

Teachers new starter factsheet

This factsheet is designed for the use of the Teachers' Pension Schemes and should be read in conjunction with the scheme member's guides

Introduction

SPPA is an Agency of the Scottish Government and we administer Teachers' pension schemes on behalf of Scottish Ministers. We're responsible for the day to day running of the scheme and deal with enquiries from all current, retired and former members.

On 1 April 2015 a new Scottish Teachers' Pension Scheme 2015 (Teachers' 2015) was introduced. If you are joining Teachers' 2015 for the first time, or if you re-joined the scheme after a break of five years or more, you will be in the 2015 scheme. Your normal pension age (NPA) will be equal to your state pension age (SPA) and this currently ranges from age 65 to age 68, depending on your gender and date of birth. You can find out more about your SPA at www.gov.uk/calculate-state-pension.

Information about the scheme

Transferring pension benefits into the Teachers' 2015

If you have previous membership in any other UK Public Service Pension Scheme you may be entitled to retain a lower NPA. This is subject to your age and the length of break between leaving your old scheme and joining the Teachers' 2015. To ensure you're entered in the correct pension arrangement, please complete section one of the joining questionnaire which is available on our website, under the section 'Joining the Scheme'.

You will also need to complete this questionnaire if you are interested in transferring previous pension rights into the scheme. Please note that transfer applications will only be accepted within 12 months from the date you joined the scheme, and before your NPA. Any delay in applying for a transfer could impact upon the value of your transfer.

It is important to note that if you have been a member of a Teachers' pension scheme elsewhere in the UK your benefits will not automatically transfer to the Scottish Teachers' pension scheme and the transfer must be requested from the receiving scheme.

Increasing pension benefits

There are three ways in which you can increase your pension benefits within the scheme:

- **Additional Pension** - you have the option to purchase Additional Pension either by additional monthly contributions or by lump sum. See the [Additional Pension Factsheet](#) for further information
- **Early Retirement Reduction Buy Out (ERRBO)** – members of the Teachers' 2015 pension scheme can pay additional contributions in order to secure an earlier retirement age. You must apply for this within 6 months of joining the 2015 scheme. See the [ERRBO Factsheet](#) for further information
- **Faster Accrual** – you will earn a pension at a rate of 1/57 of your pensionable pay in each year. Subject to certain conditions, you can elect to earn pension at a faster rate than this by paying extra monthly contributions. You can choose from three rates depending on your budget and how quickly you would like your pension to grow:

1. 1/45
2. 1/50
3. 1/55

You must select this option in the financial year before the financial year you wish it to be effective from. For new entrants, you must make your election within one month of joining the scheme.

See the [Faster Accrual Factsheet](#) for further information

Alternatively, you may be entitled to increase your retirement benefits by paying into an in house AVC scheme provided by Prudential. You can obtain more information by contacting them directly on 0800 1513 6655 , or by visiting www.pru.co.uk/teachers.

We have added calculators, application forms and information about the rules and restrictions applicable to increasing pension benefits on our website www.sppa.gov.uk

Death in service

Teachers' 2015 scheme will pay a lump sum death grant if you die while you are an active member of the scheme. In the event of your death, benefits will be paid, on application, to your:

- spouse
- civil partner
- nominated partner

However, if you do not wish any of the above to receive death benefits, you also have the option to make a specific nomination using the Death Grant Nomination form which can be found on our website.



Nominating a partner for pension benefits

It is possible to nominate your partner for pension benefits, however, a number of conditions must be satisfied. If you wish to nominate a partner please complete and return the Partner Nomination form which can be found on our website.

Pensions tax relief

Pensions tax relief is subject to the Annual Allowance and the Life Time Allowance tax limits set by HMRC. For more information please see the taxation section of our website, or alternatively visit www.gov.uk/tax-on-your-private-pension/overview

Automatic enrolment

The UK Government has placed a legal duty on employers to automatically enrol their employees into a pension scheme. The benefits of being in the scheme are included in the member's guide. If you do not wish to be a member of the scheme, you can opt out by completing form OPTOUT. The members guide and OPTOUT form are available on our website.

You should note that after the introduction of the statutory automatic enrolment provisions, if you opt out and remain with the same employer, your employer will automatically re-enrol you back into the scheme every three years. However, you can opt out at any time.

My Pension – Online Member Services



As a member of the scheme you can access a range of online services. You can make a death grant nomination, notify a change of address or estimate the cost of increasing your pension benefits. You will also be able to access your annual statement when you have completed your qualifying service in the scheme (two calendar years). You can access these services by visiting our website and registering with [My Pension - Online Member Services](#).

Questions?

If you have any questions about the information contained in this factsheet, please contact SPPA at
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