



National Society for Education in Art & Design

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Damian Hinds MP
Secretary of State for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

23 October 2018

Dear Mr Hinds,

We are writing to you as members of the National Society for Education in Art and Design (NSEAD), the subject association for art, craft and design teachers in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

As the Society's core representatives of the Special Interest Group for Initial Teacher Education (ITE) in art and design, we have a number of concerns about the Department for Education's (DfE) positioning of our subject within ITE. Specifically we vehemently challenge emerging subject inequalities in relation to two separate, but interrelated, issues:

1) The DfE's *Get into Teaching* website, updated for 2019-20 recruitment, has begun to classify 'the arts' as a single subject. NSEAD's statement and news report, 28 September 2018, explains the issue and asks that the DfE: 'Give each subject on the curriculum equal distinctiveness and authority. Bundling arts subjects together diminishes their purpose and unique offer to children and young people and society.'

Further to this, the NSEAD Special Interest Group for ITE notes, quite rightly, that as it is not possible to train to teach the arts in a single ITE course, this classification is misleading. Under no circumstances should teachers be trained to teach the arts together. Each subject is distinct and should be addressed as such in all contexts. We ask that the website is updated with art and design, drama and music identified as separate and distinct subjects, and not bundled together as 'Arts'.

2) Regarding ITE bursaries (see DfE ITT bursary information¹), we are compelled to ask: Why is music treated more favourably than art and design? Specifically: Why is an ITE bursary offered for music but not for art and design when music has recruited more successfully against the Teacher Supply Model (TSM) for the past three years?

¹ <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-my-teacher-training/bursaries-and-scholarships-for-teacher-training>

To train to teach music in 2017-18 and 2018-19, there was a bursary of £9,000 for entrants with a first-class degree or PhD and £4000 for those with a 2:1 degree or masters. For 2019-20 the bursary has been increased to £9000 for all entrants with a 2:2 or above. For art and design, there are no bursaries.

The GOV.UK ITT census data for the percentage of TSM met via ITE recruitment for music and art and design, for the last three years (2015-16 to 2017-18), shows art and design is less able to recruit than music, yet art and design trainees do not receive any bursary. To aid ITE recruitment in art and design, we request that the Government addresses this disparity.

	Art and Design	Music
2017-18	74%	76%
2016-17	82%	89%
2015-16	64%	73%

In summary, not only is our subject faced with misrepresentation but now, it is apparent that there are also ongoing disparities between how art and design and music are treated within ITE recruitment policy.

The Society also hereby states a preference for initial teacher education over initial teacher training. We assert that teacher education better defines the academic, pedagogic, holistic, practice and research based learning, teaching and skills needed to develop and maintain our unique profession.

As a matter of urgency we seek an explanation and ask for the DfE to address both these issues.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Peter Gregory, President NSEAD

Dr Rachel Payne, President Elect

On behalf of the NSEAD Special Interest Group for ITE