



Sohdi, Reece, Buglass, Andrew, Brown, Andrea and Scott, Martin (2024) Developing Subject Mastery in Teacher Training. In: UNSPECIFIED.

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# Developing Subject Mastery in Teacher Training

Developing subject knowledge and pedagogy in trainee teachers is crucial for their success in the classroom. The FES Subject Passports provide a structured framework that integrates theoretical learning with practical application, ensuring trainees gain the subject-specific expertise they need. By supporting mentors in setting clear, subject-specific success criteria, targets, and providing constructive feedback, we foster a comprehensive and effective teacher development process.

## Authors

Andrew Buglass, University of Sunderland  
Reece Sohdi, University of Sunderland  
Martin Scott, University of Sunderland  
Andrea Brown, University of Sunderland



## Affiliations

UKRI Participatory Research Fund



## Introduction

The FES Subject Passports initiative aims to bridge the gap between theoretical learning (subject knowledge) and practical application (subject pedagogy) in teacher education. By creating and disseminating subject-specific Passports, we aim to provide trainees and mentors with a structured resource that encapsulates essential knowledge and practical activities that are subject specific. This initiative supports the development of subject-specific pedagogy and enhances the overall effectiveness of the Initial Teacher Education (ITE) curriculum, ensuring that trainees are well-prepared for their teaching roles in the Further Education (FE) sector.



## Key Learnings

Our key learnings from this initiative emphasise the importance of mentor collaboration, practical application of theory, and the scalability of our model. Working closely with mentors has proven essential in developing relevant and high-quality content that meets the specific needs of trainees. The process of contextualising theoretical knowledge into practical teaching scenarios has significantly enhanced trainee learning and confidence. Furthermore, the adaptable nature of the Passport framework across different subjects and educational phases demonstrates its versatility and potential for widespread use.

## Activities Funded

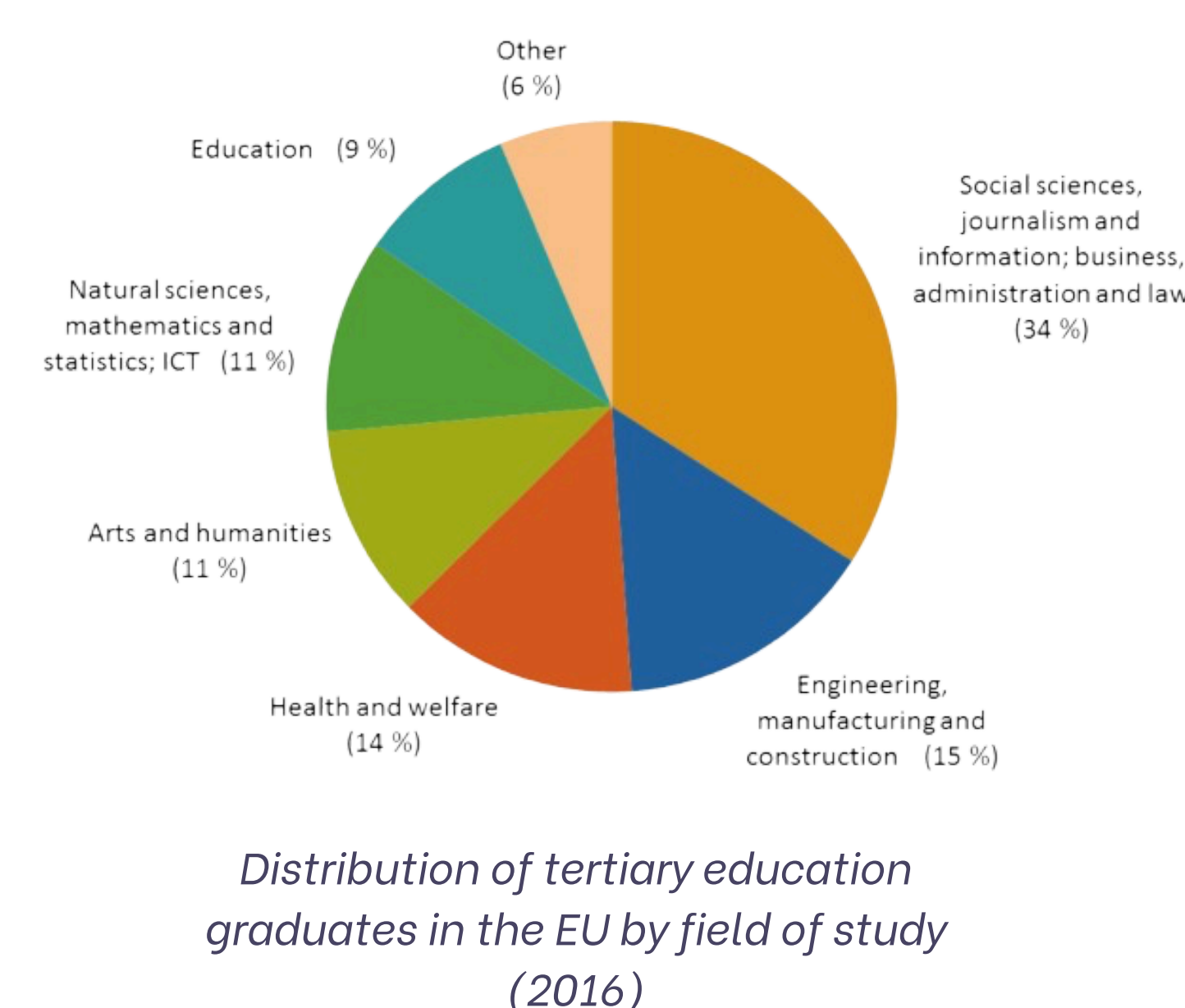
During the 2023/24 academic year, the primary activities funded focused on the development and dissemination of the PCET Passport, a learning resource designed to integrate center-based learning with practical placements. This Passport was distributed to both trainees and mentors, encompassing key content covered during center-based sessions (“Learn That”) and activities for practical application (“Learn How To”). Additionally, a pilot project was launched to create an English Language Passport in collaboration with an experienced mentor. Workshops and briefing sessions are to be conducted with mentors to discuss and address the specific curriculum needs of various subjects, ensuring the creation of relevant and high-quality educational materials. Due to challenges in timing, this will take place in Sep 2024.

## Impact Achieved

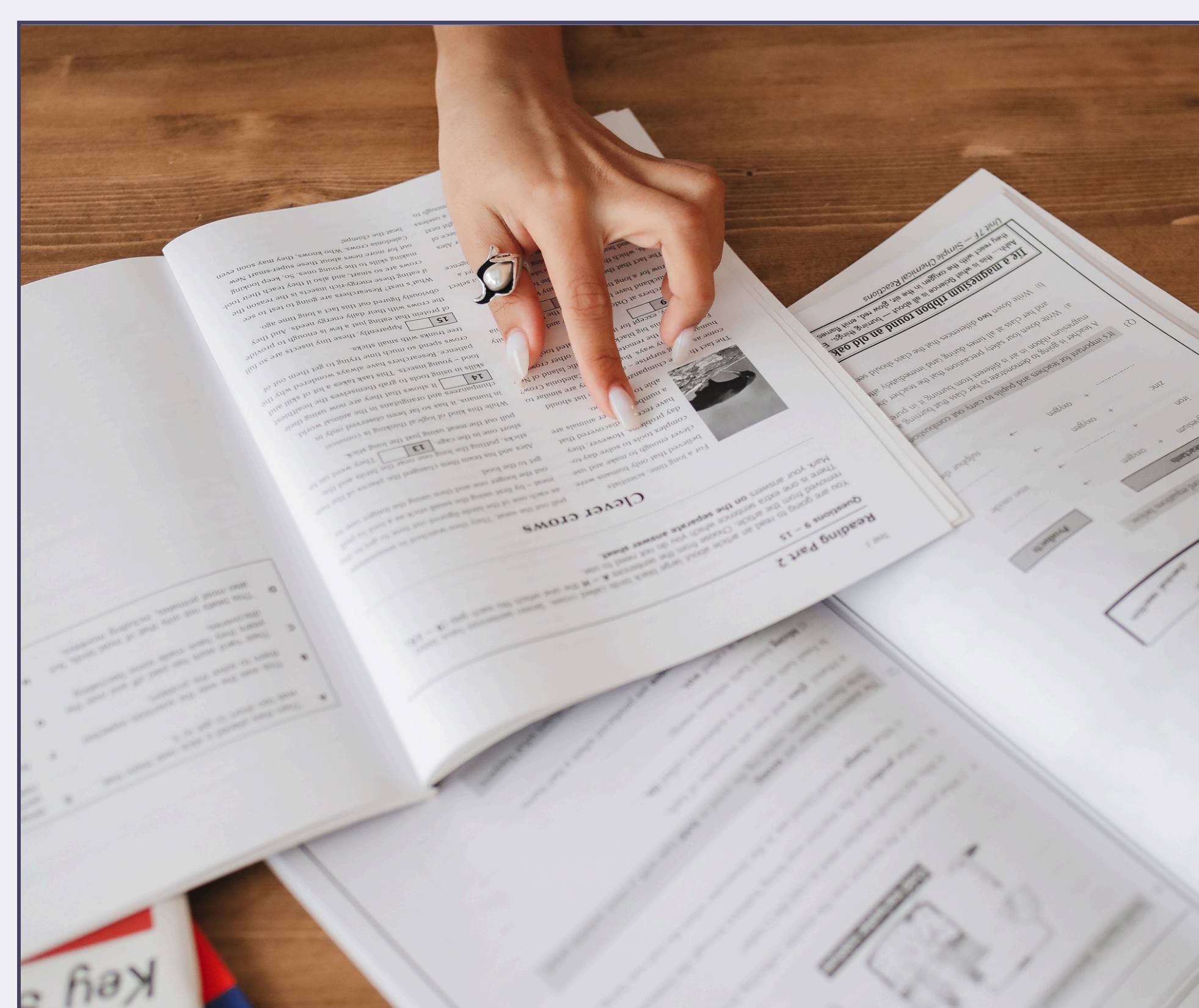
The PCET Passport initiative has already shown significant positive impact. The English Language Passport, developed through mentor collaboration, received excellent feedback for its clarity and usability. This resource has enhanced the integration of theoretical knowledge into practical teaching, helping trainees apply what they learn in real classroom settings effectively. The initiative has been recognised by Ofsted as an exemplary practice and has inspired adaptations in other PGCE teacher training, underscoring its value and effectiveness in teacher education.

## Complications of Subject Masters in FE

The FE sector is renowned for its diversity, offering a wide array of over 100 subjects and vocational courses. This breadth poses a unique challenge in providing tailored, subject-specific support to trainee teachers. With subjects ranging from academic disciplines like English and Mathematics to vocational courses such as automotive engineering, hairdressing and equine studies, the sector’s complexity necessitates versatile and adaptable educational resources. The sheer number of subjects and the varying pedagogical requirements highlight the importance of specialised training to ensure that all trainees receive the focused guidance they need to succeed.



PGCE FES English Passport (2024)



## Impact in Development

Looking ahead, we are developing new subject-specific Passports, starting with Mathematics and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). These efforts aim to expand the collaborative model established in the English Language Passport pilot to other critical subjects, ensuring comprehensive support for trainees. Additionally, we plan to involve more mentors across various subjects to create tailored resources that address specific curriculum needs. By sharing our methodologies and outcomes at forums and conferences, we hope to encourage broader adoption and extend the reach and impact of our action research.

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