



National College for Teaching & Leadership

School Direct bulletin

Dear colleague

Welcome to your new look School Direct bulletin. This issue focuses on [subject knowledge enhancement](#) programmes – demonstrating how they can support your recruitment in shortage subjects.

We also share some advice on how to reach as many potential candidates as possible through your website. We are very keen to hear from you about your School Direct promotional activities. Please complete our [five-minute online survey](#) and tell us what you currently do and what you would like to do.

I hope you have seen my [recent update to ITT providers](#) highlighting some amendments to the delivery of ITT.

Charlie Taylor

Chief Executive, National College for Teaching and Leadership

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Subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) programmes

Now live – new SKE online directory

An [online directory](#) of pre-ITT [SKE programmes](#) is now available. If you offer SKE, promote your programmes to other schools and providers. Looking for SKE? Browse some of the programmes available. Note the directory is not an exhaustive list and is regularly updated.

If you offer SKE programmes and would like to add your course details to this new directory, please email ta.ske@education.gsi.gov.uk for further details.

How other schools are using SKE

Applicant 1 recently graduated with a First in physics and applied to a physics ITT course through School Direct. They completed an SKE programme equivalent to eight weeks to refresh the basics of physics that he had not used since his own GCSE. The School Direct lead school decided to break up the SKE programme to run alongside the ITT course, and commissioned its own head of physics to build training sessions outside the timetable spread over the first term between September and Christmas. The SKE funding was used to bring in supply cover for the head of physics.

Applicant 2 held an environmental science degree and applied to a chemistry ITT course through School Direct. They completed a 16 week chemistry SKE programme that was completed entirely by distance learning commissioned from a third-party provider and which ran from March to June. She began her ITT course in September.

Applicant 3 held a Spanish degree and applied to a languages ITT course through School Direct. The School Direct lead school used its SKE funding to commission the equivalent of a 16 week SKE programme from its own languages department that would be timetabled to run flexibly between Easter and September, paying overtime and supply cover where appropriate with the SKE funding. The programme would work towards developing the applicant's French language skills, prior to her starting her ITT course in September.

Applicant 4 applied in November. She held a degree in medical genetics and applied to a physics ITT course through School Direct. Her degree included modules that covered chemistry and biology, but not physics or mathematics. They began a 24 week physics SKE in the following January, which was commissioned from the School Direct partner HEI provider. The programme was completed in the summer, prior to her starting her physics ITT course.

Applicant 5 held an engineering degree but had spent a number of years in related work experience, including as a part-time instructor in a school. She had applied to a maths ITT course through School Direct. They agreed to take a 36 week maths SKE programme which the school commissioned from its partner ITT provider and which would start in February. She began the SKE programme and the final eight weeks were completed in parallel with the first term of her ITT course.

Did you know SKE can be DIY?

[SKE funding](#) now enables you to arrange your own programmes in-house. For example, you may want to approach a specialist leader in education from within your alliance to deliver the programme for you. Or you can speak to your partner ITT provider who may be running SKE programmes.

Find out more

This [introduction to SKE](#) guide gives further information and the [SKE operations manual](#) 2013–14 outlines funding eligibility and rates.

UCAS important reminder

UCAS' message on 'rejection by default'

UCAS has recently sent out a notice reminding schools that from 31 January, individual institutions/schools need to make sure their decisions to accept or reject the applicant have been recorded on the system. If not, their application will be automatically rejected.

Please also be aware that if an applicant fails to accept or decline their offers by a specified date, UCAS will decline all offers by default.

More information is in the [application calendar for UCAS Teacher Training applications](#) on the UCAS website.

Your marketing resource bank

Making the most of your website

As well as advertising your School Direct training places on the UCAS system, you should also promote them on your own website.

Not only is this one of the most cost effective and widely used marketing tools, but often first port of call for most candidates looking for new opportunities. We've created some [top tips](#) in our [marketing resource bank](#) to help get your School Direct website information right first time.

Have you seen?

[Charlie Taylor's recent update](#) – this is highlighting some amendments to the delivery of ITT.

[School Direct online community](#) – join the discussion on promoting and marketing School Direct to the local community.

[Primary or priority secondary](#) allocations – have you completed your ITT survey this week?