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Circular

Initial Teacher Training Strategy Fund: Allocations 2010/11

Date: 09 July 2010
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To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales providing
initial teacher training
Response by: No response required
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This circular sets out the allocations for 2010/11 to support the implementation of initial teacher training strategies. This includes for the first time an allocation to the Open University in Wales.

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Introduction

- 1 This circular sets out the allocations for 2010/11 to support the implementation of initial teacher training (ITT) strategies. This includes for the first time an allocation to the Open University in Wales.

Background

- 2 Following good progress with the reconfiguration of ITT in Wales, we requested new ITT strategies from providers for the period 2009/10 to 2011/12 in the summer of 2009 (W09/23HE).
- 3 We requested joint strategies from the two centres of teacher education which became operational in 2009/10: the South-East Wales Centre (University of Wales Institute, Cardiff and University of Wales, Newport) and the South-West Wales Centre (Swansea Metropolitan University and Trinity University College). Aberystwyth University and Bangor University submitted separate funding plans for 2009/10 and will be operating a joint strategy as the North and Mid Wales Centre from 2010/11. Glyndŵr University submitted a three-year funding plan for 2009/10 to 2011/12, setting out how it would use its allocation to support its ITT operation as this is phased out.
- 4 Since 2007/08, the Open University has received a separate, ring-fenced allocation for its ITT provision in Wales. This arrangement has now ended and from 2010/11 it is receiving funded credits for ITT through HEFCW's recurrent teaching funding. As is the case for other ITT providers, it will therefore now also receive an ITT Strategy Fund allocation.

2010/11 Allocations

- 5 When we requested ITT strategies in 2009/10, we indicated that, in planning for the second and third years of their strategies, the Centres should assume similar levels of funding to 2009/10. However, we emphasised that the total sum available would also depend on HEFCW's overall grant settlement from the Welsh Assembly Government for the years concerned. We further warned that, given the economic climate, the Centres should build in some flexibility so that they could manage their activities, should funding levels be reduced.
- 6 We indicated that, overall funding levels permitting, Glyndŵr University would receive a minimum floor allocation of £50,000.
- 7 In the light of our grant settlement and the overall pressures on funding at present, it is not possible to maintain the ITT strategy fund in 2010/11 at the same level as for 2009/10.

- 8 In 2009/10 the ITT strategy fund incorporated an ITT partnership element (equivalent to around £260,000), introduced initially as a temporary measure in 2005/06 to mitigate some of the early effects of reductions in ITT intake targets. We are reducing the ITT Strategy Fund by £200,000 for 2010/11, in effect removing this additional element from the Fund.
- 9 The Open University (OU) will receive a floor allocation of £50,000. This sum has been added (from the sum transferred to HEFCW to cover the OU in Wales) to the ITT Strategy Fund to enable this.
- 10 Given the reduction in the ITT Strategy Fund, we are no longer identifying a separate partnership element within the funding allocations. There are therefore two elements to ITT Strategy Fund for 2010/11.
 - i) Teacher Training Recruitment Scheme (TTRS) bursaries for secondary undergraduate (UG) students. This funding must be ring-fenced by providers for distribution to UG secondary trainees.

We have previously used the PGCE categorisation of subjects into priority and “other” to determine the bursary payments for UG courses. Providers will be aware that from 2010/11 the Welsh Assembly Government has categorised PGCE subjects as Priority Group (with two sub-sections), Main Incentive Group and Other. With the exception of Drama, all the UG subjects concerned (Mathematics, Science, Welsh, Music, Modern Foreign Languages, Design and Technology) remain either in the Priority or the Main Incentive Group. £1,200 will therefore be available for students on these courses.

UG secondary Drama is being phased out at the South-East Wales Centre for Teacher Education. Students on the fourth year of the course who started before 2008/09 when Drama was a priority subject will receive £1,200. Students on the third year will receive £700.

- ii) ITT Strategy Support. The funding remaining, once the TTRS element has been calculated and the floor allocations for Open University and Glyndŵr University taken into account, is allocated pro-rata to ITT funded credits.
- 11 The total sum available for the **ITT Strategy Fund** in 2010/11, including the TTRS allocations and the Open University allocation, is £1,331,911. Allocations are set out in **Annex A**. However, we would emphasise that these are **provisional**. Until HEFCW’s financial year settlement for 2011-12 (April 2011 to March 2012) is confirmed, we do not yet know what the impact will be on 2010/11 academic year allocations, and it is likely that these will need to be revised in-year.

Centres of Teacher Education and Glyndŵr University

Annual Monitoring Statements

- 12 You will shortly receive the ITT Annual Monitoring Statement (AMS) form for your Centre or institution, as appropriate, for you to report on progress in 2009/10 and to update plans for the use of your 2010/11 allocation by **5 November 2010**. The form will be sent to the contact which you have given us for the ITT AMS.
- 13 We appreciate that the reduction in the ITT Strategy Fund and the removal of the ITT partnership element, will involve revising your targets and spending plans for 2010/11. This should be undertaken through the Annual Monitoring Statement. In doing this, we would stress again the need for flexibility in your planning so that you can manage your activities, should funding levels be further reduced.

Payment of allocations

- 14 ITT Strategy Fund allocations will be paid in two equal instalments in September 2010 and March 2011. We will confirm release of the March 2011 payment subject to the receipt of a satisfactory Annual Monitoring Statement in November 2010 (and in the case of the North and Mid Wales Centre of a satisfactory joint strategy).

Open University in Wales

- 15 We will discuss with the Open University in Wales our expectations for an ITT strategy as a basis for the release of ITT Strategy Fund allocations, before asking for the formal submission of a strategy. This will include particular ways in which the Open University, its portfolio and opportunities for partnership working with other ITT providers, can contribute to ITT provision in Wales. We would suggest that the strategy covers the two years 2010/11 to 2011/12 in the first instance, to fit within the current three-year strategy cycle (2009/10 to 2011/12). Providing that we are content with the strategy, we will then confirm the release of allocations.

Further information

- 16 For further information, contact Alison Allan (tel 029 2068 2223; email alison.allan@hefcw.ac.uk) or Gemma Long (tel 029 2068 2285; email gemma.long@hefcw.ac.uk)

ITT Strategy Funding allocations 2010/11

Institution or Centre of Teacher Education	Teacher Training Recruitment Scheme (TTRS) Secondary Undergraduate Placement Grants* £	ITT Strategy Support £	Total £
Glyndŵr University		50,000	50,000
Open University in Wales		50,000	50,000
North and Mid-Wales Centre	39,600	278,417	318,017
South-East Wales Centre	189,700	374,437	564,137
South-West Wales Centre		349,757	349,757
Total	229,300	1,102,611	1,331,911

Notes:

The TTRS UG Placement Grant allocation for 2010/11 will be paid with the ITT Strategy Fund but must be ringfenced by institutions for distribution to UG trainees

The grant of South-East Wales Centre for Teacher Education grant has been adjusted to reflect TTRS payments in 2009/10 for UG Music which were not used. This amount has been redistributed pro-rata.