

IAITH ATHRAWON YFORY INCENTIVE SCHEME 2021 WG20-64.

Overview

IAITH ATHRAWON YFORY INCENTIVE SCHEME 2021 provides a financial incentive for Initial Teacher Education (ITE) students commencing a secondary Postgraduate ITE programme in September 2021 enabling them to teach through the medium of Welsh or Welsh as a subject.

Background

1. The Welsh Ministers have powers to provide financial assistance under sections 14-17 of the Education Act 2002 for the promotion of the recruitment or retention of teachers or non-teaching staff. Iaith Athrawon Yfory Incentive Scheme 2020 (“this Scheme”) is made in the exercise of those powers.
2. This Scheme comes into effect on 1st September 2021 and applies in relation to Wales.
3. The Welsh Ministers may issue non-statutory guidance on this Scheme under section 10 of the Education Act 1996 to assist students and accredited providers who exercise any function under this Scheme.
4. This document seeks to set out a brief outline of how this Scheme will operate and the purpose for which the grant will be paid.

Summary of the Scheme

5. This Scheme makes provision for the Welsh Ministers to pay grants to secondary postgraduate ITE students, studying their programme through the medium of Welsh or Welsh as a subject.
6. Payment will be by way of up to two instalments, to eligible persons, on completion of an eligible postgraduate ITE secondary programme in Wales leading to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). The programme will enable the eligible person to teach through the medium of Welsh or Welsh as a subject. The first instalment may be claimed once QTS is awarded. A further instalment is available upon successful completion of induction in a maintained Welsh-medium or bilingual secondary school or teaching Welsh in any maintained secondary setting in Wales.

Interpretation

7. Except where the context otherwise requires, for the purpose of this Scheme –

“accredited postgraduate teacher training programme” (*“rhaglen hyfforddi athrawon ôl-raddedig achredig”*) means a programme accredited by the Education Workforce Council’s (EWC) Teacher Education Accreditation Board¹ established pursuant to regulation 5 of the EWC (Accreditation of Initial Teacher Training) (Wales) Regulations 2017;

“employed” (*“cyflogedig”*) means employed under a contract of employment or engaged to provide services otherwise than under a contract of employment and “employment” (*“cyflogaeth”*) shall be construed accordingly;

“employment-based teacher training scheme” (*“cynllun hyfforddi athrawon ar sail cyflogaeth”*) means a scheme made under Regulation 8 of the School Teachers’ Qualifications (Wales) Regulations 2012 or under any amended or replacement scheme;

“qualified teacher status” (*“statws athro cymwysedig neu statws athrawes gymwysedig”*) means a person who is a qualified teacher within the meaning given to it by section 132(1) of the Education Act 2002: that is to say “a person who satisfies requirements specified in regulations”² made under section 132 of that Act from time to time.

“bilingual” (*“dwyieithog”*) means English/Welsh for providers in Wales.

“eligible programmes” (*“Rhaglenni cymwys”*) means a programme which:

(a) is a full-time or part-time secondary postgraduate ITE programme leading to Qualified Teacher Status, which is accredited by the EWC’s Teacher Education Accreditation Board, and

(b) satisfies at least one of the following criteria:

- leads to a formal certificate in Welsh or bilingual education;
- does not lead to a formal certificate in Welsh or bilingual education but is designed to enable students to teach bilingually;
- requires the trainee to study and achieve professional studies module through the medium of Welsh as recorded in the HESA Student Record.³

¹ Referred to in the Education Workforce Council (Accreditation of Initial Teacher Training) (Wales) Regulations 2017 as the Accreditation of Initial School Teacher Training Committee.

² The Regulations currently in force being the School Teachers’ Qualifications (Wales) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/724 (W.96).

³ This refers to the module field ‘MODSBJ’ and the bilingual ITT marker ‘BITTM’ in the HESA student record.

“eligible student” (“*myfyriwr cymwys*”) means a person who qualifies for support under Regulations made under section 22 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 currently in force as they apply to that course⁴;

“flexible course” (“*cwrs hyblyg*”) means that the length and pattern of the course is determined by reference to the student’s experience and training;

“Induction setting” (“*Lleoliad ymsefydlu*”) means, for the purpose of this scheme, maintained schools in Wales and non-maintained special schools in Wales. Independent schools in Wales are included providing they meet the specified criteria under regulation 7, Paragraph 3 of the Education (Induction Arrangements for School Teachers) (Wales) Regulations 2015; and

“relevant claim form” (“*ffurflen hawlio berthnasol*”) means the form that the Welsh Ministers may from time to time require an applicant to complete in order to apply for a grant under this scheme.

Incentive grants

8. The Welsh Ministers may pay grants to persons who are eligible to receive such grants under the Scheme (“training grants”) by way of incentives to persons who satisfy the requirements of paragraph 10.
9. Grants made available under this Scheme are subject to the conditions set out in paragraphs 13 to 15.

Eligibility for training grants

10. To be eligible for this training grant, a person must:-

- (a) have undertaken an eligible programme in Wales which commenced on or after 1 September 2021 but prior to 1 September 2022. An eligible programme is a programme which leads to QTS and enables the eligible person to teach through the medium of Welsh or Welsh as a subject;
- (b) be an eligible student;
- (c) not already be a qualified teacher;
- (d) not be employed to teach at a school or other institution as a teacher;
- (e) not be a participant in training organised under an employment-based teacher training scheme;
- (f) have successfully completed an eligible programme and obtained QTS in accordance with the School Teachers' Qualifications (Wales) Regulations 2012 which are in force at the time; and
- (g) have successfully completed induction within three years, following award of QTS, in one of the following induction settings; a maintained Welsh-medium or

⁴ The regulations which apply the provision of support to students commencing courses on or after 1 August 2018 are the Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2018 (SI No.191 (W. 42)). These regulations will remain extant for academic year 2021/22.

bilingual secondary school, or teaching Welsh in any maintained secondary setting in Wales, as required under the Education (Induction Arrangements for School Teachers) (Wales) Regulations 2015.

11. If a person meets the eligibility criteria described in paragraph 10, in order to claim the training grant a person must:-

- (a) within one year of successfully obtaining QTS, submit the relevant claim form to the Welsh Government; and
- (b) within one year of successfully completing their induction period, submit the relevant claim form to the Welsh Government.

12. Eligible persons for this incentive scheme are also entitled to claim other teacher training incentives⁵ providing they meet the eligibility criteria of those schemes in the academic year of study.

Conditions

13. No grant will be paid under paragraphs 8 and 9 to a person unless he or she has made an application to the Welsh Ministers in such form, at such time and containing such particulars as the Welsh Ministers may determine.

14. The Welsh Ministers may at its discretion not pay a training grant to persons accepted onto an eligible programme after the intake target for that course has been reached (as notified by the EWC).

15. The Welsh Ministers may require any grant paid in pursuance of paragraph 8 and 9 to be repaid in whole or in part if:-

- (a) the recipient has provided in, or in connection with, his or her application for a grant, information which is false or materially misleading;
- (b) there is firm evidence that the recipient had never intended to complete the course or, having completed it, to enter teaching.

Payment of grant

16. Grants under paragraph 8 and 9 will be paid in two instalments in arrears and at such times as the Welsh Ministers may determine, and the Welsh Ministers may in particular determine that the two instalments may be payable by specific dates which are after the person has successfully completed QTS and induction.

⁵ The Initial Teacher Education incentives currently available can be found at <https://gov.wales/becoming-teacher>

Administration

17. The Welsh Government will administer the scheme. Trainees will be responsible for supplying evidence of award of QTS and induction when completing the relevant claim form.

18. Claim forms will need to be submitted to the ITEIncentives@gov.wales mailbox.

Signed on behalf of Welsh Ministers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirsty Williams MS
Minister for Education