UCET
Universities' Council for the Education of Teachers

Promoting Quality in Teacher Education



In England, there were a number of key policy developments during the second term of the academic year.

UCET had several meetings with DfE to discuss the process for giving eligible providers an earlier than expected opportunity to apply for re-accreditation to deliver ITE programmes from either 2026/27 or 2027/28, something which had been called for in our pre-election manifesto/briefing paper.

The opportunity is open to formerly accredited providers who are acting as Lead Partners in the current academic year and who have not been in receipt of two consecutive Ofsted RI or inadequate judgements.

Further details of the process can be found here. We are working to ensure that the accreditation process is as open, transparent and collegiate as possible and are on hand to support member institutions, both individually and collectively, through the process.

UCET Easter 2025 Newsletter

For more news and information, please visit:
www.ucet.ac.uk/news

Email: info@ucet.ac.uk

UCET is a registered charity (no. 275082).

Another key announcement was the launch of Ofsted's consultation on inspection methodologies, which will apply to ITE inspections when they resume in January 2028.

Details of the proposals can be found here.

Please do respond to the consultation at an institutional level, and we are grateful to those colleagues who have shared key points for inclusion in the UCET response with us. We have identified a number of concerns, all of which we have shared with the membership. These relate, in particular, to:

- the proposed use of a 5-point grading scale instead of a more straightforward, and less subjective, 'met/not met' approach;

- the proposed use of crude numerical outcome metrics relating to, for example, employment and completion rates which we believe to be inappropriate, misleading and potentially damaging to the ITE sector.

UCET's formal response to the consultation, which has been supplemented by a number of meetings between UCET and Ofsted, is available here.

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Ofsted

Improving the way Ofsted inspects education: consultation document

OFSTED: Thematic Monitoring Visits

As previously reported, there will not (following representations made by UCET and NASBTT) be any full ITE inspections during the current academic year; the next inspections will begin in January 2026.

Ofsted will be using the fallow year to carry out about 70 Thematic Monitoring Visits (TMVs) which will focus on key aspects of ITE such as SEND, ITAP, mentoring, curricula and partnership arrangements.

ITE providers will not be graded through these visits. There will not be any implications for either the timing or focus of future ITE inspections. Neither will providers be identified in the report that will emerge from the TMVs, although those visited will be listed in an annexe.

UCET advice is that members need not prepare in advance for these visits, and there is no need to postpone staff leave or work at weekends. Colleagues who are visited will share details of their experiences at relevant forum meetings.

Apprenticeships

A number of key policy changes in regard to apprenticeships, all of which have implications for the PGTA and the TDA, were made this term.

The minimum duration of an apprenticeship has been reduced from 12 to 8 months, which means that the award of QTS and the End Point Assessment for the PGTA can be brought into closer alignment, thus removing some of the risks associated with the PGTA, including the implications of teachers dropping out between the award of QTS and the EPA, and the expectation that 'new learning' takes place after the QTS award.

The requirements relating to Grade 2 achievements in maths and English have also been removed. GCSE maths and English requirements for all ITE programmes remain, but the change does open the way for entrants to QTS apprenticeships to take equivalency tests if they do not hold the actual GSCE qualifications. Further details can be found here.

Requirements relating to EPA, including the scope to delegate EPAs, have also been simplified. UCET held a further workshop on apprenticeships on 10 March and we will hold others in the future as required.

Details of recruitment to QTS programmes in England for 2024/25 were announced in December and showed that recruitment to primary and secondary programmes was at 88% and 62% of target respectively, only marginally better than the previous year.

Relevant UCET forums will be monitoring applications for the current year and discussing the implications with DfE.

UCET and NASBTT also issued a joint statement about recruitment practices, including the importance of giving applicants sufficient time to progress and consider applications and offers.

UCET Equalities Group

The UCET Equalities sub-group has gone from strength to strength in recent years thanks, in large part, to the excellent work of its founder, Professor Vini Lander (Leeds Beckett) to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude. Vini has now taken a well-deserved retirement and we are pleased that Balbir Kaur will take over as Chair to move the work of the group forward.

The Abrahart Ruling

UCET held a workshop on the implications for ITE providers of the Abrahart ruling, which attracted a high turnout. Please contact us if you would like to listen to the recording.

UCET Early Years working group

A new Early Years working group, chaired by Louise Atkins, has been established under the umbrella of the ITE Primary & Early Years forum. The group has already sent a letter to ministers raising a number of issues relating to, for example, EYITT allocations, and funding and requirements for staffing early years provision in schools. A number of productive meetings have also taken place between members of the group and relevant DfE officials.

Other UCET working groups:

- **Sustainability and Climate Change**
- **Artificial Intelligence & ITE**
- **ITE partnerships & the role of education departments within HEIs.**

Please contact info@ucet.ac.uk if you would like to join any of these groups.

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In the FE & Skills sector, UCET has been in negotiation with DfE and the Education and Training Foundation (ETF) about the requirement that students on DIT and other fundable programmes experience at least 20-hours of delivering lessons live online.

UCET carried out a survey of members that demonstrated that the requirement was unmanageable for HEIs and partner colleges, and that there were other ways of securing the same outcomes in terms of skills and abilities. We have proposed an alternative form of words which will better meet the needs of student teachers, colleges and providers.

Other developments include the announcement of bursaries for pre-service ITE programmes in the sector: Financial Incentives for ITT courses starting in 2025/26



UCET Annual Conference 2025

The 2025 UCET conference will take place at the Queen's Hotel on Leeds on 11-12 November. The theme will be: 'How can Teachers and Teacher Educators develop as inquiring professionals'.

Keynote speakers agreed so far include:

Daniel Muijis (QUB); Caroline Daly (UCL, IoE); Rupert Knight (Nottingham) and Anne Phelan from UBC in Canada. The evening entertainment will be a Madness tribute.

We have this year invited colleagues to submit symposia and workshop proposals in the form of 250 word abstracts, which summarise the content of the proposed session and explain how it will link to the conference theme.

The deadline for submissions, which should be sent to James: j.noble-rogers@ucet.ac.uk is **31 July 2025**. Registration links for the conference will be circulated soon.

UCET Teacher Education Blog

We are in the process of establishing a new UCET blog to give colleagues from across the UCET membership the opportunity to publish teacher education related articles on , for example, opinion pieces, reserach findings, reflections etc.

The opportunity will be open to colleagues at all stages of their careers and with varying amounts of publishing experience. Proposals for the blog will be considered by a panel of reviewers. UCET will also identify contributions as constituting scholarly activity.

The project is being led by Dr Keither Parker (York St. John) and by a small editorial panel and wider reference group.

Please keep an eye out for further details and encourage your colleagues to contribute.

In **Wales**, UCET commissioned Professor Moira Hulme to conduct an appreciative inquiry into ITE called *Moving the discourse from problems to possibilities: contributing to a national ITE strategy for Wales*. It is an excellent report which is well worth a read and will inform our future discussions with Welsh Government, Estyn and others.

In **Northern Ireland**, the Minister for Education has made statements statements referring the possibility of additional investment in CPD for teachers and school leaders and UCETNI, in the context of its work relating to the learning Leaders policy, stands ready to discuss and future policy developments with Department of Education officials.

In **Scotland**, JNR attended the most recent meeting of the Scottish Deans of Education, where a key item for discussion was the allocation to providers of ITE places.

UCET has, as ever, attended various meetings on behalf of our members. As well as those already mentioned, we have represented the sector at: the UUK/Guild HE Teacher Education Advisory Group; the ETF's ITE forum; an NFER research advisory group meeting; a UCU research seminar and various catch up and policy meetings with DfE.

The process of appointing a new Executive Director has begun. To aid a smooth transition and give the new postholder the opportunity to help develop a new UCET strategy, the Executive Committee has agreed that the current Chair, Vice Chair and Assembly Chair will continue in office for an additional 12-months, and that the existing UCET strategy, which was reviewed just two years ago, will be extended for a further year.

Wishing everyone a good spring break.



UCET March 2025

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