

# The Keele and North Staffordshire Teacher Education SCITT

## Admissions Policy

**Approved by:** KNSTE Strategic Board

**Last Review date:** 2025

**Next Review Date:** 2027

**Audience:** Trainees

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name: (Print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Introduction**

Keele and North Staffordshire Teacher Education (KNSTE) offers PGCE places through the provider-led, School Direct in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University (SHU). Course applications need to go through the DfE's Apply system. This programme has one entry point in August/September for either the Full time or Flexible route 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.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe in line with the Equality Act 2010. It does not have an adverse effect on race, gender or disability equality.

## **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 trainees or groups of trainees, 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.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> class degrees will be accepted in exceptional circumstance.
- 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
- 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 SHU 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. KNSTE acting through a collaborative partnership

agreement with SHU 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.

Due to the length of time each equivalency takes to secure (1 month), applications received after June with the need for any equivalence qualifications in any recruitment cycle will be flagged with the KNSTE Director. The Director will determine how many equivalencies are needed and if there is sufficient time for an applicant to complete them. Applicants may be rejected for this reason but will be invited to apply in the following recruitment cycle.

## **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 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 on Teams. This session is led by a SCITT-based colleague. Applicants will hear more about the programme, undertake a task and enter into a dialogue linked to the evidence base around current best practice in the classroom. During this session they will be invited to teach a 15- minute learning sequence; they will also be interviewed with a series of questions designed to see their potential to teach.

## **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 SHU requirements, timescales and expectations.