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National College for
Teaching & Leadership

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Welcome to the March edition of the Teacher Recruitment Bulletin. This contains vital information, which will help 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.

Amendments to ITT criteria

On Monday 29 January 2018, Minister Gibb wrote to the ITT sector about assessing candidates' suitability and maximising ITT recruitment, stating that we intended to make changes to the ITT criteria to support this.

We have now published the revised criteria and written to ITT providers with further detail. To see the contents of the letter please view the [ITT criteria notification letter](#).

ITT partnerships should carefully review the new ITT criteria in full. In addition to changes around assessing candidates' suitability, it includes other important updates for the 2018 to 2019 academic year, including fee charging and student support.

The new ITT criteria will replace the February 2017 version. The full guidance is published here: [Initial teacher training: criteria for providers](#).

Changes to the professional skills tests

On 12 February 2018, Minister Gibb announced changes to the professional skills tests, following feedback from the teaching profession, to remove financial and administrative barriers to teacher recruitment.

The following changes have been effective from Wednesday 14 February 2018:

- there will be no limit on the number of test attempts
- the lockout period, which previously meant candidates who had failed 3 tests in a subject could not re-take the test for 2 years, has been removed
- all candidates previously locked out will now be able to book tests for both subjects
- the number of free test bookings allowed per subject has increased from 1 to 3, with charges applied from the fourth test attempt
- a refund will be issued to candidates who sat their second or third attempted tests between 24 October 2017 and 14 February 2018

Skills test passes for ITT applicants continue to be valid for 3 years. If an ITT course starts after the 3 years have elapsed, candidates will be required to re-take the test.

For further information, please visit [professional skills tests](#) or call the learndirect helpline on 0300 303 9613 which is available Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm.

Register of apprenticeship training providers

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) opened the register of apprenticeship training providers for applications from accredited initial teacher training providers on Wednesday 28 February 2018.

We communicated the opening to ITT providers not currently registered on Friday 9 February 2018. The deadline for submission of applications is Friday 9 March 2018 at 5pm.

The ESFA will communicate results during April 2018. If you intend to deliver the [postgraduate teaching apprenticeship](#) in September 2018, you should apply before the deadline.

Please direct queries to ESFA at roatp.mailbox@education.gov.uk.

Returning teachers – career break pilot

During March, schools across south London, the South East and the West Midlands will be invited to participate in a pilot scheme to support teachers who have taken time out to care for others, to return to the classroom.

Lead schools will be funded to offer an enhanced support package to attract those who have taken a career break for caring reasons back into the profession. The offer includes mentoring, funding for continual professional development and National Professional Qualifications, membership of a professional association, a bursary to cover an acclimatisation period and a range of other measures aimed at tackling the career break penalty, to help people back to work.

The package will be available to any eligible returning teacher who secures a role at a participating school.

Schools who wish to be involved can find out more by emailing returntoteaching.nctf@education.gov.uk.

The deadline for applications is Thursday 29 March 2018 at 5pm.

Prestigious scholarships to attract chemistry and languages teachers

If you are recruiting trainee chemistry or languages teachers, please promote the £28,000, tax-free teacher training scholarships to your candidates. Both schemes are aimed at high-quality candidates who are passionate about chemistry and science or languages.

Applicants must have a 2:1 (or predicted) degree. Candidates with a 2:2 (or predicted) degree may be considered if they can demonstrate significant relevant subject knowledge. Successful applicants must secure a Department for Education-allocated ITT training place that leads to achieved qualified teacher status (QTS) status by September 2019.

Successful applicants to both schemes receive additional support to enhance their subject knowledge, gain access to high-quality professional development resources, and additional support to enhance their subject knowledge.

Chemistry applicants will receive membership to the Royal Society of Chemistry for 2 years. Candidates can apply via the [Royal Society of Chemistry](#); applications are open until Tuesday 31 July 2018 at 5pm.

Languages applicants must be training to teach French, German or Spanish; they will also have access to a dedicated mentor. Candidates can apply now via the [British Council](#).

For further details, including eligibility, please visit [Get Into Teaching](#).

Researchers in Schools – Maths and Physics Chairs programme 2018

We are seeking SCITTs and School Direct lead schools who can employ PhD-level experts to train as

classroom teachers in September 2018. These subject specialists will be Maths and Physics Chairs, delivered as part of the Researchers in Schools programme.

Researchers in Schools is led by our partner organisation, The Brilliant Club, and focuses on recruitment of PhD researchers to train as teachers in maths and physics, as well as other EBacc subjects.

For further information, please see our [information sheet for schools](#).

To discuss how to become a partner, email amy.broom@researchersinschools.org or telephone 020 7939 1947.

Intensive subject knowledge enhancement programme for hard-to-fill subjects

If you're interviewing potential teachers who need to improve their subject knowledge, a longer subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) course could help.

Intensive courses are available now lasting up to 28 weeks, so candidates that need more support can get up to speed by the time they start their teacher training this autumn.

SKE courses are fully funded by the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) and available in maths, physics, languages, chemistry, computing, biology, English, geography, design and technology, and primary maths. Eligible candidates with a 2:2 degree or above will receive a bursary of £200 per week to help with their living costs.

To find a place for your candidates, please contact a [SKE provider](#) who'll be happy to help with arranging a suitable course.

Spain's Visiting Teachers programme

If you're recruiting modern foreign language teachers now or for September 2018, the Department for Education international recruitment and acclimatisation programme, free to English schools, could help.

You will have access to a pool of qualified Spanish teachers. Every teacher has been rigorously assessed and interviewed by English headteachers, and must have qualified teacher status (QTS) before starting in England.

All teachers receive a fully funded, extensive acclimatisation package, inclusive of pre-arrival support, on-arrival residential event and continuing professional development to support their transition into life in England and further their knowledge of the national curriculum.

To receive a fully funded recruitment and acclimatisation service, please [register your interest](#).

For further information, please visit [Spain's Visiting Teachers programme](#).

Teacher subject specialism training

Teacher subject specialism training (TSST) courses are available for the current academic year 2017 to 2018 and are free for participants.

TSST is available to upskill non-specialist and returning teachers and increase the number of hours taught; it's also aimed at helping schools to build capacity in secondary mathematics, core maths, physics and modern foreign languages.

For further information, please visit [Teacher subject specialism training courses](#).

Strengthening QTS and improving career progression for teachers – last chance to respond

If you'd like to respond to the Department for Education consultation on strengthening qualified teacher status (QTS) and improving career progression for teachers, please do so before the deadline on Friday 9 March 2018 at 11:45pm.

This consultation explores how teachers could be supported during the early stages of their careers by strengthening QTS, and proposals on how all teachers can be supported throughout their careers, whether they are expert classroom teachers, school leaders or specialists in their field. This may be through continual professional development, mentoring, and sabbaticals.

For further information and to respond to the survey, please visit [strengthening qualified teacher status \(QTS\) and improving career progression for teachers](#).

ITT trainee data collections 2018 – ITT data management system

We can now confirm that NCTL will complete the 2017 to 2018 census collection and the 2016 to 2017 profiles collection on the current ITT data management system (DMS).

Please make a note of the following dates and data collections:

Monday 4 June to Friday 15 June 2018:

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DHLE) collection is an opportunity for HEIs to import DHLE employment data into the ITT DMS and sign off their final performance profiles data.

Monday 2 July to Friday 13 July 2018:

The July update is an opportunity to update ITT census data and submit new trainee data for the 2017 to 2018 academic year and sign-off.

We will contact providers shortly to provide advice on the new system, which will replace the current ITT DMS.

Teacher workload events – 6, 8 and 14 March 2018

The Department for Education teacher workload unit, in collaboration with school leaders and teachers across the country, is completing its current series of events in March. The purpose of the events is to showcase successful work done in schools to remove unnecessary teacher workload; they provide practical support to help governors, leaders, teachers and school ITT providers achieve the same.

Each event starts with a presentation from a keynote speaker, such as Sean Harford, the National Director

of Education at Ofsted, followed by workshops run by serving teachers and leaders who have successfully introduced strategies to reduce workload in their schools. The day will be interactive, so attendees will have the opportunity to share approaches with leaders from all types of schools.

Please take this final opportunity to sign up for one of the following events:

- Sheffield – Tuesday 6 March
- Exeter – Thursday 8 March
- Cambridge – Wednesday 14 March

All events run from 10am to 3:30pm. Read [further details about the teacher workload events](#) and sign up to secure a place.

Changes to NCTL social media channels

By Saturday 31 March 2018 all NCTL social media channels will merge with the Department for Education (DfE) channels. This follows the [changes to NCTL](#) that we announced in November last year.

- [NCTL Twitter](#) will close, please follow @educationgovuk, [Twitter.com/educationgovuk](#)
- The [NCTL Facebook page](#) will merge with the main [DfE Facebook page](#)
- [NCTL YouTube](#) will close. You can still view videos on the main [DfE YouTube channel](#)

To receive the latest updates from the DfE, please sign up for the new [teacher bulletin](#).

UCAS Teacher Training capitation invoice – 2017 admissions cycle

UCAS will shortly be issuing capitation invoices for all successfully placed applicants in the 2017 admissions cycle.

Invoices will be sent to the UCAS Teacher Training finance contact; if training providers haven't specified a finance contact, the invoice will be sent to the UCAS Teacher Training correspondent.

Invoices will be sent to the UCAS Teacher Training scheme training provider, which recruited the applicants. UCAS is unable to reissue invoices to alternative training providers where arrangements are in place between training providers within a partnership.

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