

ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: DURHAM SECONDARY APPLIED SCITT 2008

1. Introduction

1.1 Durham Secondary Applied SCITT has been created through a partnership of schools across County Durham. Specialising in Applied subjects, our teacher training course has been developed to train individuals with vocational experience to teach their specialism to students in the 14-19 age range. We recruit and train around 30 trainees each year from a wide range of backgrounds. We are committed to ensuring that potential trainees with the right kind of experiences, qualifications, attitudes and skills are able to access the course.

2. Length of agreement

2.1 This agreement is for 3 years from the academic year 2008/09. However, we have committed to return to OFFA our monitoring reports

3. Fee limits

3.1 We will charge a fee of £3,145 for all full-time postgraduate ITT courses from the 2008/09 academic year. The fee limit will rise with inflation (in line with annually published Government regulations).

4. Bursary support

4.1 We will offer a bursary of £310 to any student who is in receipt of full state maintenance grant of £2,835 (Figures represent the position for 2008 and will be subject to inflationary rises).

4.2 Bursary payments will be made in three instalments. Two of £100 and one of £110. One at the start of each term.

5. Publicising fees and financial support

5.1 A number of methods will be used to ensure that prospective students are as clear as possible about the fee charged, and the amount of student support they may be entitled to. These are outlined below:

5.2 The website will contain a section on finance, including fee and support information. Support information will include institutional support and support available through the government through the maintenance grant, teaching bursaries and maintenance loans.

5.3 This information will also be published in our promotional material and in a leaflet which we will be used in the course of any outreach activity.

5.4 This information will be clearly articulated to applicants in writing at offer stage, before they make their key decisions on whether to accept a place.

6. Outreach

6.1 We will seek to identify areas of under-representation in our student cohort, when compared to HE sector from which we recruit. If we identify an area of significant under-representation, we will seek to address this and may do so by considering whether there might be any effective outreach initiatives which could be directed at such groups.

7. Institutional Targets and milestones

7.1 There are three widening participation indicators for young full-time entrants (as identified by HESA), they are:

- the percentage of entrants who attended a school or college in the state sector
- the percentage of entrants who were returned with National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) categories 4 to 7
- the percentage of entrants whose home area (as denoted by their postcode) is known to have a low proportion of 18 and 19 year-olds in higher education.

As Durham Secondary Applied SCITT is a small institution who only offers postgraduate courses, the quality of the data collected will be questionable if benchmarked against the available national statistics. Therefore, Durham Secondary Applied SCITT target groups are:

- Mature students (over 28) (53%)
- Low income students (46%)
- Trainees with postcodes in the North-East (66%)

The number in brackets is the percentage for 2006 – 2007 this will be our baseline from which we will monitor our progress.

7.2 We will seek to maintain or increase the proportion of students in our target groups.

8. Monitoring Arrangements

8.1 We will formally monitor the progress of the access agreement at least once a year through the Steering Group who will report annually to the Lead School Board of Governors.

8.2 Our annual report to the Board of Governors will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.