

Access Agreement for 2012-13

Name of institution	Northampton Teacher Training Partnership
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Part one: Introduction to your agreement

A. Your current position in relation to access and, where appropriate, retention

Northampton Teacher Training Partnership is a secondary SCITT providing ITT in English, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Design Technology. Based in Northampton, the Partnership is linked to Northampton School for Boys as the Lead School and a Partnership of approximately 12 Schools within Northampton and the surrounding villages and towns. Northampton School for Boys has also been awarded Teaching School status from April 2012. The partnership is accredited through the University of Bedfordshire.

Despite being a small SCITT, attraction and retention rates are very good and we strive to recruit from the local area as far as possible. Our success rates are also very good and details can be found on the Partnership's website www.nttp.org.uk. Recruitment from ethnic minority groups stand at around 10% of the cohort annually.

Northampton Teacher Training Partnership was recently inspected and awarded grade 2(2). It provides high quality ITT to give trainees the opportunity to gain QTS and, for suitably qualified applicants, PGCE (Professional Graduate Certificate in Education). The aim of the Partnership is to provide high quality teachers for Northamptonshire and the surrounding area.

Part two: Fee limits; spend on access and financial support for trainees

B. Fee limits

The Partnership intends to charge £8100 for each of the subjects offered starting from September 2012. It is anticipated that this will rise annually in line with government maximum fee rates and inflation.

C. Amounts of additional fee income to be spent on access measures

Additional fee income for the year AY2012-13 is expected to be in the region of £42,000. The Partnership will seek to provide additional support to trainees considered to be in hardship or in receipt of full maintenance grants. The value of this assistance will depend upon the level of need. Where suitable trainees are identified the Partnership will also provide assistance to enable trainees to have

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access to a laptop via the Partnership's Laptop Loan Scheme.

D. Financial support for trainees

The Partnership plans to spend up to 25% of the additional fee income on bursaries for trainees in receipt of a Maintenance Grant. The value of the bursary will depend upon the size of the Maintenance Grant received. A trainee in receipt of the maximum grant will receive the full bursary. Trainees in receipt of smaller maintenance grants will receive smaller bursaries. Details of the bursaries offered by the Partnership can be found on the Partnership's website. Additional support for all trainees, whether in receipt of Maintenance Grants or not, may be considered and will include access to the Partnership's Laptop Loan Scheme. The value of this "in kind" scheme is expected to be at least £250 per trainee per year. Further details of this scheme can be found on the Partnership's website.

Part three: outreach and retention

E. Outreach and retention work

The Partnership will continue to carry out outreach work within the local area, promoting teaching through open day events and advertising in local media. It will also look to participate in suitable recruitment events and continue to promote ITT through its' website. Activity on the website and the pages accessed is monitored using a "stat-counter". Applicants are asked to complete a brief questionnaire relating to how they chose NTTP as a place to train for ITT.

Monitoring of the ethnic diversity of trainees is seen as being very important. Applicants from ethnic minority groups are lower in Northamptonshire compared to National figures and so the Partnership will look for ways to increase recruitment in this area. As part of a larger Teaching School Alliance through Northampton School for Boys, advertising ITT through each of the schools' websites is as a key way to attract applicants such as those parents who may be considering a career change. At the same time we can raise the profile of teaching as a career to school pupils and also reach as wide a range of ethnically diverse groups as possible.

Recruitment and retention of trainees to the Partnership for all types of trainee has been steady for a number of years with up to 10% of each cohort being from a range of ethnic backgrounds. As a target we will aim to increase the number of trainees recruited from as wide a range of ethnic groups as possible. The Partnership will monitor both ethnicity and gender and seek ways to promote teaching as a career within these groups. Many of our trainees come straight from university and are in receipt of full maintenance grants. However, we have always attracted a number of trainees who are making a career change. We will look to support all trainees as much as possible through bursary support or "in

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kind” support such as our laptop loan scheme. Furthermore, the Partnership will seek to support, either financially or by “in kind” support measures, trainees who are deemed to be in genuine hardship to the point where their progression on the course may be hindered.

The results or recruitment and retention monitoring will be updated annually on the Partnership’s website and form part of the annual report to the Steering Group and OFFA.

Part four: Targets, milestones and monitoring

F. Targets and milestones

Being a small SCITT, it is difficult to provide statistically reliable data relating to applications from ethnic minority groups. Trainees attaining QTS and PGCE and subsequently gaining employment following training through the Partnership have always been very good and identified as a key strength of the Partnership. It is a testament to the quality of the Partnership’s training programme that most of the trainees produced each year gain employment with Northamptonshire schools and continue to work within the region for years afterwards.

Levels of bursary support will be monitored each year and form part of the Partnership’s annual return to OFFA. Data will be collected on numbers of trainees in receipt of full or partial maintenance grants and the amount of bursary support awarded. Monitoring will include ethnicity, gender and socio-economic group where data is provided. Currently, approximately 50% of trainees on the course are in receipt of a full maintenance grant. With only a small number of allocated places, it is difficult to increase this amount, so the Partnership will endeavour to at least maintain the level of recruitment from low income groups through advertising. This information will be made available to prospective trainees as well as current trainees through the Partnership website.

G. Institutional monitoring arrangements

Being a small SCITT with only 20 allocated trainees (AY2012-13) targets and milestones for monitoring the diversity of recruitment present a challenge. The Partnership undertakes to gather information on the ethnicity of applicants alongside successful applications and monitor this over a three-year period. It is anticipated that this will give a large enough sample of data to be able to draw a valid conclusion and effect subsequent year’s targets and milestones. Where a clear need arises such as a drop in applications from ethnic minorities or successful applications from ethnic minorities, the Partnership will endeavour to put measures in to place to address this issue. The results of this monitoring will form part of the report to the Steering Management Group each year. The collation of data is currently undertaken by the Senior Administrator and

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reported to the Steering Group. For the purposes of collecting and monitoring data on suitable trainees, the Partnership will use HEBSS to assess and award bursaries.

Part five: Information to students

H. Provision of information to trainees

Financial support guidelines for trainees can be found on the Partnership's website. Monitoring of bursary support will take place annually and a summary of the outcome made available on the Partnership's website at www.nttp.org.uk. It will also form part of the Partnership's annual return to OFFA.

