

STEM Bursary Advisory group

Monday 8 January 2019

Note of meeting

Attendees

Stephanie Walsh (Chair)	Policy Manager, Teacher Workforce, Scottish Government
Angela Felvus	Senior Policy Officer, Education Workforce Unit, (Secretariat)
Frank Creamer	STEM Team leader, Scottish Government
Lynda McShane	STEM Programme Executive, Skills Development Scotland
Ian Rivers	Scottish Council of Deans of Education
Helen Gorman	Team Leader Skills and Youth Employment, Stirling Council
Diane Hill	Transition Training Fund Manager, Skills Development Scotland
Patricia Thomson	CMS Planning and Performance Manager

Apologies

Stuart Robb	Unit Head, Education Workforce Unit
Ken Edwards	Education Programme Lead, Skills Development Scotland
Nicola Dickie	Chief Officer – Children and Young People, Cosla
Lisa Dawson	Director of Student Systems and Administration
Jennifer Brown	Student Funding Finance Manager

Note

1. Note of 26 November meeting

- Item agenda 3 – level of qualification.
Paragraph to be revised : The group suggested that to allow a wider group of applicants the level of qualification should be changed to a 2.1 degree or a minimum Initial Teacher Education (ITE) entry requirement with relevant masters.

2. Actions from previous meeting

- All actions were complete.

3. Discussion on the employment criteria

Lynda McShane spoke to the draft paper SDS developed for the 2019/20 employment criteria. The paper illustrated five models with different criteria and the pros and cons against each model. The general consensus of the group was that minimum change to the criteria would be required and that the most favoured model would be a combination between model four and five.

Discussions centred on the detail for the terms and conditions including evidencing exceptions to the criteria and employment. SDS and SG colleagues would work together to identify and agree this information.

Home Economics

SG officials had discussions with Education Scotland and SDS on whether Home Economics could be classed as a STEM subject. Both organisations have confirmed that the content (Food and Textile Technology) of the Home Economics course is sufficient to be considered a STEM subject. At present Home Economics is one of the subjects that have a greatest demand for teachers. We would therefore propose adding Home Economics as an additional subject.

Administrations Costs

During discussions the issue of funding for the administration of the scheme was raised, the Chair highlighted that funding issues would be a discussion between SDS and SG.

4. Proposed revisions to the 2019/20 criteria

Current criteria

1. Applicants are expected to be in current employment and to have been in employment for at least three of the last five years (including exceptions), at the point of application for the bursary.
2. Applicants need to hold a relevant degree at 2.1 or above with the required academic content to teach maths, computing science, technical education or physics.
3. Normal entry requirements for PGDE Initial Teacher Education also apply, including a requirement to have Higher English (or equivalent) and National 5/credit level Maths (or equivalent). However, flexibility on entry requirement may be applied by the General Teaching Council for Scotland, and support can be provided for the provision of English/maths qualifications if necessary.

Proposed Criteria

1. Applicants need to have been in employment for at least three out of the last five years (including exceptions) at the point of application for the bursary.
2. Applicants need to hold a 2.1 degree or a minimum ITE entry requirement with a relevant masters to teach maths, computing science, technical education, physics, chemistry or Home Economics.
3. Normal entry requirements for PGDE Initial Teacher Education also apply, including a requirement to have Higher English (or equivalent) and National 5/credit level Maths (or equivalent). However, flexibility on entry requirement may be applied by the General Teaching Council for Scotland, and support can be provided for the provision of English/maths qualifications if necessary.
4. At point of application applicants need to be three years away from full time education.

5. Next Steps

It was agreed that SG would draft the proposed criteria and circulate to the group for comments. It was highlighted during the meeting that SG was to send a formal letter to SDS inviting them to run the 2019/20 scheme. SG would send the letter by the end of w/b 14 January.

As this was the last meeting of the advisory group, the chair thanked the members' for their commitment and work during the last couple of months.

Actions:

- **SG to draft proposed criteria and share with the group for comments.**
- **SG to send SDS formal letter for this years' scheme**
- **SG to arrange meeting with SDS to discuss terms and conditions and funding.**
- **SG to send submission to DFM recommending the proposed draft criteria**