

# ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: BOURNEMOUTH & EAST DORSET SCITT

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Bournemouth and East Dorset SCITT exists to provide high quality, school-based teacher training to locally-based mature students who wish to teach in the Primary (Early Years) sector. Increasingly we have also been successful in recruiting recent graduates, both locally and nationally. We currently recruit 25 trainees per year, including some with an interest in teaching Primary Modern Foreign Languages. We are seeking to expand the numbers of Trainees in future years, with the result that the figures contained in this 5-year proposal may be subject to amendment.
- 1.2 The SCITT is particularly successful at recruiting mature Trainees: currently we attract mature applicants and males at or above National average levels. We seek to continue to support access by these groups, and also to increase the proportion of our trainees coming from under-represented groups, particularly those from minority ethnic backgrounds. This Access Agreement has been produced with these primary objectives.

## 2. Length of agreement

- 2.1 This agreement is for 5 years from the academic year 2006/07. However, we have committed to return to OFFA by May 2008 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 We will charge a fee of £2,700 for all full-time postgraduate ITT courses from the 2006/07 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 up to **£200** to any Trainee who meets the Additional Support Criteria summarised below. **In exceptional circumstances, the bursary can be increased to a maximum of £500.** Initially, we shall impose a fixed limit of £5000 on the Bursary Fund; this limit will be reviewed in light of our annual monitoring process.
- 4.2 Payments from the Bursary Fund will be open to all Trainees on the basis of the following Additional Support Criteria:
- a) Trainees who are in receipt of a **means-tested** maintenance grant of less than the full of £1,500, will **automatically receive** the difference between their grant and £1,500, up to a maximum of **£200**.
  - b) Trainees will be able to claim up to **£200** towards costs of child-care or of support for other dependents, on the basis of a financial assessment. The existing format used for assessing applications to the Access to Learning Fund will be used as a basis for this assessment.

- c) Trainees will be able to claim up to **£200** towards exceptional travel costs, where the distance to their teaching placement is considered excessive. Detailed guidelines on this are still being produced.
- d) Trainees may claim elements of both b) and c) above, as long as the total amount claimed under both criteria does not exceed **£200**.
- e) **In exceptional circumstances, trainees will be able to claim a discretionary bursary of up to a further £300, where they can show evidence of specific need. Additional bursary payments will require submission of a financial assessment, using the current Access to Learning Fund documentation. Any payments will be subject to the availability of funds within the fixed limits of the Bursary Fund.**

Figures represent the position for 2006 and will be subject to inflationary rises. This bursary support will be new from 2006.

- 4.3 Bursary payments will be made in two instalments of **£100** (or pro rata to the total amount awarded), payable on 30 September and 31 January. Where a Trainee leaves the Programme prior to 30 November, there will be no fee due, and any bursary will have to be repaid. Where a Trainee leaves after 30 November, then the full fee will be payable.

## 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 SCITT 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 brochure and in the Programme 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. (Where applicants have already been interviewed, for September 2006 entry, they have been informed of our proposals to date, and will be sent written confirmation of our Access Provision as soon as it is confirmed with OFFA.)

## 6. Outreach

- 6.1 We will seek to identify areas of under-representation within our Trainee cohort, when compared with benchmark data for the Programme catchment area, and for other locally-recruiting providers. The SCITT has agreed targets for recruitment from minority ethnic groups with the TDA, and will specifically target outreach funding on these groups. Impact of this work is monitored at least termly through the committee structure of the SCITT.

## 7. Institutional Targets and milestones

- 7.1 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 state support. We will also wish to develop targets around other under-represented groups if identified.

- 7.2 We will seek to maintain or increase the proportion of such 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 2008, with a view to an amended agreement taking effect from the 2008/9 academic year

## 8. Monitoring Arrangements

- 8.1 We will formally monitor the progress of the Access Agreement at least once a term through the Quality Committee of the SCITT, through benchmarking against other SCITTS and through a standing agenda item with the SCITT Management Group. Initial monitoring will be concerned with participation rates and the development of data on lower income and other under-represented groups, against which to monitor. When specific baselines, targets, and milestones are determined we will incorporate these into our Three-Year Development Plan, and monitor progress against these targets in the normal way, as part of our Annual Evaluation Cycle.
- 8.2 Our annual Self-Evaluation Report to the Management Group will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.

**January 2006**