

Email communication sent to SD Lead School Partners

07/10/2021

Dear Partners

Many thanks to those of you who attended the partner briefing session yesterday. We were pleased to receive such positive feedback from attendees, and we invite further requests and ideas for additional information or support you may need to deliver ITT in partnership with us. Although we are able to provide most of the required information at this time, there will be a further update next week (and in subsequent weeks where we are waiting for external clarification) so that we are able to equip partners with such information we do have as early as possible.

Rather than attaching all resources to this email the following information for your attention and reference has been added to our partner intranet page for the briefing which can be found here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/cte/pintra/schooldirect/communications/2021sdbriefing/>

A copy of this communication will also be added to the page for future reference
Please note when accessing this page, you will be prompted for a password.
The password is: **partnercte**

- Recording of briefing
- PDF of slides from briefing

DFE Publish and Apply

- Schools are welcome to contact cte.admissions@warwick.ac.uk if they would like additional support with either DFE Publish or Apply
- Example of an exported application from the new DFE Apply system (Dummy data)

GCSE Equivalency test

Partners are invited to use the same text we have published regarding this at <https://www.find-postgraduate-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/course/W20/2WS6#section-entry>

Recruitment activities:

- Draft schedule of our planned recruitment events (this will be confirmed next week and recirculated with any revisions noted)
- During the briefing we also advised that we are reviewing ways in which partners can contribute to our digital/online recruitment activities. Partners are invited to provide us with a voiceover PowerPoint presentation that covers their offering. We will confirm a recommended content/length next week and notify partners.
- Please note: applications for the School Direct **Training** route where a Student Visa is required can be accepted, as the University of Warwick can provide sponsorship.

Regarding interviewing:

- Guidance doc for interviewing
- Primary and Secondary Interview Questions sheet [*Note: We recommend that our partners use these, in particular those in the **Safeguarding** section. Please make sure that your interview questions cover all that you need in order to complete the offer recommendation form, as per the briefing details*]
- Assessing Fundamental Skills - Primary Task provided (Secondary task still being confirmed and to follow)
- Partners are invited to contact CTE phase teams should they wish to attend University-based interviews to share practice. Phase teams will also be in contact with partners about attending school-based interviews during the year for quality assurance purposes, and to better understand the challenges and successes of recruitment by partners.

Regarding our offer recommendation form:

- Updated reasons for rejection (noting that these and any notes will be visible to the applicant) [in response to a question received at the briefing, we would recommend that the following options are used where there were considerations around suitability to work with children or relative to the Teachers' Standards:
 - *Where a referee has raised a concern: "Your referee was not supportive of your application for the course you have applied for."*
 - *Where an applicant is identified as a concern during the process: "You demonstrated unprofessional conduct before/during your interview day" (noting this option would be rarely used)*
 - *Where an applicant has made a declaration on their application - advise them that they may be referred to a Fitness to Practise panel if they are successful at interview*
- PDF of questions you will need to answer in order to complete our offer recommendation form. If you are not replicating our interview questions, please check that yours will allow you to answer these fully.

Safeguarding

Please note that we have [published this information here](#), this includes:

- Safeguarding policy
- Link to our safeguarding incident report form
- Terms of reference of our Suitability Panel (where applicants or trainees are referred should a suitability concern arise)
- *Please do ensure that our trainees are inducted into your school's own policies and they know the appropriate safeguarding contact/escalation details as early as possible*

SD Contract – details re. respective responsibilities and partner placement fees

- Section 6 sets out the responsibilities of the Lead School
- Appendix 2 includes useful details regarding how reasonable adjustments might be achieved on placement
- Placement fees payment schedule (between Warwick and our SD Lead schools) is included in Schedule 2

Regarding School Direct **Salaried** candidates

- DFE ITT (employment-based) criteria in relation to SDS [can be found here](#), we note that
 - there is a required employment contract and minimum payrate of unqualified teacher pay
 - no trainee will be required to perform more than 90 per cent of teaching duties required of a full-time qualified teacher
- DFE Get into teaching webpages do suggest that the courses are usually suitable for people who already have relevant teaching experience, or are already working as unqualified teachers'.
- The DFE's SD Guidance for Schools is [available here](#) and doesn't state a 'requirement' of length of work experience but rather implies that this is a 'norm' for this route that has permitted flexibility for schools, for example '*These places are aimed mainly at graduates with 3 or more years' work experience. However, schools can decide to accept applications from people with less work experience to attract high quality candidates in hard to fill subjects.*' We have asked the DFE for any further clarification and will notify you if they express any requirement.
- When considering an applicant for SDS who lacks 3 years or more work experience **and** some experience of working with children or in a school setting, we ask that partners consult CTE before proceeding. The additional demands of the SDS route are such that applicants would need to demonstrate their suitability for this particular training route.

Regarding LGBTQUA+ and best practice for supporting non-binary trainees

Our phase teams are able to discuss best practice and shared learning in relation to this. There are multiple resources available to support a range of LGBTQUA+ matters but these are currently locked for staff access only. I have consulted the Senior and deputy senior tutor and the University's EDI group for further advice as to how we might make more information available to our partners. We will seek to circulate further information and guidance on this throughout this year.

Details to follow when available:

- As mentioned during the session, SKE funding and eligibility details are TBC from the DFE so we will confirm specifics about this at the point that these are released
- Tuition Fees – yet to be published on the University's pages as ITT funding details from the DFE are yet to be published here: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-your-training>
- We recommend that for now you state: *'Fees for the 22/23 entry year will be confirmed shortly after the DFE publishes national funding information for PGCE programmes this Autumn'*.
- Fundamental Skills - Secondary task still being confirmed and to follow
- Digital recruitment activity - recommended format and length for SD partner voiceover and PowerPoint
- Supporting slides/document regarding new DBS process for applicants/offer holders

Best wishes,
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