

**Message from Professor Kate Ireland, Director of the Centre for Teacher Education**

To all University of Warwick PGCE students and trainees (cc. partner schools for information)

- **Update on the University's work on Racial Equality and Social Inclusion**
- **Update regarding trainees returning to complete their course next year as well as the new DfE funding for ITT course extensions in light of COVID-19.**

**Friday 12 June 2020**

In light of the extremely distressing events (and all those that have gone before), we would like to highlight the ongoing work that Warwick is taking to address racial equality. Warwick's Social Inclusion strategy underlines the need for anti-racism work as a priority, setting targets to reduce the attainment gap and to increase the diversity across academic and professional services staff. Training is embedded for staff and students to support Warwick's inclusive culture, where racism is not tolerated.

The Race Equality Taskforce brings together academics, professional staff and SU representatives to identify key issues and effective responses. Warwick academics are also engaged in developing resources through forums such as the Anti-racist pedagogy learning circle. In addition, Warwick is working in partnership with students to fund and develop the decolonising curriculum project.

Through the Widening Participation programme Warwick is reaching out to young Black children to support and encourage participation in higher education, and provide support to students once they are at Warwick.

Warwick continues to learn from external practice and seeks to ensure that we are benchmarking with others, making a commitment to make a submission for the Race Equality Charter.

For further information about the University's work on equality and diversity <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/equalops>.

Please see the [Students' Union statement](#) on Black Lives Matter which provides a powerful message for our whole community.

If your well-being has been affected by the recent events, impacting on your academic performance, you are advised to complete a mitigating circumstances request which can be submitted through the normal process on Tabula. In addition please contact Well-being Services (<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss>), who are there to support everyone.

**Update for students who are not being recommended for QTS this year and who will need to return next year for further placement opportunity.**

At this time of year, we normally contact trainees who, for various reasons, will not be completing their course this year. This includes trainees who have had to take temporary withdrawal from the course as a whole as well as some trainees who have remained enrolled on the course but will need to go into extension to successfully complete required placements. Some of you may have seen that the DfE published [guidance on course extension funding arrangements](#) for trainees whose placements have been disrupted by COVID-19 and who have not been recommended for QTS this year.

We are currently assessing who we believe to be eligible (subject to final DfE approval) and will be in touch via email with these trainees (and schools in the case of School Direct) over the next week to discuss arrangements and collate information required to make an application for funding where relevant.

Three key requirements for eligibility include (but are not limited to):

- *The trainee has remained enrolled on course*
- *The course extends beyond its original duration for a reason related to COVID-19 and*
- *The trainee was not recommended QTS as they were deemed to have not yet made adequate progress towards the Teachers' Standards by the end of the course in 19-20.*

***Please note that several trainees who were due to go into course extension before we withdrew our trainees from placement will not be eligible for this new funding. These trainees will also be notified that we do not consider them to meet the new funding criteria.***

Whilst we (and our School Direct Lead partners) are actively seeking appropriate placement opportunities for those who need to return, we anticipate on-going challenges with capacity and support available for placements from September onwards in light of the pandemic. Please note that we anticipate many partners requiring a later start or another kind of revision to placement in order to facilitate trainee placements appropriately.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes,



Professor Kate Ireland,  
Director of CTE