

The Keele and North Staffordshire Teacher Education SCITT

Admissions Policy

Date Policy Approved: March 2015
Approved by: KNSTE Strategic Board
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Audience: Associate Teachers

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Name: (Print) _____

Position: _____

Content

Content.....	2
Introduction.....	3
Aims and objectives.....	3
Entry Conditions for all routes and courses.....	3
Entry Conditions for The Keele University PGCE Programme	3
GCSE Equivalence	4
English Language Requirements	4
Selection Process	4
Communication with Applicants	5

Introduction

Keele and North Staffordshire Teacher Education (KNSTE) offers PGCE places through the provider-led, School Direct and School Direct (Salaried) routes (i.e. both tuition fee funded and salaried) in partnership with Keele University and a number of lead schools. Course applications need to go through the DfE's Apply system. This programme has one entry point in August/September and runs annually

KNSTE also offers an Assessment Only (AO) route. This results in QTS only following a 12-week assessment period. The entry criteria are the same for all routes with additional employment criteria for School Direct Salaried. See additional details below.

Aims and objectives

KNSTE aims to be an inclusive SCITT. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual Associate Teachers (ATs), or groups of ATs, whilst ensuring that we meet all the requirements

Entry Conditions for all routes and courses

- Achievement of at least a 2:2 and preferably a 2:1 honours degree (or recognised equivalent); A first degree comprises 300 HE credit points of which 60 must be at a level 6 of the QCF. Applicants with a foundation degree will need to supplement this qualification with at least 60 credits at level 6 (HE level 3) in order to attain an equivalent qualification.
- The relevance of an Honours degree content and /or A Levels to the chosen specialist subject(s)
- Passes at GCSE in English Language, Science and Mathematics at grade C/4 or above (or equivalent). Level 2 Adult Numeracy and Literacy are not an acceptable equivalence to the GCSE requirement for teacher education. See additional note below.
- Selection based on the information provided on the application;
- Selection based on a successful interview (part of the interview is conducted within a partner school);
- A medical report which is deemed satisfactory;
- A completed DBS enhanced disclosure which is deemed satisfactory by the SCITT;
- Assurance that applicants have the fundamental skills required for teaching in English and Mathematics.

In respect of qualifications gained outside the United Kingdom, a NARIC verification will inform the judgement as to the suitability of the degree.

Entry Conditions for The Keele University PGCE Programme

All applicants must hold at least a good Second-Class Honours Degree (2.2) or overseas equivalent. Students who have a lower class degree but significant additional work related experience may be considered in exceptional circumstances. The KNSTE acting through a collaborative partnership agreement with Keele University uses a range of relevant selection criteria. These include scrutiny

of academic qualifications, analysis of professional experience during the interview; evidence of likely commitment to academic study through interview and an estimate of a candidate's future potential through interview. Anyone applying from a country where English is not the first language is referred to the English language requirements detailed below.

GCSE Equivalence

Up to date information about acceptable equivalencies to Mathematics, English and science Grade C/4 or above GCSEs is included on our website.

English Language Requirements

International students whose first language is not English must have IELTS 7.0 or equivalent with a minimum of 6.5 in each sub-test or equivalent.

Selection Process

KNSTE co-ordinates recruitment across and for the partnership.

Stage 1. The UCAS/ Apply Teacher Training application is reviewed to ensure that the applicant meets our entry requirements and that their personal statement reflects the capabilities and experiences that our partnership is seeking.

Stage 2: If the application meets these stringent criteria then the applicant will be invited for a half day assessment at Keele University. This session is led by a SCITT-based colleague. Applicants will hear more about the programme, undertake a group task and sit an English and Mathematics test.

Stage 3: The applicant will then continue the interview process during the afternoon of the same day in one of our partnership schools. During this session they will be invited to teach a 15-minute learning sequence to a class; they will also be interviewed by a school-based and SCITT based colleague.

Covid-19 adjustments

KNSTE co-ordinates recruitment across and for the partnership.

Stage 1. The UCAS/ Apply Teacher Training application is reviewed to ensure that the applicant meets our entry requirements and that their personal statement reflects the capabilities and experiences that our partnership is seeking.

If the application meets these stringent criteria then the applicant will be invited for a half day assessment on Zoom. This session is led by a SCITT-based colleague and the decision has been made to use the Deputy director and Assistant Director as leads in the interview process due to their recent school based experience during this Covid-19 adjustment period.

Stage 2: Applicants will hear more about the programme and undertake a group discussion task. English and Maths tests are replaced by our work on the Fundamental skills audit.

Stage 3: The applicant will then continue to the 1:2 interview process on the same day on Zoom. During this session they will be invited to teach a 10-minute learning sequence to two SCITT-based colleagues they will also be interviewed by the SCITT-based colleagues.

Communication with Applicants

The outcome of the decision at each stage is communicated promptly by KNSTE via Apply and via email. The KNSTE adheres to all DfE and Keele University requirements, timescales and expectations.