

Qualification Policy

Adopted: February 2021

Committee Reviewed: NWSCITT Management Board

Reviewed Date: January 2023

Date Ratified: 23.5.23

Date of next review: 24 Months or upon DfE compliance update

Our Vision is to produce outstanding teachers who will ensure their students, whatever their starting point, thrive in all aspects of education. Our trainee teachers will value developing the whole person equally to the achievement of academic success.

This policy is designed to provide guidance and clarification regarding the qualifications and equivalent qualifications required for North Wiltshire SCITT (NWSCITT) teacher training programmes, and any of its providers' programmes (Pickwick Learning and Blue Kite Academy Trust.) It is in line with the standard eligibility requirements as stated by The DfE and provides specific NWSCITT requirements relating to accepted equivalency qualifications.

Unless otherwise stated, all qualifications must be presented in person prior to the course starting.

This policy and its contents may be reviewed prior to the review date, to take into consideration any guidance, advice or regulation changes issued by NASBTT, The DfE or the Government. This policy and its contents may also be reviewed at any time to take into consideration limitations under exceptional circumstances. In this event, NWSCITT will always seek guidance from NASBTT and/or the DfE, as appropriate.

STANDARD ELIGIBILITY

Secondary Teacher Training

- GCSE – Grade C / 4 or above in Maths and English Language (or equivalent)
- First degree* of a United Kingdom Higher Education Institution (or equivalent) – NWSCITT requests that this be ideally 2:2 (Hons) or above of which at least 50% needs to be related to the subject you wish to train to teach in.

Grades lower than 2:2 will be at the discretion of the Programme Manager / Management Board and dependent upon interview, other qualifications, and demonstration of experience relevant to the specific subject.

Degrees which do not contain the minimum of 50% subject specific content will be accepted at the discretion of the Programme Manager/ Management Board and dependent upon interview, other qualifications and demonstration of experience relevant to the specific subject.

Failure to present original certificates or verified statements of results will result in the Conditions of Offer not being met and the offer withdrawn.

Primary Teacher Training

- GCSE – Grade C / 4 or above in Maths and English Language and a Science (or equivalent)
- First degree* of a United Kingdom Higher Education Institution (or equivalent) – NWSCITT request that this be ideally 2:2 (Hons) or above.

*A first degree comprises 300 HE credit points of which 60 must be at level 6 of the RQF. 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 single qualification

**Please note that this list may not be exhaustive.

*** We require both BTEC Science results to be at Level 2, Merit or higher

Grades lower than 2:2 will be at the discretion of the Programme Manager / Management Board and dependent upon interview, other qualifications and relevant experience.

Failure to present original certificates or verified statements of results will result in the Conditions of Offer not being met and the offer withdrawn.

EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS

GCSE – Maths, English Language (and Science for Primary applicants)

The following are considered equivalent to GCSE Grade C/4 or higher and will be accepted by North Wiltshire SCITT **.

1. IGCSE in Maths, English Language (and Science for Primary applicants) Grade A-C / 9-4
2. O-Level Grade A, B or C
3. Scottish National Level 5 Qualification Grades A-C.
4. BTEC Science (both certificates must be Level 2, Merit or higher.)

EQUIVALENCY TEST

Should an applicant not have achieved Grade C / 4 or higher in the above GCSE examinations (or equivalent international qualification), North Wiltshire SCITT will accept the following:

- A UK GCSE test taken in Maths, English Language or Science (this may be a single science of either Biology, Chemistry or Physics or the Combined Science option)
- or
- A UK GCSE Equivalency Test in Maths, English Language or Science (this may be a single science of either Biology, Chemistry or Physics or the Combined Science option) from the following providers:
 - www.equivalencytesting.com
 - [A Star Equivalency](#)

These are nationally recognised qualifications accepted for teacher training programmes.

NWSCITT will not accept equivalency tests from other providers.

The exception to this is during exceptional circumstances, such as the Covid Pandemic, when the above facilities are not available for testing to take place. During this time, NWSCITT will seek advice from NASBTT regarding potential alternative providers, or DfE regarding a delay in production of the qualification to the Provider. Please contact the NWSCITT Administrator for additional clarification.

All costs associated with achieving the above qualifications will be payable by the applicant.

Should there be a delay in the issuing of GCSE or equivalency certificates, please contact the NWSCITT Administration Manager as soon as possible.

NWSCITT will need to see verification of the qualification obtained directly from the provider prior to commencement of the course. The trainee must also present the original certificates to NWSCITT upon receipt.

UK ENIC (NARIC)

If you hold international qualifications, you will be required to produce a UK ENIC (formerly known as NARIC) statement of comparability, at your own cost. This is available from [Home Page \(enic.org.uk\)](http://Home Page (enic.org.uk)) and will be verified with them by NWSCITT. Upon receipt of the statement of comparability, NWSCITT will verify its' authenticity with ENIC and cross check qualifications with them.

**A first degree comprises 300 HE credit points of which 60 must be at level 6 of the RQF. 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 single qualification*

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If your international qualification is not considered to be equivalent to the qualification requirements, you will be required to take an Equivalency Test, as per above.

Should your subject be entitled to receive a bursary, you will need to prove that your degree is equivalent to at least a 2:2 to receive the bursary payment. If you are unable to do this, then unfortunately, you will not be entitled to receive the bursary payment.

IELTS QUALIFICATION:

For international applicants only, we accept the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) as an equivalent to GCSE English Language Grade C/4. However:

- We will only accept the Academic qualification
- The student must achieve level 7.5 or higher in all four language skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking)
- The qualification is valid for 2 years and must be within this time frame at the start of the course.

More information can be found at: [IELTS Home of the IELTS English Language Test](#)

EXAMPLES OF QUALIFICATIONS NOT ACCEPTED

The below are *some* of the most common examples of qualifications which are not accepted by NWSCITT, or its associated providers. This list is not exhaustive.

- 1 GCSE Applied Science
- 2 BTEC Science, where one or both BTEC Science results are **less than** a Level 2 Merit. For example a Level 1 pass.***
- 3 Functional Key Skills Tests, Essential Skills Tests, Entry Level qualifications, Level 2 awards/certificate/diploma in lieu of GCSEs.
- 4 Access to Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), BTECs, HNDs or Foundation degrees in lieu of a first degree*

This list is not exhaustive. Please contact the NWSCITT Administration Manager for further clarification if required.

LOST CERTIFICATES

In the event that you have lost your original certificates you will be required to arrange for replacement certificates or verified statement of results to be sent to North Wiltshire SCITT at your own expense.

Some qualification providers do not issue replacement certificates. In which case, a verified Statement of Results received directly from the qualification provider (upon agreement with NWSCITT) will be accepted, prior to the start of the course.

Please contact the NWSCITT Administration Manager for further information.

Delayed Degree Certificates

NWSCITT acknowledge that some degree certificates may not be available prior to starting the ITT programme.

NWSCITT will require you to arrange for verification of your results sent directly from your University Provider. NWSCITT will check the validity of these results and will require the trainee to present their degree certificate upon receipt.

*A first degree comprises 300 HE credit points of which 60 must be at level 6 of the RQF. 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 single qualification

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NWSCITT may also utilise the HEDD qualification checking service to check the authenticity of any degree qualification.

Please contact the NWSCITT Administration Manager for guidance.

**A first degree comprises 300 HE credit points of which 60 must be at level 6 of the RQF. 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 single qualification*

***Please note that this list may not be exhaustive.*

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