

Devon Primary SCITT School-Centred Initial Teacher Training



Access Agreement for Devon Primary SCITT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Devon Primary SCITT offers a one-year, full time, school-based route to qualification as a primary teacher. The SCITT consists of 24 successful primary schools in two clusters, one in North Devon and the other in South Devon. The Devon Primary SCITT has a commitment to promote widening participation in ITT.

Our Mission Statement is: 'Through a high quality school-based programme, which is constantly reviewed and reflected upon, develop well-prepared, motivated and inspired trainees to send out into the profession with a positive and reflective attitude towards educating children'.

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, a revised agreement, which will provide details of our monitoring criteria that we intend to develop as we begin to collect relevant data.

3. Fee limits

- 3.1 We will charge a fee of up to £3,000 for the 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 At such time the Devon Primary SCITT fee level exceeds the maximum level of state maintenance grant we will offer the mandatory bursary to the value of the difference. For example, for a fee level of £3,000 we will offer a bursary of £300 to any trainee 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 2007.

- 4.2 Bursary payment will be made in one instalment of £300, payable in May.

5. Publicising fees and financial support

- 5.1 A number of methods will be used to ensure that prospective trainees are as clear as possible about the fee charged, and the amount of trainee support they may be entitled to. These are outlined below:

- 5.2 The Devon Primary SCITT website, www.dpsscitt.ac.uk, 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 A leaflet summarising the information above will be inserted into our current Prospectus.
- 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.
- 5.5 This information will be clearly explained verbally on the interview day.

6. Outreach

- 6.1 We will seek to identify areas of under-representation in our trainee 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.

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 trainees 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 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 a revised agreement by May 2009, with a view to the amended agreement taking effect from the 2009/10 academic year.

8. Monitoring Arrangements

- 8.1 The Finance and Personnel Committee will monitor the progress of the access agreement on a termly basis and report to the Steering Committee. Initial monitoring will be concerned with participation rates and the development of data on lower income and other under-represented groups. When specific baselines, targets, and milestones are determined we will look to monitor against these.
- 8.2 The Programme Manager's annual report to the Steering Committee will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.