

# ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: LEARNING INSTITUTE

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Learning Institute is a secondary School-centred Initial Teacher Training [SCITT] programme based in East Cornwall, Plymouth and West Devon. It offers a PGCE accredited by the University of Exeter in 8 subject areas: Applied Business Studies, Health and Social Care, ICT, Mathematics, Media Studies, Modern Foreign Languages, Religious Education and Science. The Learning Institute is committed to safeguarding access to initial teacher training for low income and other under-represented groups.

## 2. Length of agreement

- 2.1 This agreement is for academic year 2006/7. However we have committed to return to OFFA by May 2007 to seek approval for our monitoring criteria which, due to lack of current relevant data, have not yet been developed.

## 3. Fee limits

- 3.1 The Learning Institute will charge a fee of £2,200 for all full time PGCE ITT subject courses for 2006/7 academic year.

## 4. Publicising fees and financial support

- 4.1 The Learning Institute will ensure that prospective trainees are as clear as possible about the fee charged and the amount of support they are entitled to. Methods used to inform applicants and trainees are outlined below.
- 4.2 The website will contain a section on finance, including fee and support information. Support information will include institutional support and support available from the government through maintenance grant, teaching bursaries and maintenance loans.
- 4.3 This information will also be published in our promotional material which is used in outreach activity.
- 4.4 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.

## 5. Outreach

- 5.1 The Learning Institute will seek to identify areas of under-representation in our student cohort when compared with the higher education 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.

## 6. Institutional targets and milestones

- 6.1 The Learning Institute does not currently collect data which would be suitable to determine the baseline for targets and milestones around low income or other socio-economic groups. However we do wish to monitor the numbers of trainees on our course who are in receipt of full or partial state support. We will also wish to develop targets around other under-represented groups if identified.
- 6.2 The Learning Institute will seek to maintain or increase the proportion of trainees 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 2007, with a view to an amended agreement taking effect from the 2007/8 academic year.

## **7. Monitoring arrangements**

- 7.1 The Learning Institute will formally monitor the progress of the access agreement at least once a year through the Management Group reporting to the Learning Institute Executive 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.
- 7.2 The Management Group's annual report to the Executive Group will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.