

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Initial Teacher Training: Intake targets 2016/17

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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 gives the initial teacher training intake targets for the sector for 2016/17.

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Introduction

1. This circular gives the initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets for the sector for 2016/17.
2. The letter which we have received from the Welsh Government setting out the targets is attached at **Annex A**.

Sector ITT intake targets 2016/17

3. The letter from the Welsh Government outlines the basis for the intake targets for 2016/17, which has included taking account of outputs from the Teacher Planning and Supply Model (TPSM) for Wales.
4. The overall sector primary and secondary intake target numbers remain unchanged from 2015/16.
5. Providers should not assume that the allocation of PGCE subjects to the two groupings implies that any ITT incentives or teaching grants will be available for those on courses in 2016/17. The Welsh Government will write to the sector separately about this. This should be made clear to prospective students.
6. The Welsh 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 subjects' intake grouping.
7. This principle of the main component in a science course also applies to biology and therefore you should make clear whether a course has biology as the main or only component, or whether it is a designated general/combined/integrated science course. You will need to make certain that the specialism in all science courses – whether it is chemistry, physics or biology – and the type of course is clear to all trainees from the outset.
8. While the intake targets do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets, we 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. We will monitor and report on the take-up of Welsh medium provision to Welsh Government. We also encourage you to consider the viability of Welsh medium provision, working closely with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol on the arrangements being piloted in 2015/16 for the Welsh medium competency certificate. We will work with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and providers as appropriate in considering the maintenance and viability of Welsh medium provision in ITT and its further development.

9. The Welsh Government is not able to offer indicative targets for future years at this time. It will consider the position for 2017/18 on the basis of further analysis next year using updated figures.

Over-recruitment

10. The Welsh 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 revised penalty arrangements which we introduced last year in the light of the new tuition fees and funding regime with effect from the 2013/14 academic year onwards ([circular W13/08HE](#)). These are set out in Annex B.

Centre intake targets

11. We will aim to issue finalised primary ITT intake target allocations for the Centres of Teacher Education by the end of December 2015, having considered the verified recruitment data for 2015/16 as part of the Higher Education Early Student Statistics (HESES) exercise. You will note that for secondary numbers we have to put proposals for Centre allocations to the Welsh Government by the end of January 2016 at the latest. We will therefore aim to issue to the finalised secondary ITT intake target allocations beginning of February 2016.
12. Given that sector **primary PGCE and undergraduate targets** are unchanged, Centres may assume that they will receive the same targets as for 2016/17 **provided that they have not breached the over-recruitment limits** for primary numbers in 2015/16 (or provided there is not significant under-recruitment). If a Centre has breached over-recruitment limits, it may be that the other Centres will gain a small number of additional targets.
13. Intake targets for **secondary undergraduate and postgraduate** provision can be expected to be similar to 2015/16, provided that there has not been significant **under- or over-recruitment** in particular subjects which we may need to take into account in distributing targets across subjects, **or a breach of penalty arrangements**.
14. Given the inspection outcome of the North and Mid Wales Centre for Teacher Education, we plan to allocate numbers for this centre on a provisional basis, subject to monitoring and assurance that plans for improvement are being developed and implemented satisfactorily.
15. We would like to encourage centres to maintain their efforts to ensure that over-recruitment against targets in the non-priority group and primary does not occur and where possible every effort is made to recruit high quality

candidates to target to those subjects included in the STEM priority recruitment category.

16. Meetings have been scheduled with each Centre to discuss indicative targets for 2016/17.

Further information / responses to

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



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Eich cyf • Your ref:

Ein cyf • Our ref:

9 December 2015

Dear Dr Blaney

INTAKE TARGETS FOR INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING COURSES - 2016/17 ACADEMIC YEAR

1. I am writing to let you know the intake targets for mainstream initial teacher education and training (ITET) for the 2016/17 academic year.

Background

2. In June the Minister for Education responded to the findings and recommendations contained in Professor John Furlong's report *Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers* which looked at the quality of ITET provision currently being delivered in Wales. On 15 October a further written statement issued notifying the sector that the ITET landscape would be different going forward and that the sector would undergo reform by September 2018. This work includes implementing changes to the framework governing ITET.
3. As you will be aware that the overall ITET intake numbers have been reduced by some 34% between 2004/05 and 2012/13 and have remained at a steady state in recent years to protect the viability of courses whilst the necessary reviews of ITET have been undertaken. These decisions have been based primarily on the outcome of analysis on the likely future demand for newly qualified teachers in maintained schools against the background of projected changes in pupil demographics over future years, and the need to stabilise the sector during a period of uncertainty.
4. Since 2013/14 we have maintained numbers to ensure courses of ITET in Wales remain viable whilst monitoring projected pupil demographics and the projected number of re-entrants to the profession required to meet demand.

5. Previous teacher demand analysis undertaken has been updated with the following work:-
 - (a) the data on applications received for teaching posts in primary and secondary schools has been updated to reflect the 2014 calendar year figures and as last year we have run a median analysis to provide a better picture of the recruitment to vacancy position in Wales;
 - (b) The pupil projection figures have been updated with statistics collected in the annual Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC) return, based on the school population of Wales at January 2015, based on the latest national population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics.
 - (c) we have been working with colleagues internally on the production of updated Teacher Planning and Supply Model (TPSM) projections. These take account of updated data on teacher and pupil numbers which became available in July from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) and registration data collected by the Education Workforce Council; and
 - (d) we have also updated the model to record the potential availability of ITET completers for teaching posts in Wales within the TPSM. This work takes into account information on ITET students' domicile from data on ITET in Wales, based on statistics produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), and data on destinations of students completing ITET courses in Wales which comes from the destinations of leavers from higher education survey produced by HESA.

Detail – primary

6. The latest (2014) median figures for applications for advertised primary teaching positions are 9.5 per post (English medium at 14 per post and Welsh medium at 5 per post). The median application numbers show a slight decrease from last year's figures.
7. The latest projections for pupil numbers (based on the Office for National Statistics 2012-based national population projections show primary pupil numbers will increase between 2015/16 and 2025/26, but not at the level previously projected, with an overall increase of 13,485 indicated.
8. A baseline projection from the TPSM for the period 2015/16 – 2025/26 using the various updated data outlined in paragraph 3 above shows that without any changes to numbers there would be no over supply of primary ITET entrants, and a continuing reduction in the number of re-entrants required to fill forecast vacant positions. Taking the above into account, along with data which suggests that a significant number of newly qualified teachers remain on short-term teaching contracts, there is no justification to increase primary intake numbers at this time. However, the data also suggests that the numbers of those seeking permanent posts is decreasing and therefore we do not consider it necessary to decrease intake numbers either as there is potential for negative effect on Welsh medium recruitment. This approach will also ensure that the current ITET sector is not destabilised during a period change.
9. Against this background, maintaining primary ITET numbers at current levels is considered the best option to provide appropriate intake numbers. We therefore propose to keep primary ITET numbers at the present level for 2016/17, and will consider the position beyond that on the basis of a further data analysis next year using updated figures and taking account of subsequent changes to the sector as work to support ITET reforms takes shape. We understand that recruitment to primary courses remain buoyant overall.

Detail – secondary

10. The latest (2014) median figures for application for advertised secondary teaching positions are 6 per post (English medium at 7 per post and Welsh medium at 3 per post). There has been a slight increase in the median application numbers overall whilst English medium numbers and the number of applications for Welsh medium vacancies has broadly stayed the same.
11. While this indicates that the numbers of applications received per post overall are remaining constant the latest projections for pupil numbers suggest that secondary pupil numbers will increase by 10,336 overall between 2015/16 and 2025/26. A baseline projection from the TPSM for this period shows that without making any change there would be no significant over supply of secondary ITET entrants but continued increased reliance on the use of re-entrants to 2024/25 as currently projected.
12. Our conclusion, taking the above into account, along with issues around the viability of courses during a period of uncertainty, is that the 2016/17 secondary intake numbers should remain constant for a further year. Based on the data analysis and updated figures available to us including the stability in the median number of applications received per secondary vacancy there is no justification for the number of secondary places to be either increased or reduced further. However, we will consider closely the next run of the model in 2016 to monitor vacancy application rates; changes to pupil demographics and the projected number of re-entrants required to meet demand to support any decision to increase secondary allocations. We understand that recruitment to secondary subjects against intake targets has declined. Data on recruitment to target will be considered as part of any future decisions on allocations.

The Graduate Teacher Programme and Teach First Wales

13. These intake targets detailed here do not include provision for the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP), although, again, we take account of these numbers in the TPSM process. The administration of the GTP under the employment-based teacher training programme is a matter for the ITET Centres and GTP numbers and the annual Policy Priorities Statement will be issued by the Welsh Government shortly.
14. Target numbers for Teach First Wales are not included in the overall intake targets set here, and the numbers are not included in the TPSM calculations. If applicable Teach First Wales numbers will continue to be advised to the organisation delivering the training direct.

Action

15. The primary and secondary intake targets for ITET for the 2016/17 academic year are set out in the table in the annex attached. Numbers are provided for the total primary and secondary targets, sub-divided between undergraduate and postgraduate. The figures also show a breakdown of secondary subjects into two groupings. HEFCW is asked to note that the breakdown of intake numbers does not imply that any ITET incentives will be available for those on courses in 2016/17; we will write separately about this once a decision has been made. These intake targets are derived from the Welsh Government's forecast demand for newly qualified teachers to which HEFCW, in exercising its functions, is required to have regard to under section 86(6)(a) of the Education Act 2005.
16. As in previous years, the targets in the attached annex do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets because of the relatively small numbers of places

available overall. However, HEFCW is requested to continue to monitor institutions and encourage them to continue to develop and offer Welsh medium provision where possible and to consider the viability of Welsh medium provision, working closely with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol on the arrangements being piloted to introduce Welsh medium competency teaching certificates as agreed. We would ask HEFCW to monitor the position in respect of take-up of Welsh medium provision and report to the Welsh Government accordingly.

17. For 2016/17 (and as in 2015/16) we expect HEFCW to allocate specific intake numbers to physics and chemistry. These can be linked to courses with wider science content but the ITET Centres will need to be certain that they make the specialism and type of course clear to all trainees from the outset.
18. In allocating the intake targets for 2016/17 as set out in the attached annex, HEFCW is asked to consider in the light of the intake targets notified to it last year, its own allocations to providers for 2015/16, course availability and other relevant factors including ITET provider performance and the quality of the existing provision being delivered as evidenced in Estyn inspection outcomes how it proposes to allocate these numbers between accredited providers; and in the case of secondary targets, between subjects taking account of course recruitment difficulties as appropriate.
19. HEFCW will need to allocate the intake targets to the ITET Centres accordingly and in line with their own guidelines. In particular, HEFCW is asked that in allocating intake numbers for 2016/17 they take account of the quality of training being delivered in light of Estyn's publication on 15 October of the inspection outcome of North and Mid Wales Centre for Teacher Education and arrangements for monitoring progress. In this regard HEFCW will wish to consider allocating numbers on a provisional basis pending assurance that the necessary plans for improvement are developing satisfactorily.
20. 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 the Professional Standards and Practitioner Development Division as early as possible, but by no later than 31 January 2015, with proposals for allocating these numbers between ITET Centres.
21. In considering the allocation of secondary numbers, HEFCW should bear in mind the Minister's continued focus on literacy and numeracy in order to raise school standards. Mathematics and Welsh (where there are a range of supporting factors) are included in the priority subjects group, and the numbers there have remained at 2015/16 levels. On the same basis, and as last year, HEFCW is asked where possible to protect English numbers to some degree to support literacy standards.
22. Whilst we recognise that ITET providers have experienced difficulties in recruiting to target in 2015/16 academic year particularly in secondary. The Minister would like to reinforce the message that efforts must continue to be made to ensure that over-recruitment against targets in the non-priority group and primary does not occur and where possible every effort is made to recruit high quality candidates to target to those subjects included in the STEM priority recruitment category.
23. As mentioned above HEFCW and the ITET Centres will be aware that work is underway to implement changes to the ITET governance framework including plans to implement revised accreditation criteria and the process for accrediting ITET programmes. The approach we are taking to the allocation of ITET intake numbers

in academic year 2016/17 will serve to support the viability and accessibility of provision during this transitional period. The Welsh Government is considering the changes that might be required to improve the effectiveness of primary undergraduate provision. While we do not propose to make changes to the number of places available through primary undergraduate ITET courses for 2016/17 we ask that HEFCW continue to monitor the uptake of undergraduate courses against intake targets.

Yours sincerely

GAIL DEANE

Head of Initial Teacher Training Planning and Transition

Intake targets 2016/17

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	total
Primary	300	450	750
Secondary	95	785	880
Total	395	1,235	1,630

Secondary PGCE subjects***Priority subjects***

mathematics; chemistry; physics;
modern foreign languages; Welsh,
ICT (Computer studies)

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Other subjects

Design & technology; English;
geography; biology; general /
integrated science; music;
religious education; history; PE;
art; business studies; dance &
drama; and outdoor activities

472

- Individual target totals listed above by category should be maintained.
- Our expectation is that HEFCW would ensure that once individual subject targets are notified to ITET Centres, numbers are not vired between primary and secondary allocations; between undergraduate or postgraduate provision and from subjects within the priority subject category to non-priority subject categories.
- HEFCW is asked to monitor intake against target closely including under-recruitment trends and in line with its statutory role as accrediting body to monitor the quality and performance of accredited ITET providers.