



National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

## School Direct bulletin

Dear We''YU i Y

Welcome to your April issue of the School Direct bulletin.

I would like to thank those of you who have engaged so positively with the development of School Direct for 2015/16. NCTL colleagues working with you in areas where School Direct is currently underdeveloped have reported encouraging levels of schools interested in joining partnerships and a strong response where you are already extending your own networks. Our National College associates will continue to support you with this, so please continue your work in lending your expertise to new schools.

We are also launching a process this week to allocate a limited number of additional places to schools and school-centred ITT (SCITTs), and undergraduate places to universities. We will prioritise those schools who have been recruiting well. Places are also available if you are still recruiting to a vacancy and have two or more good candidates to whom you would like to make an offer.

This issue also includes more on the re-launch of your School Direct online community and important UCAS reminders, including a survey about the UTT application system, which we urge you to respond to.

**Charlie Taylor**

Chief Executive, National College for Teaching and Leadership

### Recruitment

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#### Allocations news

We are allocating a limited number of additional postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) places to schools and SCITTs, and undergraduate places to universities. Several months into the recruitment cycle, we recognise that some schools are recruiting better than others. Nonetheless we still want to recruit the same number of people for each of the different routes into teaching. At postgraduate level we are

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therefore making places available for School Direct and SCITT routes in certain subjects.

We will prioritise those schools with courses that are full and who want to reopen on UCAS teacher training to recruit more great trainees. Places are also available if you are still recruiting to a vacancy and have two or more good candidates who you want to make an offer to.

More information about the places available and the process for requesting them can be found in our [guide](#).

It is important that you work with your partner provider when requesting any new places. We can only consider requests that have been submitted by a school and ratified by their partner provider. The faster you can get your partner provider to ratify your request, the faster we will be able to respond.

### **Physics specialists – supporting your recruitment**

We are keen to support School Direct lead schools and ITT providers to recruit outstanding physics graduates for 2014/15 and beyond. One way to do this is to attract physics specialists, who teach only physics or physics with maths.

Market intelligence suggests that some physicists would prefer to teach mainly physics, not chemistry and biology, and many wish to do so at Key Stages 4 and 5. School Direct offers you the opportunity to attract such physicists, whilst also allowing you to accommodate your school's or alliance's needs. NCTL will promote the physics specialist offer to interested physics graduates, as will the [Institute of Physics](#). A group of schools have agreed the common features of this offer:

- training in becoming a physics specialist, not a science specialist; so no chemistry and no biology
- able to offer employment once the trainee is qualified
- trainee has the opportunity to train at A level, and teach A level once qualified
- early and continuing professional development identified as part of the career path outlined in the offer

There is no cap on physics or physics with maths allocations for 2014/15 so schools can request as many additional places as they wish, providing the lead school is not in the requires improvement or special measures categories.

For further information and if you are interested in taking part email [chris.cuff@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.cuff@education.gsi.gov.uk) or call 0161 600 1323.

### **School Direct salaried relaxation of the three years' work experience rule**

We would like to draw your attention paragraph 3.27 in the School Direct operations manual (AY 2014/15). Trainees are eligible to take up places on this route (School Direct salaried) if they:

"Possess three or more years' work experience. However, NCTL will allow schools to accept applications from high-quality graduates with less than three years' work experience in hard to fill subjects, especially in maths, physics, chemistry, languages and computing (and design technology). It will be for schools to decide whether they wish to accept applications from candidates with less than three years' work experience."

### **Developing School Direct for 2015/16 through partnerships**

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## **Online seminar on 30 April: last chance for schools not currently involved in School Direct to register**

We are running an online seminar called '[Getting involved in School Direct – partnership top tips](#)' aimed at schools not currently involved in School Direct. The seminar takes place at **4.30pm on 30 April** and will give both an insight into School Direct, including advice on joining a local partnership.

We would really appreciate your support to promote this opportunity to schools that you are working with, if they would like to take part, or to pass on through their networks.

Schools can register on our online seminar webpage if they are interested in participating in the seminar about School Direct in 2015/16. If you have any queries about the seminar, please contact [claire.nicholson@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:claire.nicholson@education.gsi.gov.uk).

## **Troops to Teachers programme**

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Troops to Teachers (TtT) is a prestigious, national programme that is targeted at service leavers who have the potential to become outstanding teachers. It is a two-year, employment-based 'advanced standing' programme leading to an honours degree with QTS. It integrates ITT with continuing professional development (known as additional, personalised training) and is part of a cross government initiative being supported by the Department for Education and the Ministry of Defence.

Led by the University of Brighton, the TtT programme is delivered through a consortium of HEI providers; Bath Spa University, Canterbury Christ Church University, University of Huddersfield, University of Reading, University of Southampton and Staffordshire University. Participating delivery schools receive a full salary grant, but are responsible for all on-costs related to the employment.

Cohort 2 of the TtT programme begins in September 2014 and there are already a number of high calibre candidates who have been accepted and who now need to be matched to suitable primary and secondary delivery schools.

To find out more and to register your interest please visit [www.brighton.ac.uk/education/troops](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/education/troops).

## **Your online community**

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### **Revamped and relaunched – join, learn and share in your community today**

We're pleased to announce we have refreshed your [School Direct online community](#) and now have a colleague, Tam Mason, who will regularly be running discussions and online seminars and be on hand daily to help you benefit from this resource.

If you haven't joined already then you could be collaborating with almost 900 active members with access to resources, discussions and blogs.

To access our online community you may need to take a few minutes to register as a member, which is free, please visit <http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk>. You can also find the community in the 'groups section' of the NCTL website.

Once you have a registered you will get a username and password which you simply enter when prompted on the [School Direct online community link](#).

Our first community online seminar will be arranged shortly, so watch this space and join the group now.

## Subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) programmes

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To make sure that SKE programmes are available to those who apply to ITT courses throughout the summer, we have extended the period of availability of SKE funding by one month. Funding can now be requested for any SKE programmes that begin before **1 September 2014**.

More information can be found in [the online guidance](#), in the [SKE operations manual](#) or email [SKE.TA@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SKE.TA@education.gsi.gov.uk).

### Easier way to access SKE funding

To make things easier you can now nominate your SKE provider to claim the funding from NCTL, as long as your chosen SKE provider is also an existing ITT provider. For full details please refer to the [SKE operations manual](#).

### Case studies: who's using SKE?

Find out more about how schools are using SKE to help support their recruitment:

[St John the Baptist School](#)

[Ripley teaching school alliance](#)

## Your marketing resource bank

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### Updated recruitment top tips reminder

We've recently updated our [top tips on recruitment](#), based on feedback from schools on what's working and the latest UCAS information, to give you practical advice in one place on how to fill your School Direct places.

This presentation is available to download from the marketing resource bank and we'd really welcome any feedback you have. If you have any specific examples you'd like to share where recruitment is working well for you, we'd like to hear from you at [school.direct@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:school.direct@education.gsi.gov.uk).

## UCAS update

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### UCAS teacher training survey reminder – have your say

We would like to remind you that the first annual [UCAS teacher training \(UTT\) provider survey](#) is open until **1 May 2014**.

The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. UCAS are very keen to get as much feedback as possible on the scheme, so please forward the survey link on to any colleagues who'd like to comment.

The questions have been designed to provide a better understanding of your needs, including aspects such as the 40 day turnaround time for Apply 1 and Apply 2, the current guidance on the system and much more. Your responses will influence how they engage and communicate with you in the future.

Please be assured that all responses will be treated in confidence, in accordance with the Market Research Society's code of conduct.

## Action required – Net.update training programme rollover for 2015

In May, UCAS will 'roll over' training programmes in preparation for the 2015 application cycle. This involves copying across data set up in the 2014 application cycle so it can be used again.

However, to ensure they copy across the right information, they need you to ensure that your entry requirements and entry profile details are correct, and that each training programme's status is set to unning or suspended.

We highly recommend you do this as soon as possible; even if you're unsure which vacancies you will have next year. See page 21 of the UCAS [set up guide](#) for guidance and information on how to set statuses.

If you have any questions or need any support with this, please contact UCAS on 01242 544 864 or email [coursecollectfeedback@ucas.ac.uk](mailto:coursecollectfeedback@ucas.ac.uk) and we will be happy to help.

### Have you seen?

**[Brand new regional mini Train to Teach events](#)** – we are holding a series of events across the country giving candidates an opportunity to learn about teacher training and how to make a successful application

**[New providers' section of ucas.com](#)** – the new look password-protected providers' section of ucas.com has recently had a soft launch. Take a look and let UCAS know what you think – email [ucasonline@ucas.ac.uk](mailto:ucasonline@ucas.ac.uk).

**[Get into teaching Twitter top tip](#)** – It's been great to see more partnerships using twitter to promote their vacancies. **Top tip:** tag us (@getintoteaching) in your tweet and we'll be much more likely to spot it and RT

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