



CORNWALL SCHOOL CENTRED INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING **ACCESS AGREEMENT 2010**

1. Introduction

Cornwall SCITT provides a full-time, one year postgraduate teacher training programme for those wishing to teach at secondary level. We currently offer 69 places across eight subject areas: English, mathematics, science, modern languages, design technology, ICT, music and the creative & media diploma. Successful trainees gain QTS and PGCE, either at Higher or Masters level, validated through Open University Validation Services; many go on to teach in local schools. We have always encouraged applicants from a wide variety of academic and socio-economic backgrounds and have demonstrated commitment to lifelong learning, offering flexible support and appropriate advice and guidance wherever possible within the parameters of the course.

2. Length of agreement

This agreement is for five years from the academic year 2006/07.

3. Fee limits

We intend to charge a fee of £3290 for the full-time postgraduate course from the 2010/11 academic year. This fee limit will rise with inflation in line with annually published Government regulations.

4. Bursary Support

- 4.1 We will offer a bursary of £333 to any student who is in receipt of full state maintenance grant of £2906 (figures represent the position for 2010 and will be subject to inflationary rises.) Bursary payments will be made in three instalments of £111 per term.
- 4.2 We anticipate that up to 75% of applicants will be able to benefit from these bursaries and intend to put aside sums of between £12,000 - £15,000 to fund the scheme.

4.4 In addition to this, we have established a discretionary fund to alleviate proven hardship of any trainees, including our EU students, during the course and to ensure equality of access for all. We keep a contingency fund for this purpose. Access to this discretionary fund will be means tested. We also provide in-kind support such as access to laptops, video cameras and course books to support study.

5. Publicising fees and financial support

5.1 We will use the following methods to ensure that prospective applicants are as clear as possible about the fees charged and the amount of student support they may be entitled to:

5.2 The Cornwall SCITT website, www.cornwallscitt.org contains a section on finance, including fee and support information and this will be updated regularly. Support information will include institutional support and support available via the Government through the maintenance grant, tuition fee loan, student loan and teaching bursaries.

5.3 A leaflet summarising the information above is sent to all prospective applicants and made available in all outreach activities and given to applicants on interview days.

5.4 A learning contract is sent to all candidates explaining the Cornwall SCITT access agreement and types of funding support available to them.

5.5 This information is explained verbally during the interview process, supported by the written leaflet, to ensure that applicants are fully informed before they make a decision on whether to accept a place with us.

6. Outreach

Current outreach activities undertaken by staff at Cornwall SCITT include presentations at careers events in schools, FE and HE institutions, an open evening event for all members of the public and an annual taster course currently funded by the Training and Development Agency. We will seek to identify areas of under-representation in our student cohort when compared to the HE sector from which we recruit. If we identify an area of significant under-representation, we will seek to address this by considering whether there may be further effective outreach activities which could be directed at such groups.

7. Institutional targets and milestones

Although we have begun to collect data which may be suitable to determine a baseline for targets and milestones around low income or socio-economic groups, our numbers are not yet statistically significant to enable realistic targets to be set. However, we continue to monitor the numbers of students participating in our institution who are in receipt of full or partial state support. We may also wish to develop targets around other under-represented groups if identified.

8. Monitoring Arrangements

8.1 The Executive Board of Cornwall SCITT monitors the progress of the access agreement on a termly basis and reports to the full steering group. An annual monitoring report is submitted to our validating HEI, the Open University in December of each year.

8.2 Initial monitoring has been concerned with participation rates and the development of data on lower income and any identified under-represented groups to ensure that everyone receives their full entitlement to financial support. As specific baselines, targets and milestones are determined we will look to monitor against these.