



## ACCESS AGREEMENT

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 South Coast SCITT exists to provide high quality, school-based teacher training to locally-based mature students who wish to teach in the Primary (Early Years) sector. Increasingly we have also been successful in recruiting recent graduates, both locally and nationally. We currently recruit 25 Trainees per year. We are seeking to expand the numbers of Trainees in future years, with the result that the figures contained in this 5-year proposal may be subject to amendment.
- 1.2 The SCITT is particularly successful at recruiting mature Trainees: currently we attract mature applicants and males at or above National average levels. We seek to continue to support access by these groups, and also to increase the proportion of our Trainees coming from under-represented groups, particularly those from minority ethnic backgrounds. This Access Agreement has been produced with these primary objectives.

### 2. Length of agreement

- 2.1 This agreement is for 5 years from the academic year 2009/10. We are committed to return to OFFA by May 2012 to seek approval for our monitoring criteria.

### 3. Fee limits

- 3.1 We will charge a fee of £3,100 for all full-time postgraduate ITT courses from the 2010/11 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 up to £200 to any Trainee who meets the Additional Support Criteria summarised below. In exceptional circumstances, the bursary can be increased to a maximum of £500. Initially, we shall impose a fixed limit of £5,000 on the Bursary Fund; this limit will be reviewed in light of our annual monitoring process.

- 4.2 Payments from the Bursary Fund will be open to all Trainees on the basis of the following Additional Support Criteria:
- a) Trainees who are in receipt of the full supplementary maintenance grant, will automatically receive the difference between their grant and our tuition fees up to a maximum of £200.
  - b) Trainees will be able to claim up to £200 towards costs of child-care or of support for other dependents, on the basis of a financial assessment. The existing format used for assessing applications to the Access to Learning Fund will be used as a basis for this assessment.
  - c) Trainees will be able to claim up to £200 towards exceptional travel costs, where the distance to their teaching placement is considered excessive.
  - d) Trainees may claim elements of both b) and c) above, as long as the total amount claimed under both criteria does not exceed £200.
  - e) In exceptional circumstances, trainees will be able to claim a discretionary bursary of up to a further £300, where they can show evidence of specific need. Additional bursary payments will require submission of a financial assessment, using the current Access to Learning Fund documentation. Any payments will be subject to the availability of funds within the fixed limits of the Bursary Fund.

Figures represent the position for 2009 and will be subject to inflationary rises.

- 4.3 Bursary payments will be payable on 31 January. Where a Trainee leaves the Programme prior to 1<sup>st</sup> December, they will be liable to pay half of the tuition fee. Where a Trainee leaves after 1<sup>st</sup> December, then the full tuition fee will be payable.

#### 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 The SCITT website will 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 Information will also be available in our Brochure which will be used in the course of any outreach activity.
- 5.4 This information will be clearly articulated to applicants in writing at offer stage, before they make their key decisions on whether to accept a place.

6. Outreach

- 6.1 We will seek to identify areas of under-representation within our Trainee cohort, when compared with benchmark data for the Programme catchment area, and for other locally-recruiting providers. The SCITT has agreed targets for recruitment from minority ethnic groups with the TDA, and will specifically target outreach funding on these groups. Impact of this work is monitored at least termly through the committee structure of the SCITT.

7. Institutional Targets and milestones

- 7.1 We currently monitor data which is suitable to determine baseline for targets and milestones around low income or socio-economic groups. We monitor the numbers of Trainees participating in our institution who are in receipt of full or partial state support.
- 7.2 Our data to date reflects that on average 12% of Trainees annually have accessed additional bursaries and we will continue to monitor this to inform future revisions of this agreement.

8. Monitoring Arrangements

- 8.1 We will formally monitor the implementation of the Access Agreement at least once a term through the Governing Body of the SCITT. Monitoring will be concerned with participation rates and the development of data on lower income and other under-represented groups, against which to monitor. As specific baselines, targets, and milestones are determined we will incorporate these into our Self Evaluation Document which is monitored termly by the Quality Committee.
- 8.2 Our annual Self Evaluation Document will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.

**2009**