

ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: PORTSMOUTH PRIMARY SCITT

1. Introduction
 - 1.1 Portsmouth Primary SCITT has been in operation since April 2000. It has close links with both the LEA and Portsmouth University. All the training schools in the SCITT are in inner city Portsmouth, where a wide variety of cultures and ethnic groups thrive and grow in an ethos of mutual respect and understanding. The SCITT is able to offer a considerable number of local people a chance to train as successful primary teachers. The majority of the twenty-five graduates from the programme find employment in the Portsmouth area.
2. Length of agreement
 - 2.1 This agreement is for 5 years from the academic year 2006/07. However, we have committed to return to OFFA by May 2008 to seek approval for our monitoring criteria, which, due to a lack of current relevant data, has not yet been developed.
3. Fee limits
 - 3.1 We will charge a fee of £3,000 for all full-time postgraduate ITT courses from the 2006/07 academic year. The fee limit will rise with inflation, in line with annually published Government regulations.
4. Bursary support
 - 4.1 We will offer a bursary of £300 to any student who is in receipt of full state Maintenance grant of £2,700. Figures represent the position for 2006 and will be subject to inflationary rises. This bursary support will be new from 2006.
 - 4.2 Bursary payment will be made in one instalment of £300.00, payable in May of each academic year.
5. Publicising fees and financial support
 - 5.1 A number of methods will be used to ensure that prospective students are as clear as possible about the fee charged, and the amount of student support they may be entitled to. These are outlined below:
 - 5.2 Portsmouth SCITT and Portsmouth University websites both contain a section on finance, including fee and support information. Support information will include institutional support and support available through the government through the maintenance grant, teaching bursaries and maintenance loans.
 - 5.3 Leaflets are distributed after a presentation on each interview day, informing candidates about Portsmouth SCITT tuition fees, and the loans and grants available during the training year.
 - 5.4 This information will be again clearly articulated to applicants in writing at the offer stage, before they make their key decisions on whether to accept a place.

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6. Outreach

- 6.1 We will seek to identify areas of under-representation in our student cohort, when compared to HE sector from which we recruit. If we identify an area of significant under-representation, we will seek to address this and may do so by considering whether there might be any effective outreach initiatives, which could be directed at such groups.

7. Institutional Targets and milestones

- 7.1 We do not currently collect data, which would be suitable to determine baseline for targets and milestones around low income or socio-economic groups. However, we will wish to monitor the numbers of students participating in our institution who are in receipt of full or partial state support. We feel that monitoring against income will be particularly suitable, as it will be easy to collect data on this and should reflect the aspirations of the access agreement.
- 7.2 We will seek to maintain the proportion of our students in low-income groups, but will only be able to set meaningful targets once data is available. Therefore, we commit to return to OFFA to revise this agreement by May 2008, with a view to an amended agreement taking effect from the 2008/9 academic year, if we need to.

8. Monitoring Arrangements

- 8.1 We will formally monitor the progress of the access agreement at least once a year and report annually to the SCITT Management Group. Initial monitoring will be concerned with participation rates and the development of data on lower income and other under-represented groups. When specific data is accrued, we will look to monitor against this.
- 8.2 Our annual report to the SCITT Management Group will form the basis of our monitoring report to OFFA.