

## Cylchlythyr | Circular

# Secondary Initial Teacher Training: Intake targets 2013/14

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**To:** Heads of higher education institutions in Wales providing  
initial teacher training courses  
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This circular sets out secondary initial teacher training intake targets for 2013/14 for the three Centres of Teacher Education and the Open University in Wales.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please telephone us on (029) 2068 2225 or email [info@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:info@hefcw.ac.uk).



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## **Introduction**

1. This circular sets out secondary initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets for 2013/14 for the three Centres of Teacher Education and the Open University (OU) in Wales.

## **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. Primary intake targets for the three Centres of Teacher Education for 2013/14 have been published in Circular W13/02HE.

## **Secondary intake targets 2013/14**

4. For secondary intake targets to providers, the Welsh Government asked us to put proposals to them by the end of January for approval. We have now received this approval and the secondary ITT intake targets for 2013/14 for the three Centres of Teacher Education and the OU in Wales are set out at Annex A.

## ***Secondary PGCE targets***

5. As noted in Circular W12/32HE, the Welsh Government letter confirmed a decrease of 50 intakes overall in 2013/14 compared with 2012/13. This follows a reduction of 100 intakes in 2012/13. The total target of 785 for 2013/14 is made up of 274 priority group places and 511 for the other subjects group.
6. We circulated indicative subject targets for the three Centres of Teacher Education to providers in early November 2012 and subsequently met staff from each Centre to consider the impact of the reductions with them. We also discussed whether they might wish to make any changes to their portfolios but no Centre wished to do this for 2013/14.
7. The indicative targets applied the reduction pro-rata to Centre targets for 2012/13, with some adjustments for subjects where a minimum allocation applied. We emphasised to providers that the indicative targets were subject to change, once we had considered verified recruitment data for 2012/13 which we would receive in January 2013.
8. In determining the distribution of final allocations for 2013/14, we have made adjustments to targets within and between subject areas, taking into account:
  - sector recruitment performance in individual subject areas in 2012/13 and in previous years;

- individual institutional/Centre recruitment performance against intake targets in 2012/13 and in previous years;
  - the need to balance subject provision across the sector, and to maintain the viability of provision; and
  - evidence from Estyn inspections as appropriate.
9. Estyn's report of its inspection of the South West Wales Centre of Teacher of Education was published in autumn 2012. While Estyn's summary judgement was that current performance was adequate, it also considered that prospects for improvement were good. Therefore we have not made any adjustments to the South West Wales Centre's targets on the basis of the Estyn report outcomes. We will keep in contact with the Centre and Estyn on progress made in addressing the recommendations of the report.
  10. In 2012/13, we gave separate targets for Biology and Integrated Science as students on these courses were eligible for different ITT incentive payments from the Welsh Government. However, the Welsh Government announced on 28 December that, for 2013/14, the same incentive arrangements would apply and we have therefore returned to giving a combined Biology and Integrated Science target.<sup>1</sup>
  11. The Welsh Government statement on incentives also made Information Technology a priority subject for 2013/14. We have therefore shown Information Technology within the priority subject grouping in Annex A. The Welsh Government's letter announcing the sector targets for 2013/14 allowed HEFCW to vire up to 5 places from the target for the then priority subjects to the other subject category. In light of the priority now given to Information Technology, we have therefore used this flexibility to add two targets to this subject.
  12. In making our allocations, the Welsh Government asked us to bear in mind the Minister's continued focus on literacy and numeracy in action to raise school standards. Mathematics and Welsh are included in the priority subjects group, where the numbers have been reduced by less than the overall secondary rate of reduction. We protected English numbers to some degree in 2012/13. However, as the overall reduction in 2013/14 is less and English still has the largest total intake target, we have not taken further action for 2013/14.
  13. In finalising the targets for 2013/14, we have continued our practice of not allocating an intake target of less than 10 to any subject in any Centre, even where the application of the overall sector reduction pro-rata to each cohort leads to a figure of less than 10. The exception is Outdoor Studies in the North and Mid Wales Centre where a target of five is normally allocated. We are unlikely to be able to continue the practice of minimum threshold targets in future, particularly where a provider's actual

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<sup>1</sup><http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/educationandskills/2012/121228itt;jsessionid=574452153BEDC236601D801627F1F916?lang=en>.

recruitment is falling short of this minimum number and where other providers may be demonstrating a better ability to recruit.

14. The reduction in targets over the last two 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.
15. In undertaking your recruitment for 2013/14, 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 into teaching with a computer science, computer programming and coding related first degree content.
  - While the intake targets do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets, we would encourage you to develop and offer Welsh medium provision where possible, working with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol as appropriate. This is important to meet the demand for well-trained and qualified Welsh medium teachers in schools.

### ***Open University in Wales***

16. PGCE secondary targets for the Open University (OU) in Wales are as set out in the Welsh Government's letter announcing the sector targets. The OU may recruit up to 25 places in each academic year, broken down into 19 priority subject group places and six secondary other subject group places, with permission to vire up to a maximum of five places from the priority subject groups to the other subject group in the light of demand. (The OU does not offer Information Technology as a subject and its targets are therefore not affected by its redesignation as a priority subject.) The OU's targets are in addition to those allocated to the Centres of Teacher Education.

### **Secondary undergraduate targets**

17. The total sector target for secondary undergraduate (UG) intakes at 95 is unchanged from 2012/13. We have made some small changes to the

individual subject targets for the Centres in 2013/14 in the light of recruitment performance in 2012/13.

18. We have also agreed with the Welsh Government that there should be some limited flexibility between the targets for individual subjects within the South East Wales Centre. Managing recruitment to the individual subjects to meet the overall Centre target can be difficult across a relatively small portfolio, where demand can vary from year to year. We also wish to recognise the priority which is attached to Mathematics, Science and Welsh. Therefore the Centre may vire up to five intakes into Mathematics, Science or Welsh to recruit additional students beyond the original target, if it finds that it is under-recruiting in Music or Design and Technology. It may **not** vire targets out of Mathematics, Science or Welsh. We will take the Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES) data return for 2013/14 as formal confirmation of whether virement has taken place. We will then make adjustments as appropriate to the maximum tuition fee grant for each of the partner institutions in the Centre, in line with the amended targets and inform them of these changes.
19. The virement of targets in one year would not of itself become a permanent change in the targets for those subjects in subsequent years. We would, as now, consider the targets afresh each year in the light of recruitment performance, with the option to continue to offer virement flexibility if we consider this appropriate.

### **Controls on ITT recruitment**

20. 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.
21. In 2011/12 a maximum student number, determined annually and applied to HEFCW-fundable home and EU full-time undergraduate (UG) and PGCE new entrant student numbers was introduced, with penalty arrangements for over-recruitment against this maximum.
22. 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 might not of itself be a sufficient deterrent against over- or under-recruitment to secondary ITT. For example, the provider might have less concern about under-recruitment to priority subjects, if it felt it could make up numbers either in secondary subjects where recruitment is easier, or in non-ITT subjects. This situation might be further influenced by the nature of any

ITT incentives for students which the Welsh Government might make available in future. Thus, if there were Welsh Government incentives available up to the intake target for particular subject groupings and/or categories of students, this would provide controls on the numbers institutions recruit. However, if particular subjects or categories of students were not eligible for incentives, then such control would be harder to exercise.

23. At the beginning of January 2012 therefore, we published revised controls to encourage recruitment to ITT intake targets and to discourage over-recruitment, to be effective from the 2012/13 academic year (Circular W12/01HE). For secondary ITT, these controls included 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. We would also require action where we were concerned about the pattern of recruitment across subjects within a provider's portfolio.
24. 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).
25. 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 secondary ITT over-recruitment beyond five per cent will result in a reduction to the institution's maximum tuition fee grant for the following year. 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 B.

### Further information

26. For further information, contact Alison Allan (tel 029 2068 2223; email [alison.allan@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:alison.allan@hefcw.ac.uk)) or Cliona O'Neill (tel 020 2068 2283; email [cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk)).

## ITT Secondary: Intake allocations 2013/14

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 Wales, Newport	University of Wales Trinity St David	Total 2013/14	Open University in Wales

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

<b>PGCE Secondary</b>				
<i>Priority Group</i>				
Mathematics	18	22	37	77
Chemistry & Physics	26	23	25	74
Modern Languages	18	31	24	73
Welsh	17	18	13	48
Information Technology	10	11	18	39
<b>Total Priority Group</b>	89	105	117	311
<i>Other subjects</i>				
Art	10	22	12	44
Biology and Integrated Science	33	16	21	70
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	36		54
Religious Education	10		22	32
Outdoor Activities	5			5
<b>Total Other Subjects</b>	153	166	155	474
<b>Total PGCE Secondary</b>	242	271	272	785
<b>Total Secondary</b>	256	352	272	880

### Controls on recruitment to secondary ITT

- **UG Secondary** Where a provider over-recruits by more than five per cent against its UG Secondary intake target, the number of students recruited over this threshold will be deducted from the institution's maximum student number the following year. This can be done on an institutional basis as there is no overlap of subjects between partners in the Centres.
- **PGCE Secondary** Where a provider over-recruits by more than five per cent against its PGCE Secondary intake target, the number of students recruited over this threshold will be deducted from the institution's maximum student number the following year. There are a few subjects which are offered by both partners in a Centre (North and Mid Wales – Welsh, Chemistry, Physics and Biology; South East Wales – Design and Technology). In these instances, we would calculate what we considered an appropriate proportion from the numbers registered at each HEI and, if this did not concur with how the Centre saw the split of the targets between the partners, the Centre could propose to us that the reduction be applied to one institution 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.