

Statement on the Institutional and Personal Benefits of Involvement in UCET

Introduction

The Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET) is a membership organisation representing the UK's higher education institution-based teacher education and related provision.

UCET's Vision is:

"..a world in which professional educators in all sectors of education exhibit inter-personal, pedagogical and organisational competencies of the highest standard and work collaboratively in partnership with colleagues in the wider public context; as such, as part of their own development, they should receive the formally accredited, scholastic, research informed higher-education they need to provide learners with educational opportunities of the highest quality."

UCET's Mission is to:

- *Facilitate communication and co-operation between members*
- *Provide a forum for sharing information*
- *Enhance the quality and impact of education by championing and applying research*
- *Influence policy by working in partnership with others and by campaigning and lobbying*
- *Promote the place of education as an interdisciplinary-based subject that adds value to the creation and communication of knowledge within the broader higher-education context*

UCET is funded, primarily, from annual subscriptions from member institutions currently ranging – depending on the size of the institution – from £1,635 to £3,795. Annual turnover is in the region of £290,000. This covers the cost of three full-time staff, a part-time Academic Secretary and a part-time Policy & Liaison Officer and all accommodation and other expenses.

Benefits of membership

Benefits of UCET membership include:

- Being part of a national body that allows the HE-led teacher education sector to speak with a collective voice on both broad issues of principle and detailed policies and procedures
- The ability to contribute to – and share the fruits of – UCET responses to public consultations
- The receipt of regular and up to date advice and information about, inter alia, policy developments, sources of funding, research findings and networking opportunities

- Direct support from UCET on administrative or other difficulties faced by institutions in their relationship with statutory or other organisations (including government, local authorities, inspection bodies and data collection agencies)
- The scope to influence the development of UCET policies and activities
- Access to a range of networking and information sharing opportunities (including committee meetings, seminars and discussion groups etc)
- Inclusion of course details and other information in national and international UCET publications providing publicity for the institution and the sector
- Access to the UCET external examiner seeking service
- Access to the private members' area on the UCET website

Benefits of direct involvement in UCET

UCET recognises the contribution of those who regularly attend and contribute to UCET committees and other meetings, particularly those who serve as officers and the chairs/vice-chairs of committees. Their institutions, as a result of such contributions, benefit directly from the services described above.

Those institutions that benefit most from UCET are those that are actively involved. The particular benefits to them include:

- Strategic involvement in the highest levels of the teacher education community, and direct influence on UCET and, through that, policy and practice throughout the UK
- Invaluable and varied continuing professional development opportunities
- Immediate access to information and advice provided through UCET committees, seminars, discussion meetings and other networking opportunities and the scope to make that information and advice quickly available to other institutional colleagues
- The development of a national (and sometimes international) profile for institutional representatives and institutions themselves
- The opportunity to represent UCET – and the sector – at conferences, meetings etc.
- Direct access to key decision-takers from government, statutory agencies etc.

UCET recognition of member contributions

UCET will meet the costs (including out of pocket expenses) of any representative of a member institution representing UCET at conferences, formal meetings with external agencies/individuals or other non-UCET events where such costs are not otherwise covered. (representation at committees is, however, considered one of the benefits members receive in return for subscription income).

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February 2006