

UCET EASTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

More than a year's worth of frenetic activity came to a temporary halt on 7 February with the deadline for submission in England of round 1 **Market Review** applications for accreditation to deliver QTS programmes from September 2024. The results are expected in May. UCET held events for members to share approaches to drafting their bids, and passed on questions from member institutions, which were addressed in the DfE FAQ documents, eight version of which were issued in the run up to Christmas. The number and proportion of applications that are successful will indicate the extent to which government is true to its word, and that: the accreditation process is '*open, transparent and equitable*'; any application that meets the new Quality Requirements will be successful (and, provided CCF requirements are met) providers will not be penalised if their applications reference evidence with which either OfSTED or DfE disagree. UCET and other organisations will seek to hold government to account for each of these commitments. The next stages in the MR process will be follow up DfE 'support' for those successful during round one, and the opening of applications for accreditation under round 2. For round 2, UCET will again be holding events to support members prepare their applications, and to this end would welcome providers who submitted particularly strong round 1 applications to help their colleagues in round 2.

OfSTED ITE inspections in England resumed in January and will continue for the rest of this term and next. UCET stands ready to provide confidential advice to members either immediately before or during the inspections. Colleagues should ensure that programme design and delivery is compliant with the ITE requirements and with the OfSTED inspection framework and handbook, copies of which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/initial-teacher-training-criteria/initial-teacher-training-itt-criteria-and-supporting-advice> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/initial-teacher-education-ite-inspection-framework-and-handbook>, and be ready to challenge any questionable suggestions about non-compliance during inspections themselves. Other things to bear in mind include: how to demonstrate consistency in terms of outcomes and entitlements in regards to mentor support; how feedback is given through a 'subject-specific' lens; how centre-based and school-based elements of ITE are purposefully integrated; how the quality and consistency of mentoring is assured; and how mentors are aware of their roles as 'expert practitioners' and that they have a good understanding of how the CCF is embedded in ITE curricula and in what they do.

The level of **applications** to ITE programmes in England for 2022/23 have returned to worrying pre-pandemic levels, further details of which can be found at

<https://www.tes.com/magazine/news/general/itt-teacher-training-recruitment-applications-plummet-24> a trend which is not helped by the continuing difficulty of securing **placements** because of the continuing (and possibly worsening) impact of Covid, the demands placed on mentor capacity by the ECF and other pressures faced by schools. The latest DfE advice to providers about placement issues, which includes a 'last resort' option of requesting institution-level relaxations to the ITE criteria, can be found at: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/13903/support-with-itt-delivery-2021-to-2022>. The results of a UCET survey about the ongoing impact of Covid can be found at: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/13699/covid-related-and-other-ite-disruption-january-2021>.

In **Wales**, regular meetings between USCET and colleagues from Welsh Government, the Education Workforce Council and Estyn have been continuing, with discussions covering: the rationalisation of regulatory pressures from the EWC and Estyn; recruitment to ITE, covid mitigation strategies; and revisions to the ITE accreditation criteria. In **Northern Ireland**, JNR and other UCETNI colleagues gave evidence in person at Stormont to the Independent Review of Education. We are also pleased that the Department of Education in Northern Ireland has provided UCET with circa £10,000 to fund research being carried out by colleagues from two UCETNI member institutions related to Teacher Professional Learning (TPL).

A sub-group of the UCET **CPD forum** has been established to draft an updated draft of last year's effective CPD paper, a copy of which can be found at: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/12611/ucet-paper-on-effective-continuing-professional-development-jan-2021> The new paper will identify, amongst other things, gaps in what is covered by the ECF and NPQs. Also on the CPD front, the DfE has announced relaxations for the way the ECF is delivered, including scope for greater contextualisation and flexibility. A copy of the DfE letter can be found at: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/13910/dfe-ecf-relaxation-of-reforms-new-suite-of-npqs-march-2022>

UCET is continuing to work with the Education and Training Foundation and DfE on the development of a new teaching qualification for the **FE and skills sector** through membership of the ETF working group. The new qualification will replace the Diploma in Education and Training (DET) from September 2023 and all publicly funded ITE qualifications for the sector will have to meet the new qualification requirements. Details of bursaries for students on some pre-service ITE programmes in the sector were also announced this term and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fe-funding-initial-teacher-education-ite-bursaries-2022-to-2023>.

Most **UCET meetings** for the rest of this academic year will continue to be on-line, although some forums have decided that, for the first time in over two years, to meet in person for the final meeting. Going forward, we anticipate a mixed approach, thus benefiting from the advantages each format has to offer. The **UCET conference** for 2022 will, however, be face to face and will take place in Stratford upon Avon on 1-2 November. Keynotes will include: Tim Brighouse & Mick Waters, drawing on their recent book 'Our Schools, Building on Previous Best'; the Chief Inspector from Scotland Gayle Gorman; and Chief Executive of the Chartered College Alison Peacock. Registration for the conference will open later in the year. In the meantime, please add the date to your diaries. Other non-UCET face to face meetings are also beginning to take place, and JNR was pleased to speak at events at the University of East Anglia and Newman University. Virtual meetings attended by UCET officers on behalf of the membership have included: regular meetings with DfE; UUK; Teacher Education Advisory Group; the

NASBTT Board; the APPG for the Teaching Profession, and its teacher development sub-group; The Scottish Deans of Education; and the Chartered College.

The results of applications to deliver the new **iQTS** qualification from September 2023 were announced in February can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-qualified-teacher-status-igts/introducing-the-international-qualified-teacher-status-igts-pilot>. Congratulations to those UCET members who were successful. Other international developments include: the invitation to apply to UCET for Gordon Kirk Travel scholarships, which close on 31 March (<https://www.ucet.ac.uk/13756/ucet-gordon-kirk-travel-scholarships-2022>), the forthcoming World Assembly of the International Council on Education for Teaching (**ICET**) which will take place at Bath Spa university on 21-23 June (<https://www.ucet.ac.uk/13846/icet-64th-world-assembly-bath-spa-university-21-23rd-june-2022-1st-announcement-and-call-for-papers>) and the appointment of a new ICET President, details of which can be found at: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/13871/icet-seeks-its-next-president>.

Nominations for a number of **UCET officer** positions for the 2022/23 academic year will be invited soon. Anyone interested in standing and who would like to know more about what the roles entail should contact j.noble-rogers@ucet.ac.uk. The positions are:

- UCET Chair Elect (to be elected by Council/Management Forum)
- UCET Vice Chair (to be elected by Council/Management Forum)
- Chair ITE Primary & Early Years forum (to be elected by the forum)
- Vice Chair Primary & Early Years forum (to be elected by the forum)
- Vice Chair NI committee (to be selected by the Committee)
- One Executive Committee co-opted place

We would, finally, like to wish everyone as restful an Easter as possible. Our thoughts go out to all those in the world suffering from conflict and pandemic. And a special call out to our friend and colleague, ITE Primary & Early Years forum chair Des Hewitt, who we hope to see return after his recent illness as soon as possible.

UCET

March 2022