

ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: GATESHEAD 3-7 SCITT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Gateshead 3-7 School Centred Initial Teacher Training is a group of Gateshead LEA primary schools led by the DfES Training School, Lobley Hill Primary School. In October 2003 Gateshead 3-7 SCITT became a newly appointed provider of teacher training. The SCITT has an annual designated number of 25 Teacher Training Agency (TTA) funded places. The training offered by Gateshead 3-7 SCITT is a flexible route into teaching for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 practitioners. This flexible route meets an increasing demand for Initial Teacher Training within this region. There are a number of teaching assistants, and other professionals working with young children who have studied part time to achieve a degree or currently have a degree but do not have the opportunity to undertake a flexible route to teacher training.

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.

3. Fee limits

- 3.1 We will charge a fee of £3,000 for all full-time postgraduate ITT places 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 £300 to any student who is in receipt of full state maintenance grant of £2,700 (Figures represent the position for 2006 and will be subject to inflationary rises). This bursary support will be new from 2006. Gateshead 3-7 SCITT proposes to award a 'scholarship' of £500 to trainees who fulfil the requirements of the course including attendance and punctuality, meeting deadlines, completing audits etc.
- 4.2 Scholarship payments will be made in two instalments of £250. One on 31st March and one on successful completion of the course. [Please note that the schedule of payments is entirely at the discretion of the Gateshead 3-7 SCITT].

5. Publicising fees and financial support

Gateshead 3-7 SCITT Access Agreement

- 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 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 letter to all prospective interview candidates.
- 5.4 This information will be clearly articulated on selection days and 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 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.

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 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 year through the Finance/Selection & Recruitment Committee who will report annually to the 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 look to monitor against these.
- 8.2 Our annual report to the Management Group will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.