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Circular

Initial Teacher Training: Intake targets 2011/12

Date: 12 January 2011
Reference: W11/02HE
To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales providing
initial teacher training courses
Response by: No response required
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This circular sets out the initial teacher training intake targets for the sector for 2011/12.

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Introduction

- 1 This circular sets out the initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets for the sector for 2011/12.
- 2 The letter which we have received from the Welsh Assembly Government setting out the targets is attached at **Annex A**. Given the later than usual timing of the announcement, the Welsh Assembly Government sent a copy of this letter directly to you by email on 20 December 2010.

Sector ITT intake targets 2011/12

- 3 The letter from the Welsh Assembly Government outlines the basis for the intake targets for 2011/12, which has included taking account of outputs from the Teacher Planning and Supply Model (TPSM) for Wales.
- 4 There is reduction of 5 places overall in primary intake target numbers compared with 2010/11. However, within these numbers, there is continuing change in the balance between primary undergraduate (UG) and PGCE places, with UG places reduced by 30 and PGCE places increased by 25.
- 5 There is also a small decrease in secondary intake targets. PGCE secondary numbers have been reduced by 10 and UG numbers by 5 (the latter reflects changes to UG secondary provision in the South-East Wales Centre of Teacher Education).
- 6 Within the subject groupings for PGCE numbers, priority group targets have been increased (reflecting the importance of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects in this grouping), balanced by reductions in the main and other subjects groups.
- 7 The Welsh Assembly Government has asked us to remind you that chemistry and physics subjects can be linked with wider science content, but only courses where chemistry or physics are the main component would qualify for inclusion in the priority subject intake grouping. You will need to be certain that you make the specialism and type of course clear to all trainees from the outset.
- 8 While the intake targets do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets, we would encourage you to develop and offer Welsh medium provision wherever possible. This is important to meet the demand for well-trained and qualified Welsh medium teachers in schools.
- 9 You will note from the Welsh Assembly Government's letter that decisions have not yet been taken on ITT incentives or teaching grants for 2011/12. The Welsh Assembly Government will write separately to you about this.

- 10 The Welsh Assembly Government has not given indicative targets for 2012/13 and 2013/14 at this stage and has indicated that it will update HEFCW on the position in due course.

Released numbers

- 11 We confirmed in Circular W09/38HE that 2010/11 would be the last year in which any new released numbers would be available from reductions in ITT intake targets. There may be a small amount of continued feed through, however, resulting from earlier portfolio changes.
- 12 Existing ring-fenced released numbers should continue to be used for other HE education-related courses which fit with the proposals in your ITT reconfiguration plans which we have agreed with you. If an institution wishes to change or modify its portfolio of provision using released numbers, please contact Alison Allan to discuss, so that we can assure the Assembly Government that the provision continues to meet its priorities.

Over-recruitment

- 13 The Assembly Government letter notes that it would like HEFCW to maintain its efforts to ensure that over-recruitment against intake targets does not occur at either primary or secondary level. We would remind you of the penalty arrangements which now apply to over-recruitment against **primary** intake targets (see Circular W09/03HE). We have added an example below to give greater clarity on the penalty to be applied if over-recruitment exceeds 10%.

For recruitment in 2011/12 therefore:

- If a Centre of Teacher Education over-recruits by more than 5% or five students (whichever is the greater) against its primary intake target in 2011/12 at either undergraduate or postgraduate level, a 5% reduction will be applied to its intake target for that level for the following year. This is regardless of whether or not the Centre has recruited above these limits in 2010/11. These intakes will not be returned to the Centre after the penalty year.
- There is also a penalty for more significant over-recruitment. Thus, if a Centre of Teacher Education over-recruits by more than 10 per cent in one year at either undergraduate or postgraduate level, its target for that level for the following year will be cut by 10%. This penalty would be reduced to 5% in the year after, provided that the institution has not again over-recruited above the specified limits. Therefore if a

Centre breaches this threshold in 2011/12, the penalty will be applied to its intake target for 2012/13.

In determining whether this penalty will be applied, there will be no rounding. Immediately the over-recruitment is over 10% by any fraction, the penalty will be applied. For example: An institution has an intake target of 58. The calculation of 10% over-recruitment is 5.8 full-time equivalent students. The institution over-recruits against its target by six students (10.3%). Arguments that the institution could not have recruited 0.8 of a student for an ITT course or that the 10.3% should be rounded to 10% would not be accepted. The 10% over-recruitment threshold has been breached and therefore the penalty will be applied.

- 14 We are aware that the current economic climate can lead to improved recruitment to **secondary** courses. While this is a welcome development for shortage subjects where it has in the past proved difficult to recruit to target, we would ask you to guard against over-recruitment, particularly in subjects which traditionally are more popular. Institutions are reminded that, because of the demand-led nature of the student finance budget, from 2010/11 there will be controls at institutional level on the recruitment of full-time/PGCE students (see Circular W10/33HE). We will monitor recruitment to ITT secondary courses and may consider action in future should over-recruitment become an issue.

Centre intake targets 2011/12

- 15 The three Centres of Teacher Education (the South West Wales Centre for Teacher Education, the South East Wales Centre of Teacher Education, and the North and Mid Wales Centre) are now all in place. For 2011/12 therefore, we will publish their intake targets by Centre only, without showing any breakdown between the individual institutional partners.
- 16 We will write to you shortly with the Centre intake target allocations. PGCE secondary targets for the Open University will be as set out in paragraph 10 of the Welsh Assembly Government's letter. You will note that for secondary numbers we have to put proposals for Centre allocations to the Assembly Government by the end of January 2011. We would hope to get details of institutional primary allocations to you before the end of January.

Further information

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

**Yr Adran Plant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau
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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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Eich cyf • Your ref:

Ein cyf • Our ref:

20 December 2010

Dear Dr Blaney

INTAKE TARGETS FOR INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING 2011/12

1. I am writing to let you know the intake targets for initial teacher training (ITT) for the 2011/12 academic year.

Background

2. The programme of reducing ITT numbers over several years up to the 2010/11 academic year in support the ITT Change Plan was completed with the entry of students onto courses in September 2010. In normal circumstances future changes to intake numbers, based on outputs from the Teacher Planning and Supply Model (TPSM) for Wales, would be no more than +/- 2.5% (about 40-45 places at current intake levels).

3. The Welsh Assembly Government's Statistical Directorate has produced an updated run of the TPSM. This has included further data from the General Teaching Council for Wales together with updated statistical information on areas such as pupil number projections.

Detail – primary

4. The TPSM's latest outputs show a maintained trend of increasing teacher numbers being required, with the principal underlying factor being rising pupil numbers. The latest pupil projection figures in the Schools Census 2010 show primary pupil numbers rising by some 10,400 between 2010-11 and 2013-14.

5. Alongside this, application figures for advertised primary posts are still high. For the purposes of considering intake numbers we have looked at the median as well as the published mean number of applications for primary vacancies to try to reduce the impact of outliers (i.e. results markedly distant from the rest of the data). In all cases the median is lower than the mean; this is particularly evident for the English medium primary vacancies. The total median applications in 2009 was about 57% of the total mean, indicating that on this measurement the job pressure in the primary market is perhaps lower than previously thought. On the other hand, the median numbers show steady figures in 2007 and 2008, but an upward movement in 2009. This may indicate increased numbers of re-entrants aiming to come back into teaching against the background of the present economic situation.

6. In view of all this, for primary numbers for 2011/12 we do not propose to add the additional 20 postgraduate (PG) places our outline forecast indicated last year. We do propose to follow through with the suggested shift of numbers being reallocated from undergraduate (UG) to PG. However, because at present we are looking at increasing the Graduate Teacher Programme primary numbers by 5 places from 25 to 30, we are reducing UG numbers by the projected 30 places but only increasing PG numbers by 25. This will provide 300 UG and 450 PG, giving a primary intake target of 750.

Detail – secondary

7. For secondary, the TPSM outputs continue to show that numbers need to be reduced in response to the falling number of teachers required, as a consequence of falling pupil numbers which are now starting to impact on secondary provision. The latest pupil projection figures in the Schools Census 2010 show secondary pupil numbers falling by some 11,700 between 2010-11 and 2013-14.

8. In view of this we will hold back from the small increase we showed as a possible number for 2011/12, and propose reducing the target to 1,030 (935 PG and 95 UG). This is made up of a small drop of 10 in PG and 5 in UG. The revised UG figure takes account of the drop in available course numbers going forward at UWIC following recent changes there.

Graduate Teacher Programme

9. These intake targets do not include provision for the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP). Following a consultation on changes to the administration of the employment-based teacher training programme, it is now probable – subject to Ministerial agreement – that GTP numbers will be issued direct by us to providers. We do, however, take account of these numbers in the TPSM process. Decisions on GTP numbers are likely to be announced in early 2011.

Open University

10. These intake targets do not include provision for the Open University (OU) in Wales. For the purposes of intake target setting, we have previously agreed that the OU can recruit up to 25 places each academic year. Broken down by the groupings which are set out in the annex, these will be 16 secondary priority group subsection 1 or subsection 2 places; and 9 secondary main subject places – with permission to vire up to a maximum of 5 places from priority groups to the main incentive group in the light of demand. These figures are not shown in the annex attached to this letter.

Action

11. The primary and secondary intake targets for ITT for the 2011/12 academic year are set out in the table in the annex attached. This also shows a breakdown of secondary subjects into three groupings, which reflect the priority subjects and based on the differing levels of incentives which were available in 2010/11. The priority subjects themselves are split into two sub-sections, reflecting the two different levels of teaching grant which were related to these subjects in 2010/11. However, HEFCW is asked to note that the breakdown of intake numbers does not imply that any ITT incentives or teaching grants will be available for those on courses in 2011/12; we will write separately about this. These intake targets are derived from the Welsh Assembly Government's forecast demand for newly qualified teachers to which HEFCW is required to have regard under section 86(6) of the Education Act 2005.

12. Providers told us that the split in 2010/11 of the science subject specialism, (with the priority science subjects now chemistry and physics only, and biology and general / integrated science now in the main subject group) lead to constraints on priority science subjects course acceptances, particularly in physics, as virement from a wider science group was not possible. We have set out increases in the number of STEM subject places in the priority groups compared with other subjects. A particular increase is shown for the mathematics, chemistry and physics group. One of the balancing reductions is in the main subject group; we think that the major reduction there should be in biology, which is felt to be over-represented in STEM subject ITT. HEFCW is asked to reflect this as far as possible in its determination of the proposed distribution of the targets for individual subjects.

13. Providers should be reminded that chemistry and physics subjects can be linked with wider science content, but only courses where chemistry or physics are the main component would qualify for inclusion in the priority subject intake grouping. Providers will need to be certain that they make the specialism and type of course clear to all trainees from the outset.

14. As in previous years, numbers are only provided for the total primary and secondary targets, sub-divided between undergraduate and postgraduate. The only additional sub-divisions, for 2010/11, are between the various secondary postgraduate subject grouping targets. These targets do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets. HEFCW is asked to continue to encourage institutions to develop and offer Welsh medium provision where possible.

15. The overall drop in ITT numbers in 2011/12 compared with 2010/11 is 20 places (1,780 from 1,800); this is a drop of 1.1% and is thus within the normal aimed for change range of 40-45 or +/- 2.5%. HEFCW is asked to remind providers that 2010/11 was the last year in which ITT numbers released as a result of reductions in intake targets were ringfenced for them to recycle into alternative education provision.

16. Taking the intake targets for 2011/12 set out in the annex, HEFCW is asked to consider (in the light of the intake targets notified to it last year, its own allocations to providers for 2010/11, actual recruitment to courses, course availability for 2011/12, reconfiguration plans and other relevant factors) how it proposes to allocate these numbers between providers; and in the case of secondary targets, between subjects. HEFCW will need to allocate the intake targets to the reconfigured ITT Centres.

17. For primary numbers, we are content for HEFCW to allocate them to providers as soon as possible and to notify us when this is done. For secondary numbers, HEFCW should write to Learning Improvement and Professional Development Division by no later than 31 January 2011 with proposals for allocating these numbers between providers for agreement by this office. We are content for HEFCW to exercise its discretion regarding virement providing it is within the limits set out in the annex attached.

18. The Minister would like to reinforce the message that efforts must continue to be made to ensure that over-recruitment against targets does not occur. We would be grateful if HEFCW could maintain its efforts to help avoid ITT providers over-recruiting, at both primary and secondary levels.

19. Because of the constrained timetable this year, we have not included here indicative targets for the following two academic years for general planning purposes. We will update HEFCW on this in the new year.

Yours sincerely

ALUN HUWS
Learning Improvement and Professional Development Division

Annex

Intake targets 2011/12

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	total
Primary	300	450	750
Secondary	95	935	1,030
Total	395	1,385	1,780
<u>Secondary PGCE subjects</u>			
<i>Priority group subsection 1</i>			
Mathematics; chemistry; and physics		165	
<i>Priority group subsection 2</i>			
Information and communications technology (ICT); design & technology; and Welsh		160	
<i>Main subject group</i>			
Music; religious education; modern foreign languages; English; geography; and biology and general / integrated science		395	
<i>Other subjects</i>			
History; PE; art; business studies; dance & drama; and outdoor activities		215	

Virement flexibility

Individual target totals listed above should be maintained, except that up to 5% virement flexibility is allowed for the following:-

- between the postgraduate secondary priority group subsections 1 and 2 target totals (subject to physics intake numbers being protected as far as possible)
- out of the postgraduate secondary priority group subsection 2 target total into the postgraduate secondary main subject group target total
- between the postgraduate secondary main subject group and the postgraduate secondary other subjects target totals.