

 A Registered Charity (No 275082)

*9-11 Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0EH*

*T: 020 7621 6836*

*info@ucet.ac.uk*

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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the UCET Executive Committee meeting, held on 7th December at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Virtual Online Meeting**

Attendance:

Pat Black; Clare Brooks; Sean Cavan; Caroline Daly; Max Fincher; Spencer Hennessey; Des Hewitt; Vini Lander; David Littlefair; Kevin Mattinson (Chair); Jackie Moses; Margaret Mulholland; Trevor Mutton; James Noble-Rogers; Cat Scutt; Paul Vare; Roger Woods. Jenny Wynn.

Apologies:

Hazel Bryan; Jake Capper; Emma Hollis; Rachel Lofthouse; Jo McIntyre; Roisin McPhilemy; Tanya Ovenden-Hope; Lynn Senior; Elaine Sharpling;

1. Declarations of interest
* None.
1. Minutes & matters arising (enc.)
* The EC agreed the previous minutes were accurate.
* An update was given in respect of latest developments in relation to iQTS, including the invitation to apply to deliver pilot programmes from September 2022.
* A working group with significant UCET involvement has been established to discuss the new PCET ITE qualification requirements.
* A sub-group of the UCET CPD forum has been established to draft a follow-up paper to the ‘Effective CPD’ paper. An initial meeting will take place by the end of the term.
* There had been a healthy attendance at the UCET annual conference; all being well, the conference should be in-person again at Stratford upon Avon in 2022.
1. ITE Market Review
* JNR summarized the Government’s response to the consultation on the MR, and the key changes around placements, mentoring, accreditation, and regulations. Despite some welcome changes and commitments, concern remained about ‘hidden’ levels of prescription.
* The DfE has responded that some of the changes in the ITE requirements were in draft form and subject to further discussion, and that apparent inconsistencies would be addressed.
* It was agreed that UCET pursues the obfuscation, confusion and inconsistencies in the response, especially the material in the annexes, which is worrying.
* UCET will support all its members through the accreditation process early next term as well as continuing to engage in lobbying and influencing activities. Meetings for UCET members had already been arranged.
* In regards to the accreditation applications’ process, concern was expressed that the subject/phase-specialist provision might be affected by rushed applications.
* A question was asked about the degree of rigidity in the new partnership models.
* It was suggested that UCET also target its effort into lobbying on the impacts of teacher supply to schools and raising schools’ awareness that, if their partner providers are not accredited, this could impact upon the supply of ECTs.
* The first Apply figures from the DfE, looking at applications for PG routes for 2022 entry, published this week help cement the argument that if providers are lost under the new system, recruitment will suffer.
* It was asked if the DfE has fully considered the (negative) impact upon schools of the proposed changes, and if they have completed a full risk assessment. What happens to schools if providers are not accredited?
* JNR confirmed that he will seek another meeting with the Minister, and also write a letter outlining UCET concerns on this and other issues
* It was debated whether or not UCET members should apply for accreditation in the first round of applications in February 2022 or wait until June. Various concerns were expressed, not least that some providers are worried of losing high quality partners if they don’t apply in the first round, but also that there is not enough time for providers to submit applications that reflect a truly collaborative and co-constructive working model by February 7th 2022. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate to advise members not to apply in round 1.
* **Key actions summarized were:**
	+ **Send a letter to Minister Walker expressing the concerns over the pressures upon providers and especially the 7th February deadline.**
	+ **Focus upon the inconsistencies in the detail of the MR annexes and added levels of prescription.**
	+ **To support as many UCET members to aim for applying for accreditation as possible.**
	+ **Seek reassurance that a range of research can be used in the design of ITE curricula.**
	+ **Draft a statement (and think about how best to present it) around OfSTED’s role in the accreditation process and how this might represent a conflict of interest.**
* It was agreed that UCET should collectively formulate and consolidate models of what might constitutes an ‘intensive’ experience (formerly ‘intensive placement’).
1. OfSTED issues:
* UCET issued advice to members recently on how to handle any forthcoming ITE inspections.
* The issue has been discussed at the annual conference, and recent Primary, Secondary and Management forums on inspections experiences and a summary of the findings.
* UCET will back any members who feel they want to issue any legal challenge to how OfSTED are handling its inspections.
* It was agreed **to follow up the role of OfSTED in the accreditation process and for UCET to closely monitor future inspections from January 2022.**
1. Covid, ITE placements and DfE guidance:
* Capacity in schools is now a real problem.
* Both NASBTT and the DfE had carried out surveys which showed that some 30% of providers are experiencing serious placement issues, due to both the ECF (lack of mentoring capacity) and the effects of Covid.
* The DfE has issued a revised FAQ document in light of questions and comments from UCET members.
* In some areas, many schools who were last graded as ‘outstanding’ by OfSTED did not receive the same grading this year; the pressures on schools’ capacity is at breaking point and placements are harder to secure for trainees than ever before.
* It was noted that the raft of deadlines and timescales are too tight, e.g. for accreditation process in February, and suggested that UCET ask the DfE what contingency plans are in place if Covid cases rise.
1. Wales and Northern Ireland developments
* In Wales, there is a similar situation with confusion arising over the new regulatory functions between ESTYN and EWC and Welsh Government and the accreditation of ITE provision. A paper had been sent to EWC/ESTYN/WG outlining the concerns.
* A letter has been sent to the Minister on workforce planning and teacher supply availability in Northern Ireland; the minister confirmed such action needs to be taken.
1. UCET issues:
2. *December UCET newsletter*
* To follow.
1. *Investment update*
* UCET has circa £700,000 invested currently. RW asked if the EC was happy for him to sign off documentation allowing Quilter Cheviot to transfer its investment into a fund exclusively for charities, which has sturdier guarantees on ethical investing. The EC agreed.
1. AOB
* None.

Date of the next meeting: 4th January 2022