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National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

Updated 14 July 2017

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Welcome to the July 2017 edition of the Teacher Recruitment Bulletin. This contains vital information which will help to support your initial teacher training (ITT) recruitment.

Please consider whether this bulletin reaches the correct people in your organisation, and cascade as appropriate. Additional contacts can subscribe to the Teacher Recruitment Bulletin by emailing [teacher.recruitmentbulletin@education.gov.uk](mailto:teacher.recruitmentbulletin@education.gov.uk).

## 1. Applications in June ahead of last year

Latest UCAS figures confirm that there is still strong demand for ITT places for a September 2017 start. There have already been 105,790 applications made to English ITT institutions this year (source: [UCAS](#)

[Teacher Training monthly statistics – June 2017](#)), with significantly more applications being made in the last few weeks, compared with the same time last year.

To maximise your recruitment for ITT 2017:

- Make sure candidates are aware that they still have time to apply for this September, before applications close on 15 September. If, however, you are stopping recruiting at the end of the academic year please close applications on UCAS, so candidates can find a place with another provider; please see page 53 of the [UCAS Teacher Training Set-up Guide 2017](#)
- Encourage candidates to register with [Get into Teaching](#) to get additional help and support throughout the application process, follow us on social media to receive the latest updates and check out [local teaching events](#) to access one-to-one advice on every aspect of getting into teaching
- Direct candidates to our [step-by-step guide](#) to making a successful application to start teacher training this September 2017
- School Experience – encourage your candidates to gain [school experience](#) before schools close for the summer
- Recommend that candidates access the skills test as soon as possible; the pass rate for 2015/16 was almost 90% with the key being plenty of preparation and practice. Candidates can complete an interactive online [skills test](#), using this activation key: jhULiqgX

Remember additional allocations for 2017 are still available. If you have achieved 90% or above of your original allocation, you can still request up to 125% of your original allocation for all subjects excluding PE and undergraduate courses. Requests beyond this increase will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For further information, please email [itt.allocations@education.gov.uk](mailto:itt.allocations@education.gov.uk)

## **2. Subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) can help you recruit this year**

There is still time for candidates applying for ITT 2017 to take a SKE course this summer. SKE plays an essential role in recruiting prospective teachers to subjects such as maths, modern foreign languages and physics. SKE will provide the subject knowledge needed to teach their chosen subject.

Last year, nearly 40% of trainee teachers in eligible subjects (maths, physics, modern foreign languages, biology, chemistry, computing, geography, English and design and technology) took a SKE course prior to their teacher training. Candidates will get a bursary of £200 per week while they are on a SKE course.

Contact a [SKE provider](#) now who will arrange courses your applicants can attend.

## **3. Start-up funding of up to £8000 for new providers of subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) courses in 4 geographical areas**

To ensure demand for SKE in shortage areas is addressed, NCTL is offering increased start-up funding. Schools and ITT providers can receive £400 per week for delivering 20 weeks of SKE (with funding reverting to £200 per week to cover delivery costs thereafter). Schools and ITT providers who can deliver their own face-to-face or blended SKE courses in East Anglia, the East Midlands, the North East and the

South West, can apply. Other regions may be considered if there is evidence of demand.

If you're interested in delivering your own SKE courses, please contact the SKE policy team at [ske.inbox@education.gov.uk](mailto:ske.inbox@education.gov.uk).

## 4. Are you looking for a Spanish teacher for September 2017?

As part of [Spain's Visiting Teachers programme](#), schools in England can now search and select from the candidate pool, arrange final interviews via Skype and offer employment contracts.

[Sign up for free now](#) to access a pool of highly qualified and experienced Spanish teachers, access online candidate information, interview and assessment task notes, and videos of the teachers in action.

Every teacher has been rigorously assessed by senior leaders and headteachers of schools in England to ensure they meet the high standards required to teach here.

All teachers appointed will have access to an acclimatisation package, inclusive of continuing professional development that will both support the teacher's transition into life in England and further their knowledge of the national curriculum.

The programme has been successfully placing teachers in schools in the United States and Canada since 1986.

For further information, please contact the team at [spanish.vtp@education.gov.uk](mailto:spanish.vtp@education.gov.uk).

## 5. Stimulating innovation in the initial teacher training (ITT) market

We issued a communication on 4 July, inviting expressions of interest from accredited providers with proposals to develop and deliver innovative teacher training models, through reshaping their ITT recruitment and delivery infrastructure. We are particularly interested in bids involving collaborative partnership working, and which have the potential to deliver at scale. Bids should focus on improving trainee recruitment and teacher supply in the schools, areas and subjects, which need this the most.

You have until 9am on Monday 17 July 2017 to submit an expression of interest.

A small number of successful proposals will be rewarded with the certainty of 3-year allocations.

For further details, please visit [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK) or contact the Accreditation and Performance Team at [itt.innovation@education.gov.uk](mailto:itt.innovation@education.gov.uk).

## 6. UCAS web-link searches

UCAS recently released a change that introduced a minimum character limit to support the way training providers search in web-link. This is vital to improve the resilience of the service, as UCAS have had several incidents over the past year with training providers launching long-running queries in web-link, causing the system to crash.

Please refer to last month's [UCAS Teacher Training bulletin](#) for further information.

## 7. UCAS summer recruitment pilot

The UCAS reject by default (RBD) pilot launched on 1 July 2017, and runs until 6pm on Monday 2 October 2017. The aim of the pilot is to test whether a shorter working day period over the summer months has a positive effect on increasing the number of applications and offers.

During this period, the number of working days training providers have to make decisions on applications will reduce from 40 to 20 working days. Please refer to the UCAS pilot [frequently asked questions](#), and [Yammer](#) for further updates.

## 8. UCAS Teacher Training scheme

If you have registered for 2018 places, it is a requirement of the NCTL request process that all ITT providers join the UCAS Teacher Training scheme. All providers should now have received an email from UCAS explaining the key steps that need to be completed by the deadline of 5pm on Friday 21 July. This email will have been sent to the contact provided in the request for places on the DMS.

If you are new to the UCAS Teacher Training scheme, please be aware that you must complete your online joining form and training programme set-up ahead of the deadline. This can take up to 10 working days dependent on your availability.

If you have not received your welcome email, please contact [joinucasteachertraining@ucas.ac.uk](mailto:joinucasteachertraining@ucas.ac.uk).

## 9. Accredited initial teacher training (ITT) providers - change in governance

Accredited ITT providers must inform NCTL at the earliest opportunity of any changes to their governance, including operating names to ensure that you remain compliant with criterion C3.1 of the [ITT criteria and supporting advice](#).

Typical changes include:

- A school converting to a multi-academy trust (MAT)
- A change to the accounting officer (typically headteacher, principal or MAT CEO)

Please send all changes to [itt.accreditation@education.gov.uk](mailto:itt.accreditation@education.gov.uk). NCTL will issue a new accreditation certificate following receipt of these details.

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