

Fee policy for the accreditation of programmes of Initial Teacher Education (ITE)

Introduction

In carrying out its functions to accredit programmes of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and thereafter monitor compliance of accredited programmes with the Criteria, EWC seeks to ensure that programmes of ITE are professionally appropriate, demanding and lead to student teachers meeting the qualified teacher status (QTS) standards in Wales.

The Education Workforce Council (Accreditation of Initial Teacher Training) (Additional Functions) (Order 2017), allows EWC to charge a fee to partnerships to assess its programme; the fees charged by EWC may not exceed the cost of providing the service.

In 2018 the EWC consulted on the proposed fee model and adopted the model preferred by the majority of respondents to the consultation and the model deemed to be fairest by EWC. We have retained the partial cost recovery model but undertaken a review aligned to the broader review of the accreditation documentation. The revisions and their rationale are summarised below.

Revisions

Previously, accreditation was charged at a flat rate of £7,400 per programme. For partnerships with multiple programmes this could raise significant costs (i.e. three programmes at a cost of £22,200). Furthermore, the work associated with accrediting new programmes is not linear, and much of the activity is repeated (for example, leadership and management or governance structures). Therefore, a single flat rate of £11,500 will be applied for all accreditation activity, for up to three programmes.

Reaccreditation is influenced by both monitoring, inspection and other performance data. It is envisaged that this will be 'lighter touch' than full accreditation. As such, the reaccreditation of programmes (which would previously have been in line with the accreditation costs of £7,400 per programme), has been revised down to £7,500 for up to three programmes.

During the first round of monitoring we used the fee that had been set back in 2018, primarily for the conditions monitoring process, of £875 per half-day or £1,400 per full day. The costs associated with a two-day monitoring visit have been revised to reflect the nature of the documentation and evidence review that takes place as part of the visit, not just the direct contact. Monitoring will therefore rise to £7,500, again, this is applied as a flat rate for up to three programmes.

Previously set at £1,700, costs associated with the submission of major changes to an accredited programme have been revised to £1,000 to better reflect the activity involved.

Costs for conditions monitoring, cause for concern and withdrawal processes will be dependent upon the nature and scale of the activity required for each programme. This will be discussed with partnerships during the implementation of those processes. Minor revisions have been applied to day rates, previously set at £875 per half-day and £1,400 per full day, now set at £900 and £1,800 respectively, to reflect inflationary pressures on costings.

The assumptions of the costs applied to the fee policy is such that all monitoring and accreditation activity will be undertaken face-to-face, unless agreed upon by both EWC and the partnership. The fee for the monitoring or accreditation of new and existing programmes of ITE will therefore be requested by EWC once an accreditation event has been scheduled.

For all partnerships in Wales, the revised model will mean that, ordinarily, the costs of accreditation and monitoring will represent a fall against the prior fees policy.

Schedule of fees

The below fees have been calculated based on a partial cost recovery model to ensure that accreditation fees do not exceed the cost of providing the service.

Direct costs associated with an accreditation event have been taken into account and include:

- day rates for committee chair and members (reading time, accreditation event and report writing)
- day rates for EWC officers (accreditation event only)
- travel and subsistence for committee chair, members and EWC officers (where applicable)
- refreshments during the course of the accreditation event.

Where additional costs are identified these will be discussed with partnerships in advance and fees may be adjusted accordingly.

Schedule of fees

Application for accreditation (new programme of ITE), for up to three programmes	£11,500
Payment will be requested by EWC following receipt of an application, and once an accreditation event has been scheduled.	
Application for reaccreditation (existing programme of ITE) for up to three programmes	£7,500
Payment will be requested by EWC following receipt of an application, and once an accreditation event has been scheduled.	
Monitoring for compliance with the accreditation criteria, for up to three programmes	£7,500
Payment will be requested by EWC once an accreditation event has been scheduled.	

Review of proposed major changes to an accredited programme of ITE **£1,000**

Payment will be requested by EWC following confirmation that an interim review is required.

Conditions monitoring, cause for concern and withdrawal of accreditation **Half-day £900**

Costs will be determined by the duration of the activity required, this will be dependent, for example, upon the number of programmes, number of conditions, nature and number of matters of non-compliance etc. Payment will be requested by the EWC once a date for a monitoring visit has been scheduled.

Full-day £1,800

*Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.*