

Cyngor Cyllido Addysg
Uwch Cymru
Higher Education Funding
Council for Wales

Cwrt Linden
Clos Ilex Llanisien
Caerdydd CF14 5DZ
Ffôn 029 2076 1861
Ffacs 029 2076 3163
www.hefcw.ac.uk

Linden Court
Ilex Close Llanishen
Cardiff CF14 5DZ
Tel 029 2076 1861
Fax 029 2076 3163
www.hefcw.ac.uk

hefcw

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Circular

Initial Teacher Training Strategies: Future arrangements and related issues

Date: 16 February 2009
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To: Heads of higher education institutions providing ITT in
Wales
Response by: 23 March 2009
Contact: Name: Alison Allan
Telephone: 029 2068 2223
Email: alison.allan@hefcw.ac.uk

This circular provides initial information on arrangements for initial teacher training (ITT) strategies from 2009/10 and related issues. It requests institutions to give their views on the introduction of an ITT partnership premium.

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Introduction

- 1 This circular provides initial information on arrangements for initial teacher training (ITT) strategies from 2009/10 and related issues. It requests institutions to give their views on the introduction of an ITT partnership premium.

Background

- 2 During 2003/04, HEFCW brought together a number of separate funding streams which had supported activities in ITT to form a single ITT strategy fund. ITT providers submitted three-year strategies covering the period 2003/04 to 2005/06 as a basis for releasing the funding allocations. The allocations comprise two elements:
 - the provision of a student placement grant for undergraduate secondary students – the Teacher Training Recruitment Scheme (TTRS). The TTRS replaced a similar scheme and was designed to provide bursary support for mainly two-year undergraduate ITT secondary students at a time when significant bursaries were introduced for postgraduate ITT students. For priority subject students the bursary is £1,000 per annum and £600 for non-priority subject students.
 - an allocation to all ITT providers, pro rata to ITT funded credits, with the remainder of the funding.
- 3 The ITT Strategy Fund for 2008/09 was £1.45 million
- 4 Since 2005/06 we have made an additional ITT Partnership allocation to ITT providers. This recognised the effect that the reductions in primary ITT intake targets might have on the viability of some smaller departments and institutions, including those offering Welsh medium provision, and on supporting and maintaining ITT school partnership – an essential part of ITT provision. This funding has therefore been available to ensure the continuing viability of ITT provision and to support ITT partnership, within the context of the overall ITT strategy. We originally intended to allocate this sum for two years only, but given the continuing uncertainty over the reconfiguration timetable, the allocations were continued for a further two years. The sum allocated in 2008/09 was £266k.
- 5 We would normally have asked institutions to submit revised three-year ITT strategies in 2006/07. However, in the light of the reconfiguration of ITT and uncertainties preceding this, we have asked institutions to roll forward their existing plans each year instead.
- 6 The arrangements set out below do not apply to the Open University in Wales at present, as the OU's funding for ITT is ring-fenced until 2009/10.

We will consider the position for the OU when decisions are taken about future funding arrangements for the OU in Wales.

Future arrangements

Overall funding

- 7 The Council has agreed that the funding which has been available within the ITT Strategy funding and ITT Partnership funding should continue at a similar level. The transitional funding made available by the Welsh Assembly Government to support ITT reconfiguration focuses only on those aspects which are directly related to the reconfiguration process, such as staff restructuring and estates modifications. Although student numbers are falling, the costs of providing strategic support for ITT provision will increase proportionately as a result of the new demands of partnership working and the need to ensure, with smaller cohorts, viable, good quality provision which meets the Assembly Government requirements for qualified teacher status. Other factors are significant Assembly Government policies and initiatives in school-based provision (for example, the new Foundation Phase, which inevitably affects initial training for teachers, and the introduction of a new Estyn inspection framework from 2010).

ITT Strategies

- 8 ITT reconfiguration is now sufficiently underway for it to be appropriate for us to ask for new ITT strategies from 2009/10.
- 9 We will ask the three new centres of teacher education and training to prepare new centre strategies covering 2009/10 to 2011/12 as a basis for releasing funding allocations. This will facilitate a jointly agreed strategic approach by each centre from the start, with agreed targets and deliverables.
- 10 Aberystwyth University and Bangor University, which will provide ITT through the North and West Wales Centre for Teacher Education one year after the other two centres (from 2010/11), will receive separate allocations in the first year of the new three-year cycle, on the basis of updated institutional strategies, and jointly on the basis of a centre strategy from 2010. It will, however, be open to them, as it will to the partners in the other Centres to use some of the funding in 2009/10 to support collaborative working for the new Centre.
- 11 Glyndŵr University, which will continue to provide ITT until 2011/12, will receive an institutional allocation until the ending of the ITT provision to help maintain quality and provide support for students as the provision is phased out. We will ask the University to submit a funding plan and deliverables for the use of this funding.

- 12 We will continue to have two streams within the ITT Strategy Fund: TTRS bursaries and allocations pro-rata to ITT funded credits. TTRS bursary amounts will be increased to acknowledge that there has been no rise since 2003 and to recognise continuing problems of recruitment to undergraduate secondary provision, which is seen as contributing to a diversity of routes into ITT and the teaching profession. £1,200 will be available for students on priority subject courses (Mathematics, Science, Welsh, Music, Modern Foreign Languages, Design and Technology). The only non-priority subject is Drama at UWIC. Students who started the course before 2008/09 when Drama was a priority subject will receive £1,200. Students who enrolled in 2008/09 will receive £700.
- 13 We intend to commission a small review of undergraduate secondary provision to consider and make recommendations on the future market and viability of this provision, which by 2010 is likely to comprise a maximum of 100 intakes per annum across Wales (provision at UWIC, UW Newport and Bangor University).

ITT Partnership Premium

- 14 All HEIs providing ITT are required to work with partner schools and they normally make placement payments to schools. ITT providers have to train and support mentors in partner schools and to communicate with them on a regular basis, so that the mentors can train and assess the trainees in school. There is therefore a continuing cost in securing and administering partnerships and placements and ensuring the delivery of quality provision to students through these partnerships arrangements.
- 15 ITT providers can use some of their strategy allocations to support partnership activities. Nonetheless, in recognition of the additional costs associated with partnership, the Council has agreed, in principle, that from within the available sum (including the funding associated with ITT Partnership which, as noted earlier, was originally only intended as interim support) it will provide a recurrent partnership premium from 2009/10. This will support the viability of ITT partnership, providing an additional sum to ITT providers for each ITT student. We have undertaken modelling to see at what level the premium could be set within the available resources and are proposing a premium of £100 per enrolment. We would ask institutions to demonstrate through their ITT strategies how they are using the premium to support ITT partnership.

We would welcome the views of HEI ITT providers on introducing a premium as set out above.

Timetable

- 16 We would ask you to submit responses on the proposed ITT Partnership Premium to Alison Allan by **23 March 2009**. Subject to the responses, we will confirm the premium sum in April.
- 17 We will write to institutions with detailed guidance on preparing the new ITT strategies in May 2009 for submission by mid September. Funding for 2009/10 will be made in two equal instalments. Subject to an initial analysis of expenditure plans and deliverables, we will make the first payment in October 2009. We will then undertake a fuller analysis, discussing any issues with providers, with a view to making the second payment in March 2010.
- 18 We will ask institutions to submit an annual monitoring statement on progress in 2008/09, to complete the previous strategy cycle.

Further information

- 19 For further information, contact Alison Allan (tel 029 2068 2223; email alison.allan@hefcw.ac.uk).