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Circular

Initial Teacher Training Strategy Fund: Allocations 2011/12

Date: 20 May 2011
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To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales providing
initial teacher training
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This circular sets out the allocations for 2011/12 to support the implementation of initial teacher training strategies.

This document is available online, in large print, Braille, on CD and on audio CD and cassette. Should you or someone you know require this in an alternative format, please contact us on (029) 2068 2280 or email info@hefcw.ac.uk.

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Introduction

- 1 This circular sets out the allocations for 2011/12 to support the implementation of initial teacher training (ITT) strategies.

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 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) submitted joint strategies for the three-year cycle. Aberystwyth University and Bangor University submitted separate funding plans for 2009/10 and 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. The Open University in Wales received an ITT Strategy Fund allocation for the first time in 2010/11.
- 4 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.
- 5 We indicated that, **overall funding levels permitting**, Glyndŵr University would receive a minimum floor allocation of £50,000 each year over the three-year period. The Open University also received a floor allocation of £50,000 for 2010/11, with a similar proviso about future funding levels.

2011/12 Allocations

- 6 In the light of pressures on funding the ITT strategy fund was reduced in 2010/11. The fund has been reduced by a further £200,000 for 2011/12, a reduction of approximately 15% compared with 2010/11.
- 7 There are two elements to the ITT Strategy Fund for 2011/12.
 - i) Teacher Training Recruitment Scheme (TTRS) placement grants for secondary undergraduate (UG) students. This funding must be ring-fenced by providers for distribution to UG secondary trainees. We

notified providers by email on 18 May of the arrangements for 2011/12 onwards. **These are set out in Annex A.**

- ii) ITT Strategy Support. This comprises the funding remaining, once the TTRS element has been calculated. For the Centres of Teacher Education, this is allocated pro-rata to ITT funded credits. We have reduced the floor allocations for the Open University and Glyndŵr University by 15% compared with 2011/12, in line with the overall reduction in the ITT Strategy Fund.
- 8 The total sum available for the **ITT Strategy Fund** in 2011/12, including the TTRS allocations is £1,131,911. Allocations are set out in **Annex B**. However, as indicated in our remit letter from the Welsh Assembly Government, please note that the figures given above and in Annex B **are provisional and are subject to adjustment in year**. We will, of course, inform you of any changes as soon as possible. In any change to ITT Strategy Fund, we would expect to keep the sum for secondary undergraduate placement grants ring-fenced, so that providers can meet their commitments to students.

Annual Monitoring Statements

- 9 We expect to issue the request for Annual Monitoring Statements (AMS) by the end of May, as part of the circular requesting strategic plans and financial and student forecast data. The individualised ITT AMS forms for your Centre or institution, as appropriate, will be sent to you by early July for return by **31 October 2011**, for you to report on progress in 2010/11 and to update plans for the use of your 2011/12 allocation.
- 10 We appreciate that the reduction in the ITT Strategy Fund will involve revising your targets and spending plans for 2011/12. 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

- 11 ITT Strategy Fund allocations will be paid in two equal instalments in September 2011 and March 2012. We will confirm release of the March 2012 payment subject to the receipt of a satisfactory Annual Monitoring Statement in October 2011.

Further information

- 12 For further information, contact Alison Allan (tel 029 2068 2223; email alison.allan@hefcw.ac.uk) or Gemma Long (tel 029 2078 2285; email gemma.long@hefcw.ac.uk)

Initial Teacher Training: Secondary Undergraduate Placement Grants 2011/12

Within Initial Teacher Training (ITT) strategy funding, HEFCW allocates a sum for providers to make grants to students on secondary undergraduate ITT courses to help particularly with costs associated with their placements in school. Set out below are the arrangements for secondary undergraduate placement grants for 2011/12.

Existing students entering the second or third years of their courses: We will continue to provide funding to ITT providers for placement grants for these students at £1,200 per student in 2011/12. The only exception is the four-year degree course in Drama delivered at UWIC, where there is final cohort of students on the final year and where provision is made for a grant of £700. (This course ends in 2011/12).

The total sum for each provider will be calculated on the basis of the funded credits which HEFCW allocates for the provision concerned (120 credits being equivalent to one full-time ITT student).

For 2012/13, we will also make provision for a grant of £1,200 for existing students on three-year courses who are entering the third year of their course.

We would emphasise that these arrangements apply to **existing** students only, as they entered their courses on the understanding that they would receive a placement grant. It does not apply to any new entrants, who, for whatever reason, may join a course in its second or third year.

New entrants: We will make provision within ITT strategy funding for students to receive a placement grant of £1,200 for 2011/12. This will be calculated on the basis of the intake targets which we have given you for the provision concerned. **However, it should be made clear to students that this is subject to review and is for 2011/12 only. There is no guarantee, and they should not therefore be given the expectation, that this funding will be available in the following years of their courses. Similarly, it will need to be made clear to prospective students and applicants that they should not have the expectation that a placement grant will be available.**

We will be reviewing the placement grants for 2012/13 onwards, particularly in the light of the new fee arrangements and the Welsh Assembly Government fee support provision for Welsh domiciled students, as well as the likely overall funding situation. We expect to announce our decision before the end of 2011.

Annex B

ITT Strategy Funding allocations 2011/12

Institution or Centre of Teacher Education	Teacher Training Recruitment Scheme (TTRS) Secondary Undergraduate Placement Grants* £	ITT Strategy Support £	Total £
Glyndŵr University		42,500	42,500
Open University in Wales		42,500	42,500
North and Mid-Wales Centre	43,200	247,121	290,321
South-East Wales Centre	178,400	305,109	483,509
South-West Wales Centre		273,081	273,081
Total	221,600	910,311	1,131,911

Notes:

The TTRS Secondary UG Placement Grant allocation for 2011/12 will be paid with the ITT Strategy Fund but must be ringfenced by institutions for distribution to UG trainees