

ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: SWINDON SCITT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Swindon SCITT course, which is validated by the University of Bath, is in its third year. It offers PGCE and QTS awards in English, mathematics, science, DT and ICT at the secondary age range. For the 2005-6 academic year we have six English trainees, five mathematics trainees, seven science trainees, five DT trainees and five ICT trainees.

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 In the 2006/07 academic year we will charge a tuition fee of £1,200. We have not yet decided our fee for subsequent academic years but we reserve the right to charge a fee of £3,000 for our full-time postgraduate ITT course from the 2007/08 academic year. The fee limit will rise with inflation (in line with annually published Government regulations).

4. Bursary support

- 4.1 We do not propose to offer a bursary in the 2006/07 academic year. However from 2007/08 depending on tuition fee charge a pro rata bursary will be offered. When the SCITT decides to charge the full £3,000 a minimum bursary of £300 will be provided 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). If the full fee is applied this bursary support will be new from 2007.
- 4.2 Bursary payments will be made in three instalments of £100. One at the start of each term.
- 4.3 At this stage we have insufficient local data to determine how many students might be eligible for the bursaries. In analysing the demand for bursary support based upon household income we will initially use the national data given by the DfES. Currently this shows 30% of the student population receive full state support whilst 55% receive some support.

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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 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 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.
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. For example, we will target our promotional material at communities that are under-represented. We are currently improving our website to include individual case studies of ex-trainees. Again, we will try to include case studies of individuals who reflect the under-represented 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. We are committed to maintain and if possible to increase applicants from the target groups and to inform our targets by collecting data from applicants.

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8. Monitoring Arrangements
- 8.1 We will formally monitor the progress of the access agreement at least once a year through the SCITT Policy Committee who will report annually to the Board of Governors of the Lead School (Dorcan Technology College, Swindon). 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 Lead School Board of Governors will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.