

Terms & Conditions

STEM Teacher Education Bursary



Skills Development Scotland (“SDS”)

STEM Teacher Education Bursary

Applicant Terms and Conditions

1. Eligibility

1.1. An Applicant (the “Applicant”) will be eligible to apply for a STEM Teacher Education Bursary of £20,000 (a “Bursary”) in respect of a one year Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (“PGDE”) for Initial Teacher Education (“PGDE (ITE)”) to be undertaken at one of the Universities (as defined below), commencing in August 2020 and resulting in the award of registered teacher status in respect of chemistry, computing science, home economics, mathematics, physics or technical education at secondary school level (including dual qualifications where at least one of the subjects is chemistry, computing science, home economics, mathematics, physics or technical education (the “Relevant Subjects”) where:

1.1.1. the Applicant has, prior to the date of submitting the application for a Bursary (the “Application”), an offer of a place to study for the PDGE ITE at one or more of the following universities:

- The University of Glasgow;
- The University of Edinburgh;
- The University of the Highlands and Islands;
- The University of Dundee;
- The University of Aberdeen;
- The University of Strathclyde;
- The University of the West of Scotland;
- Edinburgh Napier University;
- Queen Margaret University;

(the “Universities”);

1.1.2. the Applicant, as at the date of submitting the Application, must hold a degree qualification from a higher education establishment at the level of second class honours upper division (2:1) or above (or such equivalent from an establishment out with the UK, as approved by SDS having sought verification from the relevant university) in subject areas which would, in the opinion of SDS contain the required content for an Applicant to teach one of the Relevant Subjects, following completion of the PGDE (ITE). Where a 2:1 or above is not held, Applicants must alternatively meet the first degree entry criteria for their chosen PGDE (ITE) course and hold a Masters at SCQF Level 11 qualification in a relevant subject (as determined by the university);

1.1.3. the Applicant, at the date of submitting the Application for a Bursary, will have been in paid employment (other than as a secondary teacher in a Scottish school) for a period of at least 36 months out of the 60 months immediately preceding the date of the said Application, and on the basis that:

1.1.3.1. an Applicant will be deemed to have been employed notwithstanding any period of (a) maternity leave, paternity leave and/or adoption leave, during this period; (b) any sabbatical which had been approved by the Applicant's employer, provided that the Applicant can provide evidence of an agreed arrangement for the Applicant's return to work (to the satisfaction of SDS); and/or (c) any period of long-term sickness due to illness or disability provided that the Applicant can provide evidence of continuing employment while absent, to the satisfaction of SDS

1.1.3.2. an Applicant will be deemed to have been "employed" for the purposes of these Terms and Conditions where the Applicant is able to provide written evidence in the form of payslips, P60, P45 or other employer provided evidence that clearly demonstrates the Applicant meets the minimum employment criteria for the Bursary. For self-employed Applicants, invoices or other suitable documentation that clearly demonstrates the Applicant meets the minimum employment criteria. In addition, it is the expectation that the Applicant is able to evidence HMRC self-employment registration. Any Applicant who is a director of a limited company or in a partnership should provide, in addition to demonstrating they meet the minimum employment criteria, suitable evidence of registration at Companies House or, in the case of a partnership, registration with HMRC.

1.1.3.3 as Bursary payments commence in September 2020, for the purposes of Applicants evidencing they have been at least 36 months out of full-time education any Applicant who demonstrates they graduated on or before 30/9/17 will be deemed to have met this aspect of the eligibility criteria. Further, and at the discretion of SDS, any applicant who has since 30/9/17 undertaken a short full time top up course to meet the academic entry requirements of their chosen PGDE including, but not limited to, Higher English and National 5 Mathematics, will be deemed eligible to apply for a bursary.

1.1.4 Subject to clause 1.1.3.3 Applicants who have been undertaking a full-time remunerated PhD will be considered to meet the eligibility criteria as long as work related to their PhD contains elements of teaching with students such as, lab work, tutorial work and marking.

1.1.5 Applicants who are able to provide written documentary evidence, to the satisfaction of SDS, that clearly demonstrates they have been in receipt of Carer's Allowance for 36 months of the last 60 months will be deemed to meet the employment aspect of the eligibility criteria.

1.1.6. the Applicant will have been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for the three years immediately before the first day of the PGDE (ITE) (the "Relevant Date");

1.1.7. the Applicant must be ordinarily resident in Scotland on the Relevant Date (but on the basis that the Applicant will not be regarded as ordinarily resident in Scotland if the Applicant's primary purpose in coming to Scotland is to undertake the PGDE (ITE));

1.1.8. if the Applicant is not a United Kingdom national, the Applicant must also have 'settled status' in the UK (as set out in the Immigration Act 1971) on the Relevant Date;

1.1.9. the Applicant must not, at the Relevant Date or at any time thereafter, be in receipt of any other subsidised provision in respect of the PGDE (ITE), including (but not limited to), salaried distance learning/learn to teach programmes, "Supported Induction" at Dundee University and PGDE internships at the University of Aberdeen.

1.1.10 the Applicant must not previously have received STEM Bursary funding.

1.2. The Applicant must (subject to paragraph 1.3 and below) submit such documentary evidence to SDS, as is requested by SDS, in respect of the eligibility criteria referred to above and the Applicant will only be deemed eligible for the Bursary where SDS is satisfied that the eligibility criteria have been fulfilled, on the basis of the evidence supplied.

1.3. The following Applicants shall be deemed eligible to apply for the Bursary notwithstanding that the Applicant cannot provide (further to paragraph 1.2) verifiable evidence of his/her having been employed for the purposes of paragraph 1.1.3 and notwithstanding that he/she cannot comply with conditions 1.1.6 and/or 1.1.8:

1.3.1. an Applicant who has been granted refugee status (or expects to be granted such status at some time prior to the Completion Date) in the United Kingdom and has been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man at all times since receiving such status or who is the spouse, civil partner or child of such a person, provided such individual exhibits (as soon as reasonably practicable after it is available) to SDS, a letter from the Home Office of the United Kingdom government stating that said individual has been recognised as a refugee and awarded leave to remain in the United Kingdom, as a refugee;

1.3.2. an Applicant who is an Iraqi national where he/she has been allowed to enter the United Kingdom with "indefinite leave to enter" under the Locally Engaged Staff Assistance Scheme, also known as the Iraqi Direct Entry Scheme, or the child of such an individual, provided that the Applicant can provide evidence (to the satisfaction of SDS) of his/her having been granted such indefinite leave to enter, or being the child of an individual who has been granted such leave;

1.3.3. an Applicant who has been granted humanitarian protection to enter the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, or the spouse, civil partner or child of such an individual, provided that the Applicant can provide evidence (to the satisfaction of SDS) of his/her having been granted such protection, or being the spouse, civil partner or child of an individual who has been granted such protection;

1.3.4. an Applicant who is an Afghan national who has been granted limited leave to remain under the Afghanistan Locally Engaged Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme, or is the spouse, civil partner or child of such an individual, provided that the Applicant can provide evidence (to the satisfaction of SDS) of his/her having been granted such limited leave to remain, or of being the spouse, civil partner or child of an individual who has been granted such leave;

1.3.5. an Applicant who has been granted limited leave to remain in the United Kingdom as a stateless person under the immigration rules operated by the Home Department and who has been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands at all times since that person was first granted such limited leave to remain in the United Kingdom; or is the spouse, civil partner or child of a such a person;

1.3.6 an Applicant who has been granted discretionary leave to remain in the United Kingdom due to being identified as a victim of modern slavery and who has been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands at all times since that person was first granted such discretionary leave to remain in the United Kingdom. For the purposes of this sub-paragraph, "modern slavery" includes human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

2. Approval of Application

2.1. The Applicant will be notified by SDS, in writing, within 20 working days of receipt by SDS of the Application, as to whether it has been approved or rejected. Upon receipt of an Application SDS will request evidence to be sent by the Applicant. Failure by the Applicant to send in evidence within the requested timeframe may result in a delay in an overall decision on the success of the Bursary Application, beyond the 20 working days stipulated above. For the avoidance of doubt, a decision on the awarding of a STEM bursary cannot be made until SDS receive confirmation from the applicants chosen ITE institution that an unconditional offer of a place on their chosen ITE course has been accepted.

2.2. Further to the Applicant accepting an offer (to undertake the PGDE (ITE) in academic year 2020/21, the Relevant University will provide notification to SDS to this effect together with details of the Relevant Date and the proposed end date in respect of the PGDE (ITE) course (the "Completion Date"). Where an Application has been approved, SDS will, thereafter, notify the Relevant University that the Application has been successful and provide all relevant details to the University in respect of the Applicant.

2.3. Payment of the Bursary will not be made by SDS, but by the Relevant University (on behalf of SDS) to the Applicant in 10 monthly instalments, throughout the course of the PGDE (ITE) (from September 2020 to June 2021, payable within the last full working week of each such month) provided that the Applicant complies fully with these Terms and Conditions.

2.4. Payment of any instalment of the Bursary is conditional upon the Applicant having been granted and maintaining membership of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme.

3. Commencement and Completion of PGDE (ITE)

3.1. The Applicant must commence the PGDE (ITE), with the Relevant University, on the Relevant Date and successfully complete it (gaining the relevant qualification) no later than the Completion Date.

3.2 The Applicant cannot defer either a successful Bursary award, all or part of the Bursary award and must be for PGDE (ITE) study undertaken commencing in August 2020 and completing in June 2021.

3.3. The Applicant shall notify SDS within 30 working days of having completed the PGDE (ITE) and provide a copy of the diploma (to the reasonable satisfaction of SDS).

4. Additional Requirements

4.1. Further to gaining the PGDE (ITE), the Applicant must:

4.1.1. participate in and complete the Teacher Induction Scheme, within a Scottish secondary school, with documentary evidence of the above to be supplied (as soon as reasonably practicable) to SDS on request;

4.1.2. complete his/her probationary period, and thereafter become fully registered with the General Teaching Council of Scotland, with documentary evidence of the above to be supplied (as soon as reasonably practicable) to SDS on request.

5. Default and Clawback

5.1. The occurrence of any of the following shall (subject to clauses 5.3 and 5.4) be an event of default:

5.1.1. failure by the Applicant to remain a member of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme until the end of the Completion Date;

5.1.2. the Applicant is in breach of any provision of these Terms and Conditions;

5.1.3. any information given to SDS by the Applicant is found to be false or misleading.

5.2. In the event of default, and at SDS' entire discretion the Relevant University, on behalf of SDS, shall be entitled to:

5.2.1. demand that the Applicant repay the Bursary, or such proportion of the Bursary as SDS may reasonably determine, which shall be payable to the Relevant University within 30 working days of demand; or

5.2.2. the Relevant University may (on behalf of SDS) as an alternative give the Applicant written notice allowing the Applicant such period of time as SDS may reasonably determine, within which the Applicant is to remedy the default. In such circumstances, if the Applicant shall fail to remedy the default within such period of time, the Relevant University (on behalf of SDS) shall be entitled to demand that the Applicant repay the Bursary, or such proportion of the Bursary as SDS may reasonably determine, to SDS within 30 working days of demand.

5.3. SDS, at its sole discretion, can determine that an Applicant who would otherwise be treated as being in default in accordance with paragraph 5.1, shall not be deemed to be so where mitigating circumstances apply which shall include, but not be limited to:

5.3.1. an Applicant suffering from a serious illness or having been involved in a serious accident;

5.3.2. the death of a spouse or other member of the immediate family of the Applicant;

5.3.3. the Applicant being involved in legal proceedings requiring extended attendance at court as a witness or as a juror; and/or 5.3.4. the Applicant being the victim of a serious crime.

5.4. An Applicant will not be treated as being in default in accordance with paragraph 5.1 where the cause of any such event of default is as a result of the Applicant taking maternity leave, and/or experiencing complications during pregnancy resulting in hospitalisation.

6. Data Sharing

6.1. The terms of the Privacy Notice available at www.stemBursaryScotland.co.uk shall be deemed to be incorporated into these Terms and Conditions.

6.2 Where the Parties intend to share personal data relating to the STEM Bursary, they will enter into a separate data sharing agreement.

7. Inaccurate or Misleading Information

7.1. If the Applicant has supplied inaccurate or misleading information in support of their Application (including, but not limited to, information concerning their eligibility), SDS shall be entitled to require the Applicant to reimburse SDS for any costs incurred by SDS in relation to the Application and any recovery of the Bursary or any proportion thereof.