



Press Release

Teacher trainees top the tables

Date: 17 November 2008

Members of the prestigious South West Centre for Excellence in Teacher Training (CETT) are amongst the best providers of post-16 teacher training in the country according to recent Ofsted inspections.

Bath Spa University and the University of the West of England, Bristol, both received 'Very Good' ratings from Ofsted and Exeter University was rated 'Good' in recent inspections of their Initial Teacher Training programmes.

In post-16 education staff traditionally come into teaching with vocational qualifications and experience and then undertake an Initial Teacher Training programme to gain their teaching qualification.

Just five universities nationally have received the top accolade – 'Very Good' – from Ofsted, over the four-year inspection cycle. Two of these are members of the SWitch CETT, a partnership of more than 40 regional learning and skills organisations, led by Learning South West. It is one of eleven CETTs set up by the Government to improve the quality of teacher training nationally.



The partnership to promote excellence in learning

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Since the CETTs were established, last summer, SWitch CETT members have performed extremely well, with inspectors highlighting the partnership working between the universities and the SWitch.

Kerin Burke, SWitch CETT Co-ordinator at Learning South West, said:
“Improving the quality of Initial Teacher Training is a key focus for the partnership. These fantastic Ofsted reports show that the partnership’s commitment to collaboration and sharing best practice is really working and that we are achieving our aim to make sure our teachers are amongst the best in the world.”

ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

- *Comments from the inspectors include:*

Bath Spa University (Very Good – Grade 1)

“[Trainees] are highly motivated and enthusiastic practitioners who work hard to develop their teaching skills and professional practice.”

“Leadership and management of the teacher training programmes are very good.”

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University of the West of England, Bristol (Very Good – Grade 1)

“Through highly effective tutoring and mentoring arrangements, trainees develop and apply specialist teaching skills well.”

“[Trainees] use a very wide range of methods, activities and resources confidently to promote good learning...”

University of Exeter (Good – Grade 2)

“[Trainees] are well qualified and display strong professional values and specialist knowledge.”

“Teacher trainers are highly skilled and experienced, model good practice and support trainees well.”

- Read the full Ofsted reports at [http://ofsted.gov.uk/oxedu_providers/list_providers/\(sort\)/datesort,desc/\(type\)/16777216/\(typename\)/Teacher%20training](http://ofsted.gov.uk/oxedu_providers/list_providers/(sort)/datesort,desc/(type)/16777216/(typename)/Teacher%20training)
- Learning South West is an independent charity, which is a cross-sector membership organisation. Our members include local authorities, further education colleges, private training providers and voluntary sector organisations. Visit www.learning-southwest.org.uk or try the dedicated SWitch CETT Moodle website at www.switchcett.org.uk/

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