

Cumbria Primary Teacher Training

ACCESS AGREEMENT

Draft version for submission to OFFA

1. Introduction

1.1 Cumbria Primary Teacher Training (CPTT) SCITT is a small provider of Primary Initial Teacher Training, training up to 26 full time postgraduates every year. The SCITT is directly funded by the Teacher Development Agency and at the end of the one year course successful trainees are recommended to the General Teaching Council for Qualified Teacher Status and a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education validated by Lancaster University.

1.2 CPTT started training in September 1995. It is an innovative school based one-year course set up by a consortium of schools in the Western Lakes and the Solway Coast who were anxious to contribute towards Initial Teacher Training but were geographically isolated from existing Colleges. Because of this reason, all the schools involved in this teacher training course are highly committed and want to contribute their experience to the next generation of teachers. The Course is highly classroom orientated and features close collaboration between skilled experienced classroom teachers and college tutors. CPTT is particularly keen to encourage applicants for under represented groups in primary teaching including applicants from minority ethnic groups and men. CPTT is entirely committed to widening participation and is confident that this Access Agreement underlines its commitment in this respect.

2. Length of agreement

2.1 This agreement is for 5 years from the academic year 2007/08. However, we have committed to return to OFFA by May 2009 to seek approval for our monitoring criteria which, due to a lack of current relevant data, has not yet been developed (see section 7).

3. Fee limits

3.1 The fee limit for the life of the agreement is £3225. The £3225 limit will rise with inflation (in line with annually published Government regulations).

4. Bursary support

4.1 For the duration of this agreement, the SCITT will offer a minimum bursary of £319 to any student who is in receipt of full state maintenance grant of £2,906 (Figures represent the position for 2009 and will be subject to inflationary rises).

4.2 Bursary payments will be divided into two equal instalments and paid after the two Student Loans Company fee payments. This will be the same for all trainee bursary payments.

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:

- Information published in CPTT's Graduate Teacher Training Registry entry.
- CPTT's 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.
- This information will also be published in a leaflet which we will be used in the course of any outreach activity.
- 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 (a) other SCITTs and other HEI providers of postgraduate ITT courses and (b) the undergraduate cohort from which we recruit our trainees. 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 both in addition to and in support of existing initiatives in which the SCITT is involved. In addition we will aim to send representatives to 2 careers or recruitment events per year which will be held in cities in the North of England. Through this activity we hope to recruit more minority ethnic trainees as this group is currently under represented on our course. CPTT has not previously attended careers or recruitment events.

7. Institutional Targets and Milestones

7.1 It should be noted that the number of trainees on the course is very small and therefore the setting of detailed milestones is not appropriate and fluctuation year by year may appear to be larger than one might expect. However, suitable to determine baseline for targets and milestones around low income or socio-economic groups. We will monitor the number of students participating in our institution who are in receipt of full or partial state support and note the impact of the fees and fee waiver arrangements of recruitment levels and patterns in an annual monitoring report to the Management Board. We will also wish to develop targets around other under-represented groups including trainees from ethnic minority groups and men and benchmark this data against other similar providers of post graduate primary ITT provision.

7.2 We will seek to maintain or increase the proportion of students in our target groups, but will only be able to set meaningful targets once data is available. Therefore, we commit to return to OFFA to revise this agreement by May 2009, with a view to an amended agreement taking effect from the 2009/10 academic year.

8. Monitoring Arrangements

8.1 We will formally monitor the progress of the access agreement at least once a year through our Board. Initial monitoring will be concerned with participation rates and the development of data on lower income groups and recruitment from ethnic minority groups and men against which to monitor. When specific baselines, targets, and milestones are determined we will look to monitor against these.

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