Promoting Quality in Teacher Education

The most significant event of the term was, of course, the announcement of the appointment of Jo McIntyre and Stef Sullivan as joint UCET Executive Directors from 13 April 2026. This is an excellent appointment and Jo and Stef will bring their detailed knowledge of all teacher education related issues, as well as their long-standing experience of working with UCET, into their new roles. Jo and Stef will share an email address and will be reachable at: executivedirector@ucet.ac.uk

In a press notice, Jo and Stef said, 'We are delighted and honoured to be offered the position of joint Executive directors of UCET, and we look forward to working alongside the UCET membership and in partnership with other stakeholders. University teacher education providers in the UK do a brilliant job, despite many challenges, working with schools and colleges to develop the next generation of teachers, designing and delivering high quality initial teacher education and CPD programmes and conducting groundbreaking education research.

We look forward to building on what has already been achieved and to strengthening the teacher education base on which schools and colleges depend.'

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).

Chair and Vice-Chair of UCET

Stef's current role as Chair will be filled (until the end of the academic year) by UCET Vice Chair Lisa Murtagh, after which an election will take place for a new Chair.

Other than the position of chair, and any places relinquished voluntarily, it has been confirmed that, so as to allow a smooth transition in the UCET leadership, existing UCET postholders will retain their current positions until the summer of 20



JAMES'S NEW EMAIL ADDRESS, SHOULD COLLEAGUES WISH TO CONTACT HIM FOR PERSONAL OR POTENTIAL WORK-RELATED REASONS, WILL BE JROGERS@PERSONAL123@GMAIL.COM

The new Executive Directors will be taking forward some exciting UCET related work during their first few months in office. The UCET blog under the leadership of Keither Parker, will continue to be rolled out.

There are plans in place to further develop work on the position of teacher education departments in HEIs, building on what has already been achieved by the Institutional Issues sub-group led by David Littlefair.

A new UCET Risk Register (covering risks to UCET as an organisation and to the UCET membership) will be produced and will be used to guide discussions at the Executive Committee. It will be a busy time, and we know that the new leadership will be able to rely on the support of UCET postholders and the wider membership.

Teacher Degree Apprenticeships (TDA)

We held a well-attended on-line workshop, with input from DfE colleagues, on the new Teacher Degree Apprenticeship (TDA) on 4 March, and numbers suggest positive interest in the new route. Please contact Max m.fincher@ucet.ac.uk if you would like ta copy of the recording of the meeting.

Joint Symposium at University of Wolverhampton

UCET held a highly successful joint symposium at Wolverhampton University on 3 March on the theme of '*How do we successfully help students to transition to a successful outcome, whatever that might be'*.

Some 100 people attended, and the subsequent joint Assembly and Primary and Secondary forum business meeting, making it the largest face-to-face event other than the annual conference for many years. We are extremely grateful to the chairs of the relevant forums, to colleagues at Wolverhampton for their hospitality and support, and to UCET staff. And special thanks to Assembly Chair Claire Ball-Smith for leading the event. A summary of the key points made at the symposium can be found here.

We hope to hold another joint meeting next year, although not until after the annual conference which will take place on 10-11 November at the Queen's Hotel in Leeds, further details of which will be announced soon.

Placements for ITE Students

The difficulty of securing placements for ITE students, especially in subjects such as MFL and physics, is becoming increasingly serious and UCET secured a round table discussion to discuss the issue and to identify possible solutions with DfE in February.

Measures suggested so far by UCET include:

- relaxing the (programme design) 80% teaching contact and ITAP requirements to reduce pressures on schools;
- increasing the flexibility for schools to deliver mentor support entitlements for early career teachers;
- giving schools funding for mentor training in advance and simplifying the accountability/audit requirements;
- issuing further and stronger messages that providers must not insist on exclusive relationships with schools;
- asking Ofsted to consider what more might be done to encourage schools to offer placements.

We are keeping DfE fully briefed about the situation on the ground and we will welcome further feedback and suggestions from the UCET membership.

Re-accreditation and Ofsted inspections

The latest window to give previously accredited ITE providers the opportunity to apply for accreditation to deliver QTS programmes from September 2027 opened early in the year and concluded with the submission of written applications and oral evidence sessions in March. UCET has been supporting relevant colleagues through the process, and we wish them well for successful outcomes.

Ofsted inspections of ITE programmes in England began in earnest in February and March, and we would welcome feedback, when possible, from those inspected.

We stand ready to support colleagues both in the run up to inspections and as they are taking place.

The UCET Climate Change sub-group published an excellent report on the potential role of ITE in regards addressing the climate crisis

The report will inform discussions with DfE and others about for example, the refresh of the ITTECF and the focus and coverage of NPQs.

The new Research in ITE group, led by Aimee Quickfall and Philip Wood, is going from strength to strength and a copy of its March newsletter is available to read here.

The UCET Equalities Group, which may in future report directly to the Executive Committee, has also continued its excellent and ground breaking work and is now having a demonstrable and positive impact across the ITE sector.

UCET Northern Ireland and USCET Cymru

In Northern Ireland, discussions are continuing about the development of a new framework that all ITE programmes will have to reflect in their programmes. UCETNI members have been engaged with the process, but concerns about the approach being followed by officials and those working with them have been expressed.

In Wales, members of USCET Cymru have been involved in discussions with those responsible for the development of new professional standards for those working in schools, and their suitability for making judgments relating to the award of QTS.

Re-regulation of the FES sector

Progress towards the re-regulation of ITE for teachers in the FE & Skills sector is continuing, with statutory guidance for the content of all publicly funded courses published in February. The new requirements will apply from September 2026, although full enforcement will not apply until a year later. UCET was represented on the Expert Advisory group that developed the proposals.

ICET 2026

Also on international issues, this year's World Assembly of the International Council on Education for Teaching (ICET, on whose Board UCET has representation) will take place in Melbourne on 7-9 July 2026 (https://icet4u.org).

Wishing everyone a happy Easter break.

UCET
April 2026

