**Frequently Asked Questions re: TfSI (QTOD) apprenticeship at Mary Hare**

1. **What is the difference between PGDip Teaching Deaf Learners course and TfSI (QTOD) apprenticeship?**

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|  | [PG Dip - nonapprenticeship](https://www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/postgraduate-courses/ma-pg-dip-ed-studies-teacher-of-the-deaf) | [Apprenticeship (includes PGDip)](https://skillsengland.education.gov.uk/apprenticeships/st0966-v1-0) |
| Part-time 2 yr blended work-based learning | Both are the same | Both are the same |
| Course components: Modules, practicals, lectures, online learning, Teaching Placement, 9 study weekends - Fr/Sat | Both are the same | Both are the same |
| Assessment | 8 module assessments | 7 same as PGDip, 8th (EPA) is similar |
| Basis for course | [Mandatory qualification](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mandatory-qualifications-specialist-teachers) MQ | MQ plus Knowledge, skills, behaviours [KSBs](https://skillsengland.education.gov.uk/apprenticeship-standards/st0966-v1-0?view=standard#K4) |
| Funding  | Via LA or self | Via Levy (**only** **available for Sept 2025 cohort!)** |
| Study Leave | Recommended | Required. AKA Off the Job Training (OTJT) |
| Employer involvement | Less involved comparatively | More involved with enrolment and progress  |
| Administration | University regulations (UR) | UR plus Apprenticeship Funding Rules, more regulation/inspection |
| Completion award | PGDip Teacher of Deaf Learners (QTOD) | TfSI apprenticeship certificate PLUS PGDip Teacher of Deaf Learners (QTOD) |

1. **Who is eligible to enrol as an apprentice?**

No upper age limit; not in education; contracted ToD employment; live in and work >50% of time in England See: [Eligibility](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

1. **What are entry requirements for the PGDip (and thus for this apprenticeship)?**

Degree, QTS or QTLS, 2 references, work with deaf children or young people, see: [Entry](https://www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/postgraduate-courses/ma-pg-dip-ed-studies-teacher-of-the-deaf)

1. **What steps must be taken to start the apprenticeship?**
2. Contact Courses@maryhare.org.uk; complete enrolment form with employer and submit.
3. Rate prior learning per KSBs [TfSI KSBs](https://skillsengland.education.gov.uk/apprenticeship-standards/st0966-v1-0?view=standard#K4). (A template will be sent.)
4. Meet online with your employer and MH training provider to agree Training Plan and sign contracts.
5. Employer to open a cohort via their apprenticeship service account
6. MH admin will then register the apprentice for PGDip with Liverpool John Moore University (LJMU).
7. **What Learning Needs Support is available?**

See: [Support for apprentices with a learning difficulty or disability](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/learning-difficulties-disabilities-support)

1. **When do enrolment forms open for September 2025?**

They are currently open. Contact Courses@maryhare.org.uk

1. **What is the closing date for enrolment forms for September 2025?**

Closing date for submitting the initial enrolment form is ideally **22 August 2025** because of significant employer involvement. However, in exceptional circumstances enrolment forms can still be submitted any date up to 1 September 2025 if places are still available.

1. **What communication modes and ages does the apprenticeship/course cover?**

ALL communication modes and ages 0-25 per [Mandatory qualifications: specialist teachers - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mandatory-qualifications-specialist-teachers)

1. **What modules are covered in the apprenticeship/course?**

 See: [PG Dip Teaching Deaf Learners QTOD | Mary Hare School](https://www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/postgraduate-courses/ma-pg-dip-ed-studies-teacher-of-the-deaf)

1. **What job titles does the apprenticeship standard ‘Teacher for Sensory Impaired’ cover?**

See: [Teacher for the sensory impaired / Skills England](https://skillsengland.education.gov.uk/apprenticeships/st0966-v1-0)

Teachers of Vision Impaired, Multi-sensory impaired, and Deaf (QTOD).

Mary Hare offer apprenticeship training only for QTOD.