**NATIONAL MA EDUCATION (WALES) FUNDING ELIGIBILITY, ALLOCATION PROCESS**

**AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. **The purpose of the award**

In May 2020 a new National MA in Education (Wales) was approved for teaching from September 2021. It will be delivered in partnership by seven Welsh Universities and is specific to the Welsh Education system.

The seven HEI partners committed to delivering the programme are:

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| Aberystwyth University | University of South Wales |
| Bangor University | University of Wales Trinity St David |
| Cardiff Metropolitan University | Wrexham Glyndwr University |
| Swansea University |  |

It has been agreed that Welsh Government will

* support individuals in their early career stage (years 3-6 of practice as a teacher following completion of induction) to be able to access the Masters from 2021 (covering the course costs);
* A maximum of **500 students** across Wales will be able to access the Grant in 2021.
* Students will be able to access the Top up loan where suitable post 2022.

The information below sets out the criteria that will be required for eligibility to access funding for the Programme. Academic eligibility will be defined by the Universities including any credit equivalence values.

1. **Eligibility for Funding**

**All candidates must meet the academic entry requirements of the programme**.

Up to 500 Candidates across Wales may be eligible for the full grant contributions, which will be identified by the University partnership based on the criteria outlined below.

Candidates are eligible for funding if they:

* Have been resident in Wales for 3 years prior to start of programme
* Are educated to degree level or equivalent;
* Holder of qualified teacher status (QTS)
* Are registered with the Education Workforce Council (EWC) in the category of School Teacher.
* NQT induction MUST have been completed prior to start of course. (EWC registration must be maintained for the duration of the programme)
* Are employed by a maintained school in Wales as a teacher
* Are employed on a minimum of 0.4 FTE contract. This can include supply teachers who are on long term contracts either with a Local Authority, school or an agency.
* Are in year 3 to year 6 of practice (following completion of induction) **at the start** of the MA course.
* Have been offered a place on the National MA Education (Wales) by one of the 7 partnership HEIs which are: -

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| Aberystwyth University | University of Wales Trinity St David |
| Bangor University | University of South Wales |
| Cardiff Metropolitan University  Swansea University | Wrexham Glyndwr University |

* Where possible, have the support of their Headteacher (or other relevant senior colleague/manager)

**For clarity, Welsh Government confirm that for this Programme:**

* Where someone has already achieved a subject specific Masters they are still eligible to apply for the funding towards this programme (funded MEd not applicable)

* No other Masters in Education qualifications offered by the HEIs are eligible for this funding.

**Specific conditions of funding:**

All applicants for funding must acknowledge and agree to the following condition of funding:

* In accepting any funding offer, applicants are required to continue to w**ork within the maintained education system in Wales for a minimum of 2 years** after completing the programme.
* Applicants in receipt of this funding **must not** make an application for further postgraduate finance support through the Student Loans Company.
* Applicants must **maintain registration with EWC in category of school teacher** for duration of programme.
* Applicants must be in years 3 to 6 of teaching practice. This practice must have been undertaken at a maintained school in the UK. Time spent employed as a teacher outside of the UK or time taken as a career break will not be counted as years of practice

1. **Process**
   1. Applicants will complete the individual HEI partner’s standard application process of the institution to which they are applying. In addition, they must complete and submit this supplementary funding application form.
   2. Applicants can apply for funding alongside their application for a place on the programme but applications for the funded places will only be considered once an offer of a place has been made
   3. Applicants for funding will need to complete the supplementary application form, including a statement of support or reference, normally from their Headteacher or other relevant senior colleague/manager, or other relevant person. This should be on School headed paper and uploaded along with your application for funding. Your chosen University will provide further details on how the supplementary form can be obtained. Please note that we will be unable to consider applications without the supplementary application form.
   4. Applications for funding will be reviewed in two rounds. To be considered in the first round, applications (for a place on the course and the completed supplementary funding application form) must be received by the 16 July 2021. To be considered for the second round, applications must be received by 17 September 2021.
   5. Decisions for funding will be made by the National MA Education (Wales) Funding Award Panel and candidates will be advised of the outcome of their funding application. Candidates who are unsuccessful in the application for funding may take up their place as self-funding learners if they wish to do so.
   6. Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for funding but for whom a funded place at their chosen institution is not available may be considered for funding at another institution within the partnership.
   7. Successful candidates will have their tuition fees paid to the relevant University. They will not be paid the scholarship funding directly.
   8. A list of successful candidates will be provided in a report to the Welsh Government and National MA Education (Wales) National Management Board.
2. **National MA Education (Wales) Funding Award Panel**
3. Funding will be awarded by the **National MA Education (Wales) Funding Award Panel.** The Panel consists of representatives from each Partner University and reports to the National Management Board (which has membership from the Welsh Government), to ensure clear accountability and oversight.
4. Applications will be determined based on the established criteria prioritised by remaining funding eligibility years
5. Applicants who are not satisfied with the decision of the National MA Education (Wales) Funding Award Panel should contact the Chair of the Panel in the first instance.

**Process to access funding** –

The funding will be established will be provided by the Welsh Government and is administered by the participating Universities. Applicants will not apply to the Welsh Government or Student Loans Company for support.