

ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: GLOUCESTERSHIRE SCITT CONSORTIUM

1. Introduction

Gloucestershire SCITT Consortium is a small provider of Secondary Initial Teacher Training which is under the umbrella of a much larger partnership between the University of Gloucestershire and the Gloucestershire Association of Secondary Head teachers (GASH) which encompasses fifty schools. The SCITT is directly funded by the Teacher Development Agency and at the end of the one year course (two years part time) successful trainees are recommended to the General Teaching Council for Qualified Teacher Status. Courses are currently offered in Business Education, D & T, ICT and Music and we hope to offer Health and Social care in 2009. We recruit and train around 30 trainees each year and are committed to ensuring that potential trainees with the right kind of experience, qualifications, attitudes and skills are able to access the course. The trainees have subject pathway access one afternoon per week as well as a parent and twin placement school. The scheme is overviewed by the Gloucestershire Initial Teacher Education Partnership (GITEP) Executive and the St Peter's High School Governing Body.

2. Length of Agreement

This agreement is for 5 years from the academic year 2009/2010.

3. Fee Limits

We will charge a fee of £3,225 for all full-time postgraduate ITT courses from the 2009/2010 academic year. The fee limit will rise with inflation (in line with annually published Government regulations).

4. Bursary support

We will offer a bursary of £319 to any student who is in receipt of full state maintenance grant. This bursary support will be new from September 2009.

Bursary payments will be made in one installment on 1st June.

5. Publicising fees and financial support

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:

- Our website will contain a section on finance including fee and support information
- This information will be published with our prospectus which will be used in the course of any outreach activity

- This will be clearly articulated to applicants in writing at offer stage, before they make their key decision on whether to accept a place.
- A copy of “A Guide to Financial Support for Higher Education Students” – Student Finance Direct will be sent with all prospectus packs and will also be sent to all prospective trainees on offer of a place.
- Trainees will be able to seek guidance on Funding and Support should the need arise

6. Outreach

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. For example we have utilized BME funding to target promotion material at communities that are under represented.

7. Institutional Targets and Milestones

We do not currently collect data, which would be suitable to determine baseline for targets and milestones around low income or socio-economic groups. Our total number of students is small and therefore setting of detailed milestones is challenging. We will wish to monitor the future student cohort numbers to identify any under represented groups and develop targets around them. We shall seek to maintain or improve on numbers of students in target groups once identified.

8. Monitoring Arrangements

We will formally monitor the progress of the access agreement at least once a year through the GITEP Executive and the lead school Governors linking with St Peter’s High School Training School work. Initial monitoring will be concerned with the participation rates and the development of data on under-represented groups. When specific baselines, targets and milestones are determined we will look to monitor against these.

Our annual report to GITEP Executive will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.