

**To: Heads of higher education institutions  
in Wales**

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Further Information: Phase 1 - Emma Raczka  
(emma.raczka@hefcw.ac.uk); Phase 2 - Karen  
Jones (karen.jones@hefcw.ac.uk)

Dear

**INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING: NEW INNOVATIVE PROVISION INITIATIVE PHASE ONE  
(1999) AND PHASE TWO (2002)**

This circular reports on the conclusion of the first HEFCW initiative to encourage the development of new and innovative courses to extend the pool of applicants into teaching and initial teacher training (ITT). It also announces the initial outcomes of the second phase of the initiative, which saw institutions submit proposals for both innovative courses and studies to assist the recruitment to ITT courses.

**Phase One**

As reported in HEFCW circular W00/39HE, institutions were invited, in 1999, to submit proposals to develop alternative routes to teaching through, for example, conversion courses, joint subject degrees with QTS, returner courses and access courses. Ten proposals for full and part time courses outside mainstream ITT, which covered a range of mainly shortage subject areas, were submitted. Six proposals were eventually recommended for approval, details of which were given in circular W00/39HE.

As a condition of funding, all institutions were asked to pilot the courses for at least the first cohort. Funded credits outside mainstream funding were allocated, sometimes intermittently, to courses up to and including the current academic year. This allowed institutions additional time to strengthen the courses and boost recruitment before a final decision was made by HEFCW, taking into account institutional reports and recruitment data, about the future funding of the courses. Although cohorts have generally been small, the courses have made a valuable contribution to helping institutions achieve their ITT intake targets.

From the outset, it was HEFCW's intention that, subject to satisfactory reports on the pilots, it would consider rolling the courses into mainstream recurrent grant funding. Accordingly, future funding for pilot projects that were successful under Phase 1 of the initiative has now been approved, as follows:

- The pre-PGCE **Subject Knowledge Extension Programme for Maths** at the **University of Wales Swansea** will become an established course from 2003/04 and will receive funding as part of the University's mainstream grant allocations.
- Both the full and part time **Certificate of Higher Education – Introduction to Secondary Teaching** courses at the **University of Wales College, Newport** will also become established courses from 2003/04 and will receive funding as part of the College's mainstream grant allocations.
- The **Subject Knowledge Extension Programme for Welsh** at the **University of Wales, Bangor** was originally not taken further than the development stage. However, following a meeting in January 2002 of admissions tutors and PGCE Welsh providers to discuss the ongoing recruitment difficulties to secondary Welsh PGCE courses, it was agreed that UW Bangor would re-introduce the course, receiving funded credits on a pilot basis from the Council, in academic year 2002/03.
- The **University of Wales, Aberystwyth's Extending Skills Programme for Returning Teachers** was piloted successfully with the Open University in Wales in 1999/2000 using development funding. Although the course has run only once, from it the University has developed materials and a course outline for a programme for returning teachers. Using Phase 1 developments as a foundation for further work, the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and the OU in Wales resubmitted a successful proposal under Phase 2 of the initiative to develop and run an improved programme.
- The **Preparing for PGCE Secondary Mathematics** course developed by **UWIC** as an introduction to secondary maths teaching was piloted in conjunction with the Open University in Wales in 2000/01. Recruitment to the course has been successful, and all students who completed the course continued to train as maths teachers. As this course is now being expanded to include other subjects across Wales through Phase 2 of the innovative provision initiative, the mathematics subject element of the course will not receive mainstream funding from 2003/04. Rather, it will be awarded funded credits along with the other subject components of the programme that will be piloted under Phase 2.
- A final report on the three-year joint **Trinity College, Carmarthen** and **University of Glamorgan** BSc course in **maths or science with education** will be requested in the third year of the pilot in 2004/05.

## Phase Two

At its meeting on 25 October 2001 Council agreed to support a second phase of the ITT Innovative Provision Initiative, with the establishment of a development fund of £100,000. Circular W01/106HE invited proposals from ITT providers for Phase 2 of this Initiative for the development of innovative provision designed to bring new pools of possible applicants into ITT.

A Council Advisory Group met on 15 March 2002. It considered twenty institutional proposals, with a total funding request of £193,790. The Advisory Group agreed to recommend funding of ten

proposals equating to the full sum of £100,000. Further details of the successful initiatives are listed in **Annex A**. In general, the Advisory Group was keen to encourage and support local and national collaborations. In light of this, and the similarities between a number of the proposals received, it was agreed that in some instances funding would be released following the re-submission of revised collaborative proposals, submitted between June and December 2002.

As a condition of funding, institutions were asked to provide a brief interim report on the funded developments in January 2003. Satisfactory interim reports have now been received for each of the ten phase two initiatives. Final reports are due to be submitted in July 2003. Subject to the submission of satisfactory final reports, funded credits will be allocated, where appropriate, to enable institutions to pilot the courses developed through phase two of the New Innovative Provision Initiative in 2003/04.

Further information regarding the courses developed in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of this initiative can be obtained from the individual institutions. Contact details can be found in HEFCW's annual *Performance Information* publication (Circular W02/75HE) listed under HE Publications 2002 at [www.hefcw.ac.uk](http://www.hefcw.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely

**PROFESSOR PHILIP GUMMETT**  
**DIRECTOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

## ITT Innovative Provision: Phase Two Funded Activities

Project Title	Preparatory Courses
Institution(s)	<b>University of Wales Institute, Cardiff/Open University in Wales</b> University of Wales, Aberystwyth University of Wales, Bangor University of Wales College Newport
Development Funding	£12,000
Project Description	A range of flexible part-time taster courses in the secondary shortage subjects of MFL, Science, Welsh, and Design and Technology are being developed by the partner institutions. The courses will enable participants to make an informed decision about a future career in secondary teaching and to prepare them for taking a PGCE or vocational route to QTS. The courses will allow individuals to find out whether they are suitable for secondary teaching in terms of temperament, experience and competencies within the relevant subject area. Each institution involved is developing course materials from an agreed template. Once established, the courses will become the property of all the partners within the collaboration. All partners will provide tutors and schools for students within their catchments who enrol on any of the courses, irrespective of which HEI had developed the material.

Project Title	Preparation of learning materials for returners' course for secondary school teachers
Institution(s)	<b>University of Wales, Aberystwyth /Open University in Wales</b> University of Wales, Bangor North East Wales Institute of Higher Education
Development Funding	£18,000
Project Description	The project focuses on the preparation of bilingual materials for returning secondary school teachers. Given the diversity of learning needs of potential recruits it is intended that the project will produce a wide range of resources which will be offered to participants on a needs basis. The materials will be prepared collaboratively, drawing on the experiences of the partner institutions. Since the institutions involved work in partnership with schools throughout Wales, it should be possible for a programme for returning teachers to be available to teachers irrespective of their place of residence.

Project Title	Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP)
Institution(s)	<b>North East Wales Institute of Higher Education</b> University of Wales, Bangor
Development Funding	£18,000
Project Description	The proposal is the outcome of a collaboration between NEWI and Bangor to promote and develop the GTP scheme and to offer a means of disseminating the outcomes of this project to the other ITT institutions in Wales. A common framework will be developed to encompass essential elements of the programme. Framework documents will be disseminated to all ITT institutions within Wales to encourage an inter-Wales quality assurance and moderation system for the GTP.

Project Title	Subject Knowledge Extension Course in Welsh
Institution(s)	<b>University of Wales, Bangor</b>
Development Funding	Funded credits only
Project Description	The Subject Knowledge Extension Course in Welsh was designed and validated within the School of Education at the University of Wales, Bangor, in 2000/2001 with a view to run the course during the summer of 2001. Unfortunately, the course experienced recruitment difficulties and is being relaunched for a summer 2003 recruitment

Project Title	Two-Year conversion PGCE course for Welsh
Institution(s)	<b>University of Wales, Bangor</b>
Development Funding	£10,000
Project Description	The proposal offers a two-year full-time conversion PGCE Secondary course for Welsh, for applicants who do not meet the entry requirements for the traditional one-year PGCE course due to a lack of specialist knowledge. The course will be aimed at new graduates and/or those seeking a career change. The programme will focus in particular on the teaching of Welsh as a second language.

Project Title	Diploma in Secondary Welsh Education
Institution(s)	<b>University of Wales Institute, Cardiff</b>
Development Funding	£8,000
Project Description	A Diploma course is being developed to replace the existing UWIC Secondary Welsh refresher/conversion course which failed to recruit due to a restricted market and its full-time mode of study. The new proposal expands the possible market and provides a more attractive mode of study. The course is aimed at graduates and well qualified non-graduates who have studied through the medium of Welsh and are seeking a formal qualification in the Welsh language. It would also appeal to existing primary school teachers who wish to extend their subject knowledge and skills in the teaching of Welsh and who wish to convert to secondary Welsh teaching.

Project Title	An exploration of the issues relating to the development of a Key Stage 2/3 undergraduate course taking into account the needs of recruitment to Welsh and Welsh medium provision.
Institution(s)	<b>University of Wales, Bangor</b> North East Wales Institute of Higher Education
Development Funding	£10,000
Project Description	A working group will be established to consider some of the issues involved in developing a KS2/3 undergraduate ITT course in Wales. It will consider the structure, content and requirements of such a course, which would be managed and taught collaboratively, together with an exploration of the market for such a provision. The focus of the work will be placed in the context of the shortage subjects, in particular, Welsh and other subjects through the medium of Welsh.

Project Title	Web Development/Implementation – Teacher Training in Wales
Institution(s)	<b>University of Wales Swansea</b> Teacher Training Recruitment Forum (TTRF)
Development Funding	£5,500
Project Description	Funding has been awarded for the TTRF To develop an attractive, informative website 'Teacher Training in Wales' in a bilingual format. This would detail the education and training courses available across Wales, provide a brief introduction to each training provider, with links to provider web sites, highlight all the financial incentives available and list all special programmes e.g. returner courses. An additional website specifically aimed at attracting Welsh speakers to train to teach Welsh will also be developed.

Project Title	Reducing barriers to participation by disabled people in the teaching profession
Institution(s)	<b>University of Wales College Newport</b> Open University in Wales
Development Funding	£12,000
Project Description	This collaborative project will focus on identifying and reducing real or perceived barriers to participation by disabled young people in the teaching profession. An assessment will be made of the current information and advice provided to these young people and the extent to which their teaching career aspirations can be met by ITT providers, secondary schools and colleges in Wales. Advisory materials for ITT providers, schools and colleges will be developed to give an objective view of the potential for disabled people to train for the teaching profession and the nature of support required.

Project Title	To target increased recruitment to the undergraduate primary programme at SIHE from local and adjacent ethnic minority communities
Institution(s)	<b>Swansea Institute of Higher Education</b>
Development Funding	£6,500
Project Description	This project involves liaison with local tertiary providers, and sixth form tutors. It will endeavour to structure contact with ethnic minority students in order to bring to their attention opportunities in ITT and teaching as a profession, and to maintain that contact. Specific publicity and recruitment materials are being developed alongside open days and a range of opportunities for ethnic minorities communities to visit the Institute.