

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Secondary Initial Teacher Training: Intake targets 2014/15

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To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales providing
initial teacher training courses
Response by: No response required
Contact: Name: Kimberley Meringolo
Telephone: 029 2068 2258
Email: kimberley.meringolo@hefcw.ac.uk

This circular sets out secondary initial teacher training intake targets for 2014/15 for the three Centres of Teacher Education.

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Introduction

1. This circular sets out secondary initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets for 2014/15 for the three Centres of Teacher Education.

Background

2. We informed you of the primary and secondary ITT intake targets which have been set for the sector by the Welsh Government for 2014/15 in November 2013 ([circular W13/37HE](#)). The circular included the letter from the Welsh Government setting out the basis for the targets.
3. Primary intake targets for the three Centres of Teacher Education for 2014/15 have been published in [circular W14/03HE](#).

Secondary intake targets 2014/15

4. For secondary intake targets, the Welsh Government asked us to put proposals to them by the end of January for approval. We have now received approval and the secondary ITT intake targets for 2014/15 for the three Centres of Teacher Education are set out at **Annex A**.

Secondary PGCE targets

5. As noted in circular [W13/37HE](#) the overall secondary intake targets numbers remain unchanged from 2013/14.
6. In determining the distribution of final allocations for 2014/15, we have made adjustments to targets within and between subject areas, taking into account:
 - sector recruitment performance in individual subject areas in 2013/14 and in previous years;
 - individual institutional/Centre recruitment performance against intake targets in 2013/14 and in previous years;
 - the need to balance subject provision across the sector, and to maintain the viability of provision.
7. As in 2013/14 we have shown Information Technology within the priority subject grouping in **Annex A**.
8. In finalising the targets for 2014/15, we have continued our practice of not allocating an intake target of less than 10 to any subject in any Centre. The exception is Outdoor Studies in the North and Mid Wales Centre where a target of five is normally allocated. We may be unable to continue the practice of minimum threshold targets in the future, particularly where a provider's actual recruitment is falling short of this minimum number and where other providers may be demonstrating a better ability to recruit.

9. The reduction in targets over previous years has meant that there are a greater number of cohorts at this minimum level. There may therefore be issues of overall viability, as well as a potential adverse effect on the quality of the student experience where cohorts of less than ten are recruited. We will therefore need to come to a view on whether we should continue to support very small subject cohorts in future or whether there should be some rationalisation of subjects between Centres. We will be considering these matters further in discussion with providers and, subject to sector intake target allocations, we may need to apply new arrangements from 2015/16 intakes.
10. In undertaking your recruitment for 2014/15, we draw your attention to the following considerations:
 - Chemistry and physics subjects can be linked with wider science content. However, the intake targets for these subjects are specifically for courses where chemistry or physics is the main component. You will need to be certain that you make the specialism and type of course clear to all trainees from the outset.
 - In recruiting to Information Technology, you are asked to consider the quality of applicants' degree specialism with a view to recruiting more individuals with a computer science, computer programming and coding related first degree content into teaching.
 - While the intake targets do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets, we encourage you to develop and offer Welsh medium provision where possible, working with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol as appropriate. Our annual letter from the Welsh Government asked that we monitor the position accordingly. In the event of any changes to reporting arrangements we will communicate separately with the sector.

Open University in Wales

11. The intake targets in this circular do not include provision for the Open University in Wales (OUiW). On 12 November 2013, the OU announced that they will be withdrawing their postgraduate ITT provision across the UK. The OUiW's last intake will be at entry point in March 2014 and these numbers were reflected in the 2013/14 allocation.

Secondary undergraduate targets

12. The total sector target for secondary undergraduate (UG) intake remains unchanged from 2013/14 at 95.
13. In light of significant under-recruitment in 2013/14, we have agreed with the Welsh Government that we will expect the Centres to recruit to at least 60% of the target in each course. If it looks unlikely that this target is going

to be met we will expect the Centres to keep us updated. In the event of this threshold not being met the intake target numbers for that same course will not be allocated in 2015/16. Appropriate and proportionate adjustments to the maximum fee grant allocations will also be made for that year, to be applied at an institutional level in line with where the under-recruitment has occurred. The alternative arrangements for these numbers will be agreed between HEFCW and WG.

Controls on ITT recruitment

14. In the annual letters we receive from the Welsh Government setting out the intake targets, we are asked to maintain our efforts to ensure that over-recruitment against targets does not occur. This has been particularly the case for primary provision which is traditionally popular amongst applicants. It has been less so for secondary subjects, with under-recruitment being more of an issue for some priority subjects. However, the situation does vary from year to year, with the potential for exceeding the target in some secondary subjects where it can be easier to recruit.
15. At the end of 2012, following discussions with the sector about alternative ways of controlling student numbers, we published revised fee grant capping arrangements to be applied from 2013/14, which would be based on a total tuition fee grant maximum per institution (rather than a maximum student number), with penalties associated with exceeding this fee grant amount ([circular W12/38HE](#)).
16. We published further controls on recruitment against intake targets to be effective from 2013/14 ([circular W13/08HE](#)). The new controls state that the application of penalties for over-recruitment to ITT intake targets is a separate process from the monitoring of the maximum fee grant. Reductions in funding as a result of breaching the ITT recruitment limits will be made by reducing the overall funding allocations which HEFCW makes directly to institutions within any ITT Centre which breaches the target arrangements.
17. In light of the need to take account of broader developments in relation to fees and funding, we will be revising our controls on ITT to apply from 2015/16 intakes. The current controls on secondary ITT recruitment are set out in **Annex B**. The full controls, including primary ITT, can be found in circular [W13/08HE](#). These will continue to apply, together with the provisions outlined in paragraph 13 above, until any revisions are published.

Further information

18. For further information, contact Kimberley Meringolo (tel 029 2068 2258; email kimberley.meringolo@hefcw.ac.uk).

Annex A

ITT Secondary: Intake allocations 2014/15

North & Mid Wales Centre of Teacher Education	South East Wales Centre of Teacher Education	South West Wales Centre of Teacher Education	
Aberystwyth University and Bangor University	Cardiff Metropolitan University and University of South Wales	University of Wales Trinity St David	Total 2014/15

Undergraduate Secondary			
Mathematics		22	22
Sciences		11	11
Design & Technology	14	19	33
Welsh		15	15
Music		14	14
Total UG Secondary	14	81	95

PGCE Secondary				
Priority Group				
Mathematics	18	22	37	77
Chemistry & Physics	26	23	25	74
Modern Languages	19	31	24	74
Welsh	17	18	13	48
Information Technology	10	11	19	40
Total Priority Group	90	105	118	313
Other subjects				
Art	10	22	12	44
Biology and Integrated Science	33	16	20	69
Business Studies			13	13
Design & Technology		35	17	52
Drama	12	10		22
English	26	20	35	81
Geography	17		17	34
History	12	10	18	40
Music	10	17		27
Physical Education	18	35		53
Religious Education	10		22	32
Outdoor Activities	5			5
Total Other Subjects	153	165	154	472
Total PGCE Secondary	243	270	272	785

Total Secondary	257	351	272	880
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Controls on recruitment to secondary ITT

- **UG Secondary** - Where a Centre over-recruits by more than five per cent against its UG Secondary intake target, HEFCW funding for the following year will be reduced by a sum equivalent to the total tuition fee income for the number of students recruited over the five percent threshold. When we have determined the level of over-recruitment at a Centre level, we will then apply the penalty at the institutional level in line with where the over-recruitment has occurred, as this is where the tuition fee income is received. We will assume that the over-recruited students will be present for the full duration of the course, and the penalty will therefore be equivalent to the total tuition fee income from this number of students for the duration of the course.
- **PGCE Secondary** - Where a Centre over-recruits by more than five per cent against its PGCE Secondary intake target, HEFCW funding for the following year will be reduced by a sum equivalent to the total tuition fee income for the number of students recruited over the five percent threshold. When we have determined the level of over-recruitment at a Centre level, we will then apply the penalty at the institutional level in line with where the over-recruitment has occurred, as this is where the tuition fee income is received. There are a few subjects which are offered by both partners in a Centre. In these instances, we will calculate an appropriate proportion of the targets and therefore the over-recruitment associated with each partner from the numbers registered at each partner and use this to calculate a penalty to be applied to each partner. If this does not concur with how the Centre sees the split of the targets between the partners, the Centre can propose to us that the penalty be applied to one partner only or in a different agreed proportion.
- For both UG and PGCE Secondary, we will monitor recruitment and if we have concerns about the level of under or over-recruitment to a particular subject within the provider's portfolio, we will discuss with the provider and require an action plan to address the situation.