**Additional guidance from UCET on student teachers on DET courses disrupted due to Covid 19**

**19 March 2020**

ETF as stated that it recognizes that the current extreme situation means disruption for both providers and student teachers on FE ITE programmes. We are keen that this does not unfairly work against those student teachers who were progressing well and had an expectation of satisfactorily completing their ITE programmes. Therefore, we are issuing the following recommendations to Awarding Organisations to cover this particular period with regard to reasonable adjustment. These relate to the requirements for teaching practice and corresponding number of observations. We hope by the issue of this document to avoid disparities in the ways in which Awarding Organisations respond to the current situation.

The following applies in particular to, but not limited to, those undertaking a one year Pre-Service DET programme or those who are in the second year of a two year Pre- or In-Service programme with an expectation of graduating in Summer 2020. Although depending on how long the current disruption lasts it may also apply to those currently in the first year of two year programmes. Additional guidance will be issued should this be the case.

Providing that the student teacher has satisfactorily completed all other course assignment work, it is acceptable for Awarding Organisations to award a Pass to student teachers who in their opinion have , or are on a trajectory towards, meeting the professional standards for teaching in the learning and skills sector and whose programmes meet the requirements set out in the ETF DET criteria, other than those relating to placement hours and lesson observation when these are not practicable because of the current situation. In such cases, Awarding Institutions should consider what alternative measures might be taken to allow students to demonstrate that they have met the required standards. Examples of these alternative measures could be:

* Over 70% of the teaching practice hours already achieved
* 6 teaching observations demonstrate a satisfactory or better level of achievement
* A detailed assessment by a mentor or line manager that in their opinion the student teacher has demonstrated they have met or were on a trajectory to meet the programme requirements.

NB-This is not an exhaustive or prescriptive list. In every case a detailed action plan which highlights development areas for student teachers to take forward in to their first year of teaching should be provided.

Hopefully the above means we will not disadvantage those promising students who have shown competence to date whilst not compromising the quality of those progressing to the workforce.

Individual awarding institutions have discretion to set their own further requirements, in the context of their validation procedures and external examiner expectations, in relation to programme content and assessment.

This supplementary guidance applies until the end of this academic year when it will be subject to review.

Students successfully completing programmes that adhere to the ETF’s DET criteria, as amended in the light of this supplementary guidance, will be able to progress towards QTLS.

UCET are happy to advise colleagues, or discuss the implications, on this guidance. Please contact Post 16 Chair Karen McGrath on karen.mcgrath@bcu.ac.uo or Vice Chair Russell Shobrook on russell.shobrook@plymouth.ac.uk