

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Primary Initial Teacher Training: Intake targets 2013/14

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initial teacher training courses
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This circular sets out primary initial teacher training intake targets for the Centres of Teacher Education for 2013/14.

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Introduction

- 1 This circular sets out primary initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets for the Centres of Teacher Education for 2013/14.

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 2013/14 in October 2012 (Circular W12/32HE). The circular included the letter from the Welsh Government setting out the basis for the targets.
- 3 For secondary intake targets, we have to put proposals for the distribution of these targets amongst providers to the Welsh Government, as requested, for approval before publication. We anticipate that this process of approval will be completed by early February at the latest.

Primary intake targets 2013/14

- 4 Primary ITT intake targets for the three Centres of Teacher Education for 2013/14 are set out at Annex A.
- 5 The sector intake target for primary ITT and the distribution between primary undergraduate (UG) and PGCE places remains the same as in 2012/13, namely 750 intakes in total, comprising 300 undergraduate and 450 PGCE intakes.
- 6 As no provider receiving primary intake targets in 2013/14 over-recruited in 2012/13 beyond the limits set by HEFCW, no penalties to 2013/14 targets have been incurred. Allocations to the Centres of Teacher Education for Primary UG and PGCE intake targets therefore remain unchanged from 2012/13.
- 7 We will keep under review the distribution of primary ITT targets across the three Centres, particularly in the context of the development of a regional dimension to the planning and delivery of higher education identified in *For our Future*. We will also monitor various aspects of the make up of the ITT student population, including numbers of students receiving training to teach through the medium of Welsh as well as English, and the diversity of entrants to ITT.

Controls on ITT recruitment

- 8 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 and we have had penalties for over-recruitment to primary provision in place for a number of years, revising these as appropriate from time to time.

- 9 In 2011/12 a maximum student number, determined annually, and applied to HEFCW-fundable home and EU full-time UG and PGCE new entrant student numbers was introduced, with penalty arrangements for over-recruitment against this maximum.
- 10 We were concerned that, with the introduction of the new tuition fees regime from 2012/13 and the consequent changes to HEFCW's methods for allocating funding, the overall maximum student number and existing ITT penalties, might not of themselves be a sufficient deterrent against over- or under-recruitment to ITT. For primary ITT, for example, provided the total numbers remained within an institution's overall maximum student number, then if a provider were having difficulty recruiting in non-ITT areas, it might compensate by increased recruitment to primary ITT. We were also concerned that the changes may influence behaviour on recruitment to secondary ITT.
- 11 At the beginning of January 2012 therefore, we published revised controls to encourage recruitment to initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets and to discourage over-recruitment, to be effective from the 2012/13 academic year (Circular W12/01HE). These controls comprised retaining the existing penalties for over-recruitment to primary intake targets, together with adjustments to an institution's maximum student number the following year where recruitment in a particular phase or level of ITT exceeded five per cent.
- 12 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).
- 13 We are revising the controls on ITT recruitment so that they accord with the new capping arrangements. We are also considering whether for ITT there should in future be penalties or adjustments to the maximum tuition fee grant associated with under-recruitment. **However, we would emphasise that controls on ITT recruitment and penalties for over-recruitment in 2013/14 will be applied.** For primary ITT these are penalties on future intake targets if there is over-recruitment over five per cent, with further penalties if there is over-recruitment of more than ten per cent. Additionally, there will be a reduction to the institution's maximum tuition fee grant for the following year for ITT over-recruitment of over five per cent. We are finalising the exact arrangements for implementing reductions to the fee grant and will publish these shortly. The controls as they stand at present, based on the previous system of maximum student numbers are set out at Annex

Further information

- 14 For further information, contact Alison Allan (tel 029 2068 2223; email alison.allan@hefcw.ac.uk) or Cliona O'Neill (tel 029 2068 2283; email cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk).

Primary ITT intake target allocations 2013/14

	North and 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 Wales Newport	Swansea Metropolitan University and University of Wales Trinity St David	Total 2013/14
Undergraduate	83	104	113	300
Postgraduate	174	123	153	450
Total	257	227	266	750

Controls on recruitment to Primary ITT

- Penalties will be applied to intake targets for over-recruitment to primary provision at the Centres of Teacher Education as follows:
 - If a Centre over-recruits by more than five per cent or five students (whichever is the greater) against its primary intake target in one year at either undergraduate or postgraduate level, a five per cent reduction will be applied to its intake target for that level for the following year. These intakes will not be returned to the Centre after the penalty year.
 - A penalty for more significant over-recruitment. Thus, if a Centre over-recruits by more than ten per cent in one year at either undergraduate or postgraduate level, its target for that level for the following year will be cut by ten per cent.

In determining whether this penalty will be applied, there will be no rounding. Immediately the over-recruitment is over ten per cent by any fraction, the penalty will be applied. For example: An institution has an intake target of 58. The calculation of ten per cent 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 ten per cent would not be accepted. The ten per cent over-recruitment threshold has been breached and therefore the penalty will be applied.

This penalty will be reduced to 5% in the year after, provided that the institution has not again over-recruited above the specified limits.

- **Additionally**, the number of students recruited over the five per cent threshold allowed against the institution's ITT primary intake target at either undergraduate or postgraduate level will be deducted from the institution's maximum student number for the following year. It will be possible to apply this penalty on an institutional basis: the partners in the South East and South West Centres of Teacher Education each have either UG or PGCE primary provision, not both, and in the North and Mid Wales Centre all primary provision is located at Bangor University.