

## Cylchlythyr | Circular

# Initial Teacher Education: Intake targets 2017/18

**Date:** 14 November 2016  
**Reference:** W16/41HE  
**To:** Heads of higher education institutions in Wales providing initial teacher education  
**Response by:** No response required  
**Contact:** Name: Dr Cliona O'Neill  
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This circular gives the initial teacher education intake targets for the sector for 2017/18.

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## **Introduction**

1. This circular gives the initial teacher education (ITE) intake targets for the sector for 2017/18.
2. The letter which we have received from the Welsh Government setting out the targets is attached at **Annex A**.

## **Sector ITE intake targets 2017/18**

3. The letter from the Welsh Government outlines the basis for the intake targets for 2017/18, 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 2016/17.
5. Providers should not assume that the allocation of secondary PGCE subjects to 'priority' and 'other' groupings implies that any ITE incentives will be available for those on courses in 2017/18. The Welsh Government will write to the sector separately about this.
6. The Welsh Government has asked us to continue to allocate specific intake numbers to physics and chemistry, as in 2016/17. These can be linked with wider science content, but you will need to make the specialism and type of course clear to all trainees from the outset.
7. Welsh Government notes the Cabinet Secretary's continued focus on literacy and numeracy. Mathematics and Welsh are included in the priority subjects group. HEFCW is also asked to protect English numbers for secondary ITE, in order to support literacy standards.
8. While the intake targets do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets, we encourage you to continue 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 for the Welsh medium teaching competency certificate.

## **Over-recruitment**

9. The Welsh Government letter recognises that providers have had difficulties in recruiting to target in 2015/16, but emphasises that efforts to ensure should continue to be made to ensure that over-recruitment against intake targets in the non-priority group and primary does not occur. We

remind you of the revised penalty arrangements which we introduced in the light of the new tuition fees and funding regime with effect from 2013/14 year onwards ([circular W13/08HE](#)).

### Centre intake targets

10. We will aim to issue finalised primary ITE intake target allocations for the Centres of Teacher Education by mid December 2016, having considered the verified recruitment data for 2016/17 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 2017 at the latest. We will therefore aim to issue to the finalised secondary ITE intake target allocations by the beginning of February 2017 at the latest.
11. Given that sector **primary PGCE and undergraduate targets** are unchanged, Centres may assume that they will receive the same targets for 2017/18 **provided that they have not breached the over-recruitment limits** for primary numbers in 2016/17 (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. Welsh Government has asked us to take account of the quality of training being delivered in allocating numbers, and to continue to monitor the uptake of undergraduate primary ITE courses against intake targets.
12. Intake targets for **secondary undergraduate and postgraduate** provision can be expected to be similar to 2016/17, 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**.
13. 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. Welsh Government has asked us to monitor intake against target closely, in line with our statutory role as accrediting body to monitor the quality and performance of accredited ITE providers.
14. Meetings have been scheduled with each Centre to discuss targets for 2017/18 and recruitment in 2016/17.

### ITE Change Programme

15. The letter from Welsh Government also notes the ITE change programme, including plans to implement revised accreditation criteria and the process for accrediting ITE programmes. The outcomes of consultation on the recommendations from Professor John Furlong's report, *Teaching*

*Tomorrow's Teachers*, will affect new courses considered for accreditation from September 2017, to be delivered from 2019/20.

**Further information / responses to**

16. For further information contact Dr Cliona O'Neill (tel 029 2085 9731; email [cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk)).

Dr David Blaney  
Chief Executive  
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales  
Linden Court, The Orchards  
Ilex Close, Llanishen  
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Eich cyf • Your ref:

Ein cyf • Our ref:

8 November 2016

Dear Dr Blaney

## **INTAKE TARGETS FOR INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR**

1. I am writing to let you know the intake targets for mainstream initial teacher education and training (ITE) for the 2017/18 academic year.

### **Background**

2. As you will be aware, the findings and recommendations contained in Professor John Furlong's report *Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers* form the foundation of the ITE change programme. Two key aspects of this change programme are currently the subject of a public consultation which closes on 14 November. The outcomes of the consultation along with the recommendations set out in *Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers* will affect new courses considered for accreditation from September 2017 for delivery of programmes from 2019.

3. You will also be aware that the overall ITE intake numbers have been reduced between 2004/05 and 2012/13 and have remained at a steady state after this point to protect the viability of courses during this review phase. These target intake figures have been based on a statistical model which considers actual data and projected data such as population, pupil demographics and teacher position vacancies. The TPSM (Teacher Planning and Supply Model) enables us to forecast the likely future demand for newly qualified teachers in maintained schools.

4. The statistical model has been updated as follows:

- (a) latest school pupil counts from PLASC (Pupil Level Annual School Census) along with pupil projections calculated from trends indicated by the latest national population projections produced by Office for National Statistics (ONS);
- (b) latest teacher counts from PLASC;
- (c) number of registered teachers and in-service teachers in primary, secondary and special schools from the Education Workforce Council (EWC). Special and middle schools are split between primary and secondary;
- (d) information on actual ITE intake figures and survival rates from statistics produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA);
- (e) actual data on Open University and employment based routes (EBR) completers.

5. In setting the intake targets due consideration is also given to the average number of applications received for teaching posts in primary and secondary schools to further understand the recruitment to vacancy position in Wales.

#### **Detail – primary**

6. The latest (2015) median figures for applications for advertised primary teaching positions are 8 per post (English medium at 13 per post and Welsh medium at 5 per post). The median application numbers show a slight decrease in English medium posts and the number of applications for Welsh medium posts has remained similar to last years figures.

7. The latest projections for pupil numbers (based on the Office for National Statistics 2014-based national population projections) show primary pupil numbers are going to increase in the next two years by around two thousand and will then decrease annually again until 2025.

8. The baseline projection from the TPSM shows that without making any change there would be no over supply of primary entrants and an overall reduction in the number of re-entrants required to fill vacant positions.

#### **Detail – secondary**

9. The latest (2015) median figures for applications for advertised secondary teaching positions are 6 per post (English medium at 6 per post and Welsh medium at 3 per post). There has been a slight decrease in the median application numbers for English medium posts and the number of applications for Welsh medium vacancies has broadly stayed the same.

10. The number of secondary pupils is projected to increase from the current level of 183 thousand until 2024 where it will peak at 202 thousand.

11. A baseline projection from the TPSM shows that without any changes there would be no significant over supply of secondary ITE entrants but showing increased reliance on the use of re-entrants peaking at 739 re-entrants required in 2018/19 with a decrease in demand following 2020/21 (falling to 330 in 2025/26).

## **Conclusion**

12. Our conclusion taking the above into account is that the 2017/18 primary and secondary intake numbers should remain constant for a further year. This is reflective of TPSM projections which suggest that static intake numbers would not result in a position of over supply. Static targets will also provide a degree of stability during this transitional period leading up to changes in accreditation arrangements.

13. We are also mindful of the need to ensure access to suitable Welsh medium provision across Wales. The average number of Welsh medium applicants for posts is low when compared to English medium applicants. A reduction in ITE places would possibly be detrimental.

14. Although the secondary sector is likely to become more reliant on re-entrants up to 2020, increasing intake targets is believed unlikely to alleviate this. A particularly low intake of trainees in 2015/16 combined with low under graduate survival rates over the last three years have significantly exasperated this reliance on re-entrants.

15. Data on recruitment to target will be considered as part of any future decisions on allocations. Recruitment to secondary subjects against intake targets along with other relevant information about newly qualified teachers will also be considered.

## **The Graduate Teacher Programme and Teach First Wales**

16. The intake targets detailed here do not include provision for the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP), although 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 ITE Centres. GTP numbers and the annual Policy Priorities Statement will be issued by the Welsh Government shortly.

17. 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**

18. The primary and secondary intake targets for ITE for the 2017/18 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 ITE incentives will be available for those on courses in 2017/18; 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.

19. 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 for Welsh medium competency teaching certificates. We would ask HEFCW to monitor the position in respect of take-up of Welsh medium provision and report to the Welsh Government accordingly.

20. For 2017/18 (and as in 2016/17) we expect HEFCW to allocate specific intake numbers to physics and chemistry. These can be linked to courses with wider science content but the ITE Centres will need to be certain that they make the specialism and type of course clear to all trainees from the outset.

21. In allocating the intake targets for 2017/18, as set out in the attached annex, HEFCW is asked to specifically consider these in light of:

- a. its own allocations to providers for 2016/17;
- b. course availability and other relevant factors including ITE provider performance;
- c. the quality of the existing provision being delivered as evidenced in Estyn inspection outcomes;
- d. how it proposes to allocate these numbers between accredited providers; and
- e. in the case of secondary targets, between subjects taking account of course recruitment difficulties as appropriate.

22. HEFCW will need to allocate the intake targets to the ITE Centres accordingly and in line with their own guidelines. In particular, HEFCW is asked that in allocating intake numbers for 2017/18 they take account of the quality of training being delivered.

23. 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 Workforce Strategy Unit as

early as possible, but by no later than 31 January 2017, with proposals for allocating these numbers between ITE Centres.

24. In considering the allocation of secondary numbers, HEFCW should bear in mind the Cabinet Secretary'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 2016/17 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.

25. Whilst we recognise that ITE providers have experienced difficulties in recruiting to target in 2015/16 academic year particularly in the secondary sector. The Cabinet Secretary 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 those subjects included in the STEM priority recruitment category.

26. As mentioned above HEFCW and the ITE Centres will be aware of the ITE change programme, including plans to implement revised accreditation criteria and the process for accrediting ITE programmes. While we do not propose to make changes to the number of places available through primary undergraduate ITE courses for 2017/18 we ask that HEFCW continue to monitor the uptake of undergraduate courses against intake targets.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Nye', written in a cursive style.

Gemma Nye  
Head of Initial Teacher Education

## **Annex**

### **Intake targets 2017/18**

	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Postgraduate</b>	<b>total</b>
Primary	300	450	750
Secondary	86	785	871
<b>Total</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>1,621</b>

### **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

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- 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 ITE Centres, numbers are not vied 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 ITE providers.