



# ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: THE GRAND UNION TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

May 2006

## 1. Introduction

The Grand Union Training Partnership is a school-centred initial teacher training (SCITT) consortium centred on a group of 11 – 18 comprehensive schools situated in villages and small towns West of Northampton and in Milton Keynes.

We provide Secondary PGCE courses validated by The University of Leicester in Business Studies, English, History, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages and Science.

We aim to give trainees, whom we refer to as Associate Teachers, as much practical experience of working in the partnership schools as possible. Each Associate Teacher's work and programme of study is supervised by a mentor who will take a close interest in their development as a subject teacher and colleague. This part of the course is complemented by a general professional studies programme provided in co-operation with The University of Leicester.

Our overall aim is to produce reflective professionals, confident in applying for and starting their first jobs as secondary school teachers. Over half of our Associate Teachers take up their first teaching posts in the scheme's partnership schools.

The Grand Union Training Partnership is committed to equality of opportunity across all sections of the community.

This *Access Agreement* details the terms of the variable fee charged by the partnership to postgraduate trainees from September 2007. It also outlines how the partnership plans to support individuals who may experience hardship during the course of their training.

## 2. Length of agreement

The Grand Union Training Partnership has decided to introduce variable tuition fees from September 2007. This agreement is for five years from the academic year 2007/08. We are committed to return to OFFA by May 2009 to seek approval for the monitoring criteria which we intend to develop as we collect relevant data.

**3. Fee limits**

We will charge a fee of up to £2700 for all full time postgraduate ITT courses from September 2007. The fee limit will rise with inflation (in line with annually published government regulations).

**4. Bursary support**

The partnership will invest a minimum of 10% of its additional income raised by charging variable fees in financial support for trainees experiencing hardship. Financial support from this fund will be offered on a means tested basis. (It is anticipated that these funds will be available to those trainees who might previously have been eligible for the *Access to Learning* fund.)

**5. Publicising fees and financial support**

The GUTP 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 bursary and maintenance loans.

The information will also be published in our prospectus and in material designed for any outreach activity. This information will be clearly set out in writing to applicants when we offer them a place on the course. Trainees will be invited to apply for the financial support offered by the GUTP early in the first term of the course.

**6. Outreach work**

The Grand Union Training Partnership will continue to develop its current practice of monitoring its recruitment and of identifying areas of under representation in its student cohort. It will seek to target groups in the local community by developing and funding its current practice of:

- holding local information and recruitment evenings in local schools
- targeting some of its newspaper advertising at ethnic and other under-represented groups
- making available opportunities for potential trainees to gain experience in schools prior to making an application

**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. However, we will wish to monitor the numbers of students participating in our institution who are in receipt of full or partial means tested state support. We will also wish to develop targets around other under-represented groups, if identified. Therefore, we commit to return to OFFA by May 2009 to seek approval for the monitoring criteria which we intend to develop as we collect relevant data with the view to an amended agreement taking effect from September 2009.

**8. Institutional monitoring arrangements**

The partnership management group will formally monitor the operation of the *Access Agreement* and report upon it annually to the partnership governors' committee. The management group will develop its benchmarking to include data on the numbers of trainees in receipt of a full or partial maintenance grant.