

# **Review of the Initial Teacher Education Infrastructure in Northern Ireland Response Booklet**

**This booklet should be completed by all  
stakeholders**

The panel of international education experts, appointed by the Department for Employment and Learning, is inviting all those with an interest in teacher education to submit opinion papers outlining their vision for the structures necessary to create a world-class system of initial teacher education here which also enhances and improves sharing and integration within the sector.

Please provide your views in the attached booklet.

**International developments in the field of Initial Teacher Education in terms of the trend “*towards educating teachers in larger institutions where training can be informed and supported by ongoing research in the field of education*”.**

**1. Are there other international developments in the field of Initial Teacher Education that you consider to be relevant to Northern Ireland?**

There has, however, been debate questioning the effectiveness of university based teacher education programmes. Furlong (2008) noted the overly academic nature of these courses ill-equip student teachers for the realities of classroom practice. Similarly, (Allen, 2003; Cochran-Smith & Zeichner, 2005; Grossman & McDonald, 2008) agree that academia has been unable to robustly defend criticism that its courses inadequately cover evidence based practice and do not sufficiently prepare graduate teachers for life in schools.

**2. How do current ITE structures here compare with the trends in ITE best practice internationally?**

**3. How might ITE delivery be structured here to support delivery of international best practice?**

aspiring teachers taking up places on training course in the rest of the U.K.

Further restricting the numbers of places available in N.I. by changing the infrastructure of teacher training, will not necessarily deplete the numbers of surplus teachers within the Province. Should closure and merger be the recommended outcome of this review such will simply provide a market advantage to other U.K. institutions while aggravating N.I.’s already high unemployment levels.

**4. What is distinctive about the way ITE is delivered in NI that needs to be taken into account in this review?**

**5. Identify any other ITE infrastructure issues that you might want the Panel to pay particular attention to within the Review.**

I have provided this information for the purposes of the Review of the Initial Teacher Education Infrastructure in Northern Ireland. I understand that reference to this response will be included in the Summary report to be published on the Department for Employment and Learning's website.

**Signed**  
**On behalf of**  
**Date**

Katharine Clarke, UCU Regional Official  
University and College Union  
18<sup>th</sup> December 2012