

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Primary Initial Teacher Training: Intake targets 2015/16

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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 primary initial teacher training intake targets for the Centres of Teacher Education for 2015/16.

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Introduction

1. This circular sets out primary initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets for the Centres of Teacher Education for 2015/16.

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 2015/16 in October 2014 (circular W14/41HE refers). 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 end of December 2014.

Primary intake targets 2015/16

4. Primary ITT intake targets for the three Centres of Teacher Education for 2015/16 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 2014/15, namely 750 intakes in total, comprising 300 undergraduate and 450 PGCE intakes.
6. Following confirmation of figures, we have concluded that no provider receiving primary intake targets in 2015/16 over-recruited in 2014/15 beyond the limits set by HEFCW. Therefore no penalties to 2015/16 targets have been incurred. Allocations to the Centres of Teacher Education for Primary UG and PGCE intake targets therefore remain unchanged from 2014/15.
7. It has been practice in some Centres over the past few years to recruit higher numbers of students, with the expectation of drop out after 1 November, even though we already build a tolerance level into the figures. We have updated our control measures to ensure that this practice does not continue.
8. We will keep under review the distribution of primary ITT targets across the three Centres. 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

9. 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. As a result of practices noted in para 7, from 2015/16 we intend strictly to enforce the 1 November date. This means that penalties will be applied to institutions on the basis of verified HESES data, regardless of any subsequent drop out.
10. 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. 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 itself be a sufficient deterrent against over or under-recruitment to ITT.
11. 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). These included adjustments to an institution's maximum student number the following year, where over-recruitment in a particular phase or level of ITT exceeded five per cent. For primary ITT, these controls were in addition to the existing penalties.
12. At the end of 2012, following discussions with the sector about alternative ways of controlling student numbers, we published revised arrangements to be applied generally from 2013/14, which are based on a total tuition fee grant maximum per institution (rather than a maximum student number), with penalties associated with exceeding this maximum amount (circular W12/38HE).
13. 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 funding allocations which HEFCW makes directly to institutions.
14. The penalties which are applied to intake targets for over-recruitment to primary provision at the Centres of Teacher Education will continue as set out in (circular W12/01HE). Additionally, from 2013/14, if a Centre over-recruits by more than five per cent against its primary intake target in one year at either undergraduate or postgraduate level (or both), 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 per cent threshold.

15. Once the level of over-recruitment at a Centre level has been determined, 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. Applying the penalty on an institutional basis is straightforward for primary provision: the South-West Centre is located in a single institution, the partners in the South East Wales Centre 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.
16. For undergraduate primary provision, we will assume that the over-recruited students will be present for the full duration of the course. The penalty will therefore be equivalent to three years' tuition fee income (not just the initial year of over-recruitment). The total three-year sum will be deducted from HEFCW's overall funding allocation to the institution in the following year. The tuition fee level we will use in the calculation will be as returned for ITT (Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)) courses on the institution's fee plan for the year the student enters the course.

Welsh medium

17. We encourage you, through this circular, to continue to develop and offer Welsh medium provision where possible and to consider the viability of Welsh medium provision, and to work closely with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol on the introduction of Welsh medium competency teaching certificates.

Further information

18. For further information, contact Dr Cliona O'Neill (tel 029 2068 2283; email cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk).

Annex A

	Primary ITT intake target allocations 2015/16 North and Mid Wales Centre of Teacher Education	South East Wales Centre of Teacher Education	South West Wales Centre of Teacher Education	Total 2015/16
	Aberystwyth University and Bangor University	Cardiff Metropolitan University and University of South Wales	University of Wales Trinity Saint David	
Undergraduate	83	104	113	300
Postgraduate	174	123	153	450
Total	257	227	266	750