

SCITTELS (SCITT in East London Schools)

ACCESS AGREEMENT

1. Introduction

SCITTELS is a consortium of Newham Nursery, Infant, Junior and Primary schools originally formed to offer Initial Teacher Training (ITT) leading to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

It provides high quality initial training to prepare trainees to be effective primary school teachers who will be:-

- sensitive and responsive to the needs of children
- able to raise achievement of children
- confident about preparing all children for life in a diverse society
- able to respond positively to social and educational change
- reflective and critical of their teaching
- committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all children
- highly skilled
- able to offer a broad and balanced curriculum to all children

Its one year post-graduate initial teacher training course will offer education and training for the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and key Stage 2 and furnish trainees with the knowledge and skills to teach the core subjects competently and independently across two of these stages.

SCITTELS also has accreditation as a provider of employment-based initial teacher training and offers places on the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP) for the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

2. Length of agreement

This agreement is for 5 years from the academic year 2007/08.

3. Fee limits

- 3.1 We will charge a fee of up to £3000 for our full-time postgraduate course leading to Qualified Teacher Status from the 2007/08 academic year. This agreement is for 5 years. The fee limit will rise with inflation (in line with annually published Government regulations).

- 3.2 The actual fees charged for the September 2007 entry will be £3000. The fee levels will be reviewed annually in the light of:-
- the impact of the fees in recruiting suitable applicants to the course
 - the impact of the fees on increasing the number of successful applicants from under represented groups

4. Bursary support

- 4.1 SCITTELS recognises that a minimum bursary has to be paid to all students who receive the full maintenance grant of £2700 but its scheme detailed below ensures that these students receive considerably more than this.
- 4.2 SCITTELS recognises that many of its trainees will have some difficulty with the new fee arrangements and the perception of debt may deter some trainees from applying. Consequently SCITTELS will use four bands, based upon the calculations of maintenance grant made by SLC, to pay an additional bursary.
- 4.3 These bands will be based on the following criteria.
- Band A:** for trainees receiving the full maintenance grant of £2700.
- Band B:** for trainees receiving a part maintenance grant of between £2200 and £2699.
- Band C:** for trainees receiving a part maintenance grant of between £1700 and £2199.
- Band D:** for trainees receiving a part maintenance grant of between £1201 and £1699.
- 4.4 The amount of the additional bursary will depend on the fee level. This will be calculated in the following manner.

Variable fees - non means tested maintenance grant = level

Band A: = level x 4/9

Band B: = level x 3/9

Band C: = level x 2/9

Band D: = level x 1/9

Variable fee	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D
3000	800	600	400	200
2700	666.66	500	333.33	166.66
2400	533.33	400	266.66	133.33
2100	400	300	200	100
1800	266.66	200	133.33	66.66
1500	133.33	100	66.66	33.33
1200	0	0	0	0

4.5 The additional bursary will be paid to trainees in four instalments in December, February, April and June, to assist trainees in their financial management.

4.6 If Scittels charges a variable fee of £3000, the total affect for trainees would be as follows:

Household Income	Maintenance Grant	Scittels Bursary	PGCE bursary	Total
£17500	£2700	£800	£6000	£9500
£19900	£2300	£600	£6000	£8900
£22900	£1800	£400	£6000	£8200
£24100	£1600	£200	£6000	£7800
£27000	£1200	£0	£6000	£7200

5. Publicising fees and financial support

5.1 We will use a number of methods to ensure that trainees are aware of the fees to be charged and the amount of financial support to which they may be entitled. These are outlined below:

5.2 We will display the information provided here on our website www.scittels.co.uk

5.3 When we offer an interview, we will send details of our fees, the maintenance grants available to trainees and the bursaries that we currently offer. The details will also be sent again to those applicants who are successful at interview, thus ensuring that they have adequate knowledge on which to base their decision on whether to accept a place.

6. Outreach

- 6.1 We currently have a high percentage of our trainees based in the London boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Barking and Dagenham and Tower Hamlets. These four boroughs contain some of the highest concentrations of low-income groups in the United Kingdom. Our bursary payments are aimed directly at those people on low incomes. We will use £4000 of our extra income to publicise the fee and bursary position. This will involve us making more use of Teaching recruitment events and providing publicity at these events that is in booklet form, printed in colour and provides details of our full financial packages for those with low incomes. We will also use the local press to advertise our taster days where we will use the same booklets.
- 6.2 The above activities are currently undertaken on an ad hoc basis. We would wish to make sure that we have at least 3 taster days and attend at least 2 recruitment events each year. Therefore most of this activity will be in addition to that, which is currently happening. The production of booklets in colour would provide a significant additional outreach activity.
- 6.3 In addition we will provide extra support for trainees on the course. This will be implemented through either an increase in the support given by professional tutors, extra training for school based tutors or a mixture of both of them, We estimate that this will cost us £8740 during the first financial year.

7. Targets

- 7.1 We currently do not collect data around low income or social-economic groups. We do however collect data on ethnic minority applications.
- 7.2 In view of the fact that within our main catchment area, roughly 50% of the population are from ethnic minorities, we have used the following assumptions to set the targets.
- (a) We estimate that we currently have 60% of our students receiving the full maintenance grant and
 - (b) we currently have 30% of our students from ethnic minority backgrounds

7.3 Targets:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Low Income Target	60%	65%	70%	75%	80%
Ethnic Minority Target	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%

7.4 We will review these targets in the light of data gathered in the first year of operation. During the first year the information provided by SLC will enable us to build up a database on the income levels of our trainees.

8. Overall Monitoring arrangements

- 8.1 We will formally monitor the progress of the access agreement at least once a year through the senior members of Scittels staff who will report annually to the Scittels Group Board. Initial monitoring will be concerned with participation rates and the development of data on lower income groups. When baseline targets are determined we will look to monitor against these.
- 8.2 Our report to the Annual General Meeting of the Scittels Group Board will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.

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