



UCET SUMMER NEWSLETTER: JULY 2019

The implementation in England of the government's teacher **recruitment & retention strategy** has been moving steadily forward since the last newsletter. Market warming events for organisations that might want to deliver the **Early Career Framework** and develop curriculum materials were held in April, and the formal invitation to tender in relation to the pilot areas was issued on 28 June with a deadline of 3 August. UCET has been arguing for the maximum possible involvement of HEIs, either as main contractors or as subsidiary partners in the delivery of the ECF and, once national roll-out (with funding of £130m) has been achieved there should be opportunities for UCET members to get involved. In the meantime, ministers have appointed an expert group to review the existing **ITE core content framework** (development by Stephen Munday's group in the light of the Carter review) in the context of the ECF. Although membership of the group has not been without controversy, UCET is pleased that James Noble-Rogers will be there to represent the HE sector, and that two other of the seven group members have a higher-education background. The group will consult colleagues from across the sector about early drafts, before making recommendations to ministers towards the end of the year. UCET has also been involved in discussions about the development of a new **apply system**, and recently invited members to express an interest in joining a new DfE forum to discuss the issues. Also on the recruitment and retention strategy, a key piece of work over the coming months will be the DfE **shape of the ITE market review**, possibly the most significant aspect for our members of the whole strategy; we will keep you all in touch with developments. As well as taking part in formal discussions with officials through meetings with the UCET Executive and other scheduled events and through attendance at events such as ITTAG and the TEAG round-table, we also now have regular informal meetings with the ministerial special policy advisors (SPADS), as well as continuous conversations with officials from DfE, OFSTED etc. in person and by phone.

UCET is also represented on OfSTED's Expert Advisory Group on the development of a new **ITE inspection framework**. The new framework will be developed during 2019 for consultation in early 2020. There will be a series of pilot inspections towards the end of this year that will inform the consultation proposals. OfSTED has also been conducting research into ITE in the form of questionnaires and research visits. UCET expressed concern about the content and implications of the original research questionnaires and declined to forward them to the membership or recommend their completion. OfSTED are now engaging with us and other representative bodies to make sure that similar misunderstandings do not arise again.

As part of the preparation for a new **UCET strategy** to be launched in September 2020, the work of the **Intellectual Base of Teacher Education Group (IBTEG)**, which Trevor Mutton is chairing, has been progressing, with discussions so far focused on the values and principles that should underpin teacher education and the distinctive contribution of the higher education sector. A key feature of the current UCET strategy is **constructive engagement** with government and other organisations responsible for setting and implementing teacher education policy and which, for organisations such as UCET, is generally recognised to be the most effective way to secure influence. A recent example of this is the DfE's announcement in July to replace pre-entry **skills tests** with on-programme audits of students' skills in literacy and numeracy. We are given to understand that the decision was a large extent due to the continuous lobbying on this issue by UCET, in partnership with NASBTT, the Chartered College and the Teaching Schools Council.

Recruitment to QTS **apprenticeships** in 2018/19 was, to say the least, modest and to a large extent may simply have diverted applicants away from School Direct Salaried programmes. UCET continues to attend meetings of the Trailblazer Group, where moves towards developing an undergraduate route appear to have stalled. Efforts are also being made to make it easier, following a commitment by DfE in the Recruitment & Retention strategy, to access the apprenticeship levy to fund CPD for teachers, including potentially those that are delivered at Master's level. Options include the development of bespoke programmes for teachers, or the adaptation and contextualisation of existing generic apprenticeships that have already been agreed. UCET members should note that, once approved, any registered apprenticeship provider will be able to deliver the CPD apprenticeships. They are not owned by the body that develops them.

In **Wales**, USCET Chair, JNR and others are holding regular meetings with the Welsh Government, one of which resulted in additional funding of some £30,000 to each teacher education HEI in Wales to support partnership working. We are also meeting with WG, Estyn and the Education Workforce Council to discuss consistent assessment of student teachers against the new teacher standards, and are planning a special conference in partnership for the autumn. In **Northern Ireland**, we were pleased to hold a special event at Stranmillis University College on 21 May to demonstrate to members of the government departments, the Education & Training Inspectorate, the Education Authority and the General Teaching Council, the distinct and indispensable contribution that HEIs make to teacher education and teacher supply in Northern Ireland. Many thanks to Peter Finn from St. Mary's University College for helping to lead on this. We are also delighted that work commissioned by the Education Department through UCET NI, and carried out by colleagues from Ulster University, into professional learning frameworks for teachers has now been published and can be accessed at: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/10962/ucet-northern-ireland-report-teacher-professional-learning-framework-project>

JNR was delighted to **visit** colleagues at Birmingham City University, University College Birmingham and York St. John University to talk about the current policy landscape for the universities involved in teacher education. He was also pleased to chair an Inside Government conference on teaching apprenticeships and to speak at a Royal Society of Chemistry event on teacher recruitment. Other meetings and events attended included: the annual TEAN conference in Birmingham, several catch-up meetings with DfE officials, a meeting with the Brilliant Club and with Place2Be, the Sheffield Hallam Festival of Education, an EU funded InfoTed symposium in

Brussels on the professional development of teacher educators, a meeting with the Home Office and DfE on migration policy and its implications for teacher supply, a meeting with NARIC and NASBTT to talk about equivalency issues and the UUUK/Guild HE teacher Education Advisory Group. Jackie Moses also represented UCET at forums to discuss skills test issues and professional development.

On the **governance** front, we are delighted that Kevin Mattinson from BCU has been elected as Chair Elect of UCET for 2019/20 and will become Chair when Sean Cavan stands down at the beginning of 2020/21. We are also delighted that Trevor Mutton from Oxford has been elected as Vice Chair, and that Tanya Ovenden-Hope has been elected to the Executive Committee. Des Hewitt from Warwick is the new Chair of Primary ITE primary & early years forum and Jan Ashbridge from Cumbria is the new Vice Chair. The School Reference Group also has its first Vice Chair, Jake Capper from Archbishop Holgate's School to serve alongside Chair Julie Greer. The new UCET NI chair is Roisin McPhilemy from the OU and the Vice Chair will be Anne Heaslett from Stranmillis. We are extremely grateful to those standing down from UCET positions at the end of this year, including Pat Black (primary chair); Linda Clarke (UCET NI Chair) and Tanya Ovenden-Hope (co-opted Executive Committee member).

The UCE Executive Committee has agreed to instigate a **lifetime achievement award** for individuals that have made an outstanding contribution to teacher education. We would welcome nominations for who might receive the award. Details of the criteria can be found at: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/11033/ucet-lifetime-achievement-award-criteria>

Colleagues from UCET institutions were again represented at the World Assembly of the **International Council on Education for Teaching (ICET)**, which took place this year near Johannesburg in South Africa. Both James Noble-Rogers and Executive Committee member Linda la Velle are members of the ICET Board, and highlights from the World Assembly included JNR and Jackie Moses leading a session on teacher recruitment and retention in England, Linda la Velle and JNR on the recent '[Building research informed teacher education communities](#)' paper, Linda la Velle and Sarah Younie on the MESH guides and Bea Noble-Rogers and colleagues from Ghana on the teacher education reform process in Ghana.



JNR and Jackie Moses on teacher recruitment and retention at ICET 2019 World Assembly

Finally, registration for the 5-6 November UCET conference in Stratford-upon-Avon is still open, with discounts of 10% available to institutions with five or more delegates. Keynote speakers will include Mary Bousted from the NEU; Moyra Boland from Glasgow, Trevor Mutton from Oxford, SRG Chair Julie Greer and Caroline Daly from UCL and a plenary session led by John Furlong and colleagues on teacher education reforms in Wales. We are also planning to have a distinct research strand, as well as evening entertainment and the now traditional boat experience. Please visit: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/conference> to secure your place.

Happy summers!

UCET
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