**University of Bolton ITE 14+ programmes**

**Supporting trainees to complete their course: Important Update 24th April 2020**

**Dear Mentors and Assessors,**

We hope you and your families are keeping safe and well during these challenging times. The DfE and ETF have issued new guidance to universities and colleges regarding the ITE awards for the post compulsory sector. These are copied into the end of this e-mail below.

The key issues highlighted by ETF:

Trainees who are on the 1 year teacher training programme will be able to pass their course if they have:

* Completed at least 70% of their teaching placement hours (providing that a majority is group teaching rather than e.g. one to one teaching]
* Completed at least 6 of their 8 observations ( 7out of 10 for ESOL and Literacy) where the most recent 4 have been satisfactory
* Additionally if, where there are insufficient observations completed and the placement is continuing but the provider team is unable to complete any observations, these may be done in this instance by the placement mentor.
* This will also apply for those coming to the end of a 2 year part-time programme.

This must, of course also be approved by trainees' individual tutors at the University of Bolton re progress.

**It has also been agreed at this point:**

1. The one week between observations rule is relaxed – although trainees must be able to show that they have responded to the feedback given.
2. Trainees can complete teaching practice via on line teaching. This must be evidenced in the same way with lesson plans and materials being produced.
3. There can only be 1 observation of 1:1 teaching on line but this must be part of the agreed maximum of 30 hrs 1:1.
4. Trainees will be encouraged to complete their assessed course work.
5. Trainees can be observed by recorded sessions for their observation purposes. We are finding that some organisations remain open but do not want externals on campus.
6. Although many organisations have now closed their doors to their learners for an indefinite period of time, trainees are able to complete hours in organisations and schools that remain open to support the children of key workers.

Placement mentors conducting observations normally undertaken by assessors are referred to the online assessor quiz and assessor resources available on our website: <https://www.bolton.ac.uk/work-based-learning-partnership/education-and-teacher-training/mentor-and-assessor-training/>

Trainees who are unable to complete the required taught hours and observations will not be disadvantaged and will be able to complete as soon as this is possible. Please keep in close contact with your trainees and forward any queries you may have to University of Bolton staff, or in the case of partner college trainees they should make contact with their personal tutor. We thank you for your support with our trainee teachers and look forward to working with you next year.

With kind regards

 Dr Gill Waugh (Dean of Faculty) and the ITE team

**Advice from DFE and ETF**

**Further Education Initial Teacher Education - advice**

The Department for Education (DfE) does not set requirements for FE teacher training programmes in the same way as it does for courses leading to Qualified Teacher Status. Teaching practice requirements for DET and DET-compliant programmes are a matter for Higher Education Providers and awarding bodies, and the requirements for QTLS status are determined by the Society for Education and Training. As with schools’ ITT we would expect there to be some flexibility for those FE trainees who are demonstrating the requisite level of professional practice, but who are unable to satisfy the usual requirements of their qualification owing to the impact of Covid19.

We would expect HEPs and ABs, as the owners of qualifications, to review and take appropriate steps to ensure that any changes to qualification requirements take account of the developing situation around coronavirus and the need to ensure the health and safety of ITE providers, trainee teachers and learners. Where possible we would want there to be consistency across qualifications and providers so that all trainees are treated fairly. We think that the Education and Training Foundation, which is progressing a review of the DET, is well placed to support the sector to achieve a consistent approach.

Clearly it is very important that the supply of new teachers entering the FE sector is maintained, and that professional standards are upheld, but that needs to be done in a way that reflects the exigencies of the current situation.

**ETF Guidance**

Additional guidance on student teachers on DET courses disrupted due to Covid 19

19 March 2020

ETF recognizes that the current extreme situation means disruption for both providers and student teachers on FE ITE programmes. We are keen that this does not unfairly work against those student teachers who were progressing well and had every likelihood of satisfactory completion of the course. Therefore we are issuing the following recommendations to Awarding Organisations to cover this particular period with regard to reasonable adjustment. These relate to the requirements for teaching practice and corresponding number of observations. We hope by the issue of this document to avoid disparities in the ways in which Awarding Organisations respond to the current situation.

The following applies to those undertaking a one year full time DET programme or those who are in the second year of a two year part time programme. We believe those on the first year of a two year part time programme should have adequate opportunity to complete the programme in the second year.

Providing that the student teacher has satisfactorily completed all other in course assignment work, it is acceptable for Awarding Organisations to award a Pass to student teachers who have:

* Completed at least 70% of their teaching placement hours (providing that a majority is group teaching rather than eg one to one teaching]
* Completed at least 6 of their 8 observations where the most recent 4 have been satisfactory
* Additionally if, where there are insufficient observations completed and the placement is continuing but the provider team is unable to complete any observations, these may be done in this instance by the placement mentor.

Hopefully the above means we will not disadvantage those promising students who have shown competence to date whilst not compromising the quality of those progressing to the workforce.

UCET are happy to advise colleagues, or discuss the implications, on this guidance. Please contact Post 16 Chair Karen McGrath on karen.mcgrath@bcu.ac.uo or Vice Chair Russell Shobrook on russell.shobrook@plymouth.ac.uk