their students directly but want their students to benefit from being involved in NTP.
Model 4: Tuition partners – Universities apply to become tuition partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides universities with an opportunity to become an NTP approved tutoring organisation. Universities will need to apply to become tuition partners via our delivery partner, Tribal Group, who quality assures all applications and will need to meet set criteria including effective safer recruitment practices. Given the need to meet set criteria on effective practice, this may be particularly suited to universities who have existing tutoring schemes in place and/or want to become a tutoring organisation in the long-term. Once set up as a tuition partner, universities will be able to charge for providing tuition services.
Model 5: Academic mentors – University students apply to become academic mentors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universities encourage their students to apply to become academic mentors. If successful, our delivery partner, Cognition Education, will deploy the students to schools. Suitable for universities who have less capacity to work with schools directly but whose cohorts would particularly benefit from a long-term paid tutoring role in schools, for example students looking to explore a future career working in schools.

School-led tutoring



Model 1: School-led tutoring (paid role for students)

Universities could engage with local schools with high levels of disadvantage.

If the university is an ITT provider, it could use existing links with placement schools.

University finds interested students

University assesses readiness of students to become tutors

Universities contact schools to offer tutors

School conducts safer recruitment checks

School agrees terms of employment with tutor

Student tutor is now on school's payroll

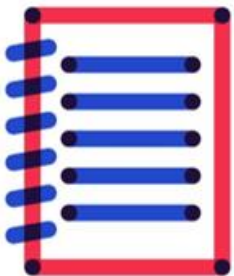
School nominates tutor to undertake free training

This could be done via setting minimum qualification thresholds and/or conducting interviews/assessments helping ensure commitment to the role.

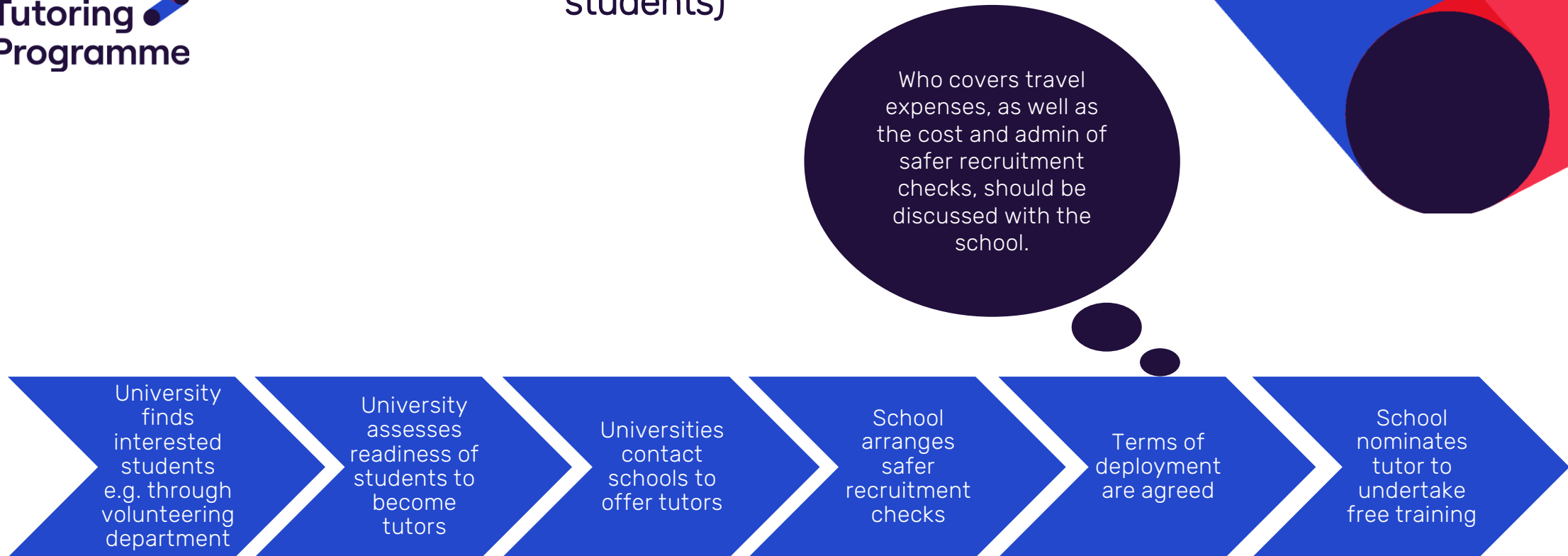
Benefits of this model:

- More autonomy over delivery.
- Safer recruitment checks are completed by the school.
- University works directly with the school.
- University students get paid for their time.

Free comprehensive training is provided by Education Development Trust.



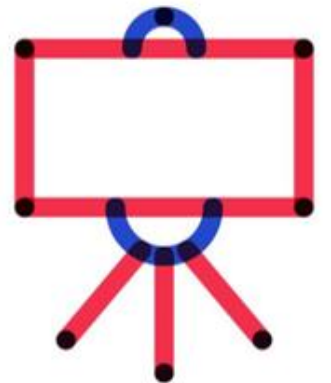
Model 2: School-led tutoring (volunteering role for students)



To incentivise students, this could be linked to a module or accreditation scheme offered by your institution.

Benefits of this model:

- Training is covered by Education Development Trust
- More sustainable model for schools facing budget pressures
- When linked to a module, this could both incentivise and increase employability of students



Considerations for school-led tutoring



Paid role

The student will effectively become a part-time member of staff. They would need to be able to fully commit to their responsibilities as a staff member.

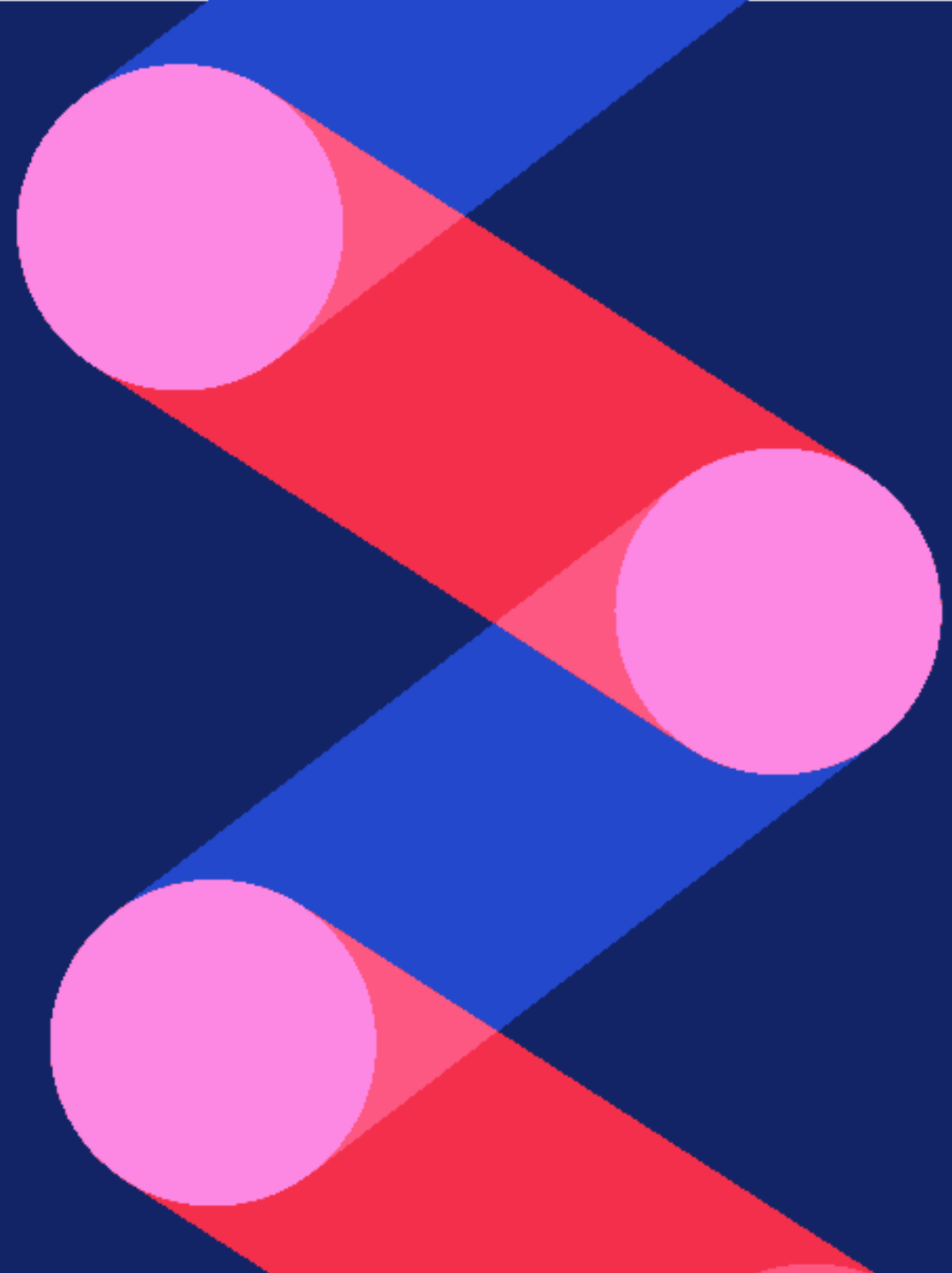
Students will also need to agree the terms of employment with the school.

Volunteering role

For volunteering roles, students could reasonably expect travel expenses to be covered. This could be negotiated with the school.

Universities could also discuss who would cover the admin and cost of the safer recruitment checks.

Tuition Partners



Model 3: University works with existing tuition partner

Quality assured
tuition partners can
be found on [Find a
tuition partner](#).

Universities will need to
let their preferred tuition
partner know of their
students availability to
become tutors. They
also need to agree the
arrangements for their
students to tutor on
behalf of the tutoring
organisation.

University
finds
interested
students

University
assesses
readiness of
students to
become
tutors

University
identifies
their
preferred NTP
approved
tuition
partner

University
contacts
chosen
tuition
partner

Tuition
partner
conducts
safer
recruitment
checks

Tuition
partner
ensures the
student
tutor has
received
training

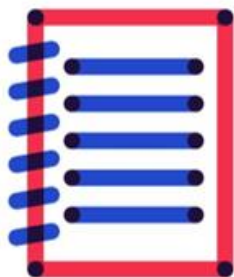
Tuition
partner
matches
student
tutor with
a school

Some factors to
consider when
choosing a tuition
partner can be found
on the next page.

Benefits of this model:

- All tuition partners have been quality assured by Tribal Group
- Removes the administrative burden on a university to be set up as a tuition partner
- Training is offered through the tuition partner

Universities could
offer to provide
some of the training
in partnership with
the tuition partner.



Considerations when identifying a Tuition Partner

Each approved NTP tuition partner will have different characteristics which will make them more or less suitable to your cohort of students including:

- Eligibility criteria: Some tuition partners will have different eligibility criteria for tutors, including minimum grade requirements and/or assessment.
- Training: All tuition partners will offer training packages which have been quality assured by our delivery partner, Tribal Group. However, the time commitment needed from student tutors and content will vary. Universities may also wish to provide some of this training in partnership with the tuition partner.
- Safer recruitment: Safer recruitment practices for tuition partners will include DBS, identity and right to work checks and possibly overseas checks. Make sure you are aware of safer recruitment policies when deciding on a tuition partner.
- Experience: Some tuition partners specialise in using university students to deliver tutoring whilst others may be open to do so, though have not ventured into this area.
- Volunteering/paid position: Some tuition partners offer remuneration for time spent tutoring. Others are fully voluntary. There may also be opportunities for university students to gain accreditation/credits towards accreditation programmes offered by certain tuition partners.
- Delivery: Tuition partners will vary in terms of how tutoring sessions are delivered i.e. whether they offer online, face-to-face sessions, or a mixture of both.
- All approved NTP tuition partners are listed on the [Find a tuition partner](#) service.



Model 4: Universities apply to become a tuition partner - Considerations

In order to become a tuition partner, universities would need to meet set criteria outlined by our delivery partner, Tribal Group, who quality assures all applications.

The criteria can be found at [Becoming an NTP tuition partner \(tribalgroup.com\)](https://tribalgroup.com) and covers:

1. How well the organisation is managed
2. Effective safeguarding and safer recruitment practices
3. Quality of provision

Given the need to demonstrate effective practice, this route may be more suitable for organisations that already have tutoring schemes in place and/or are considering becoming a tutoring organisation in the long term.

Under this route, universities would need to deliver appropriate training including safeguarding training for their potential tutors as well as conducting safer recruitment checks.

Universities will want to consider whether to pay their tutors for their time, or use a volunteer model.



Model 4: Universities apply to become tuition partners

There will be new opportunities to register between January and July 2023.

Tribal Group takes 20 days to review completed applications.

University reviews application materials

University assesses whether it is ready to apply

University registers interest with Tribal Group through an e-Accreditation portal

University completes application to become a tuition partner through the e-Accreditation portal

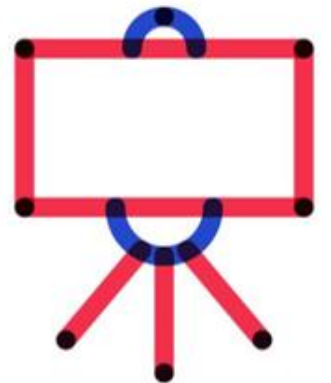
If approved, university gets listed on 'Find a tuition partner'

Schools can get in touch with tuition partner

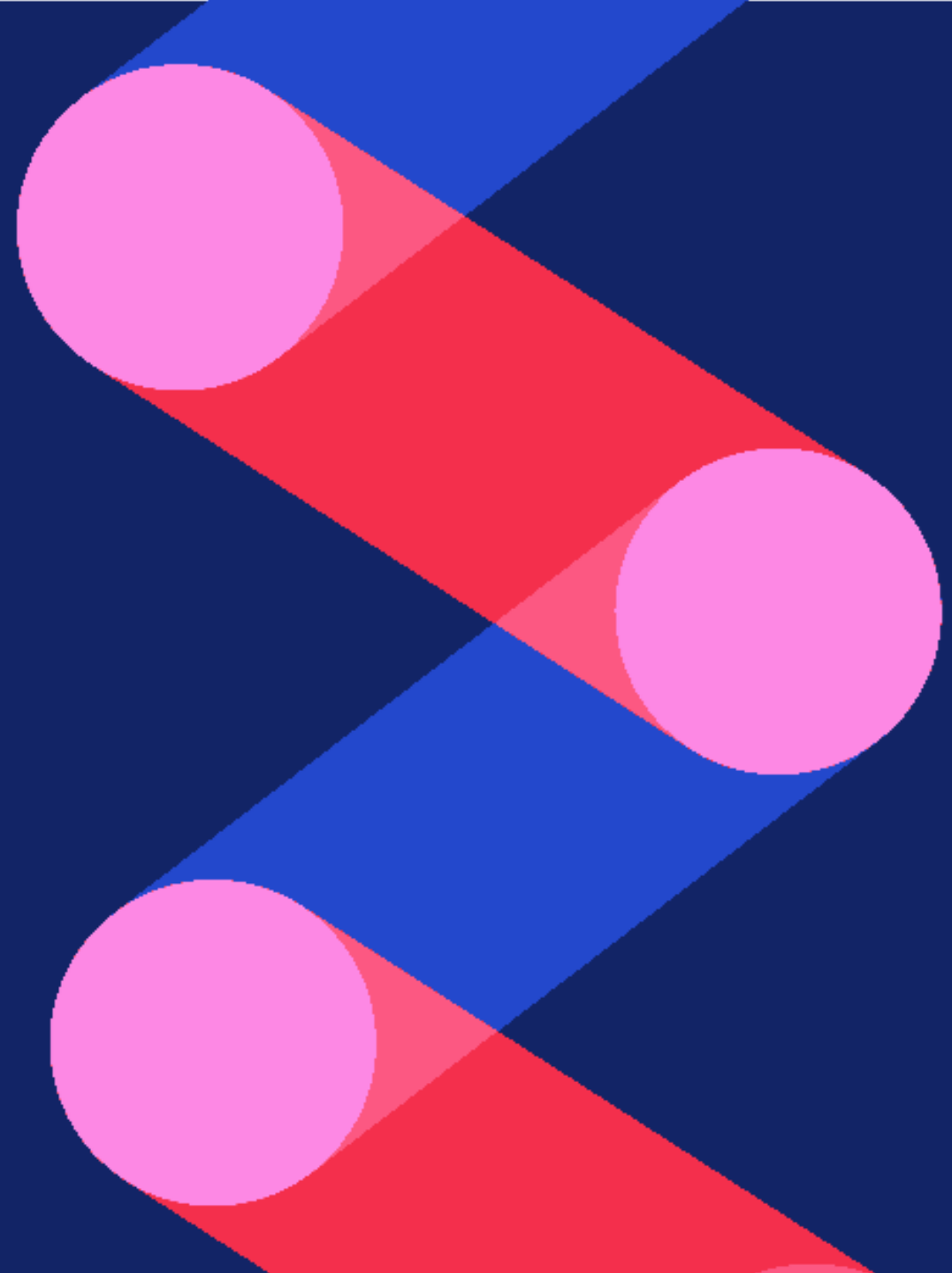
This includes the tuition partner framework criteria, template and guidance handbook available at [Becoming an NTP tuition partner \(tribalgroup.com\)](https://tribalgroup.com)

Benefits of this model:

- As a tuition partner, universities can charge for providing tuition services.
- Attractive to schools who want to bring in tutoring capacity at a provider level.



Academic Mentors



Model 5: University students apply to become academic mentors

Cognition Education is our delivery partner who recruits and deploys academic mentors to schools on behalf of DfE.

Screening process includes submitting evidence of qualifications, references and Right to Work checks for compliance purposes.

University promotes academic mentor route to students

University student registers their details with Cognition Education

University student completes screening process

University student undergoes live 1:1 video interview

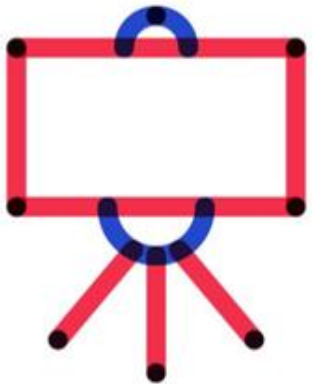
University student is matched to a school

University student completes free online training

Benefits of this model:

- Salaried position for students which can be part-time or full time – academic mentors typically receive a salary of £19,000- £21,000 (full-time posts – pro rata for part-time posts).
- Free training provided through Education Development Trust

Students are aimed to be matched to an address as close to their home address as possible but may be expected to commute up to 1 hour to a suitable school.



Considerations for the academic mentor route

- As a salaried staff position (which can be either full-time or part-time) university students would need to be able to fully commit to their responsibilities as a staff member.
- This role therefore may be more suitable for university students who are:
 - studying part-time
 - taking time out of studies
 - undertaking a placement year
 - looking to pursue a future role working in schools
- Universities could promote the academic mentor route to university students through its careers service and/or careers fairs.
- For further information on academic mentors – see [National Tutoring Programme • Cognition Education \(ntpacademicmentors.co.uk\)](http://ntpacademicmentors.co.uk)



Next steps

If your university is interested in becoming involved in the National Tutoring Programme, decide which route(s) appeals most to you and suits your cohort of students. Suggested next steps include:



Familiarising yourself with the [National Tutoring Programme: guidance for schools, 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



Speaking to relevant departments such as the volunteering or education department (particularly if you are an ITT provider). Find out what support [Get Into Teaching](#) could provide to promote the opportunities to your students



For the school-led tutoring route, assess which schools you would like to approach taking into account existing relationships your university has with schools



To learn more about existing tuition partners visit [All tuition partners \(find-tuition-partner.service.gov.uk\)](https://find-tuition-partner.service.gov.uk)



To explore becoming a tuition partner visit [Becoming an NTP tuition partner \(tribalgroupp.com\)](https://tribalgroupp.com)



To find out more about the academic mentor route, visit [National Tutoring Programme - Cognition Education \(ntpacademicmentors.co.uk\)](https://ntpacademicmentors.co.uk)



If you have any questions or need support with NTP,
you can:

- email tutoring.support@service.education.gov.uk
- call 0300 373 0891 - open Monday to Friday
8.30am to 5pm (except bank holidays)