

11 March 2005

2005 General Election

Five Key Demands

The Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET) today launched its manifesto for the 2005 General Election.

UCET's five key demands are:

- Increased investment in teacher education to address the 20%+ funding gap identified in recent government reports.
- Increased recognition of higher education's key role in the initial education and continuing professional development of teachers.
- An entitlement for all teachers and FE lecturers to award-bearing continued professional development.
- Removing the disincentive for experienced teachers to become teacher educators by addressing unfair salary differentials.
- Additional funding for education research to inform policy and support an evidence-based profession.

UCET's Executive Director James Rogers said: *"Teachers in the UK are amongst the best educated and best prepared in the world. That is a reflection of the outstanding work carried out by higher education establishments and their partners in schools and colleges. But teacher education needs to be nurtured and supported if this success is to continue. We therefore call on all political parties to commit to meeting our five key demands. The future education of our children and young people, and ultimately the wellbeing of the community, depends on it."*

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Notes:

1. UCET is a registered charity that represents higher education based teacher educators and is committed to the identification, sharing and further development of best practice in teacher education.
2. Recent OFSTED reports have classified the vast majority of higher education based initial teacher education as being 'very good' or 'good'. In a separate piece of analysis, over 80% of newly qualified teachers said the training they had received was either 'very good' or 'good'.
3. A report commissioned by the DfES in 2004 concluded that initial teacher education in England was under-funded by 21%, while other reports point to a 30% shortfall in funding for the training of FE lecturers.
4. Charles Clarke, former Education Secretary, and Ralph Tabberer, TTA Chief Executive, have said that the teaching profession *'has never been in better shape'*.
5. Salaries for teacher educators are significantly lower than those of teachers in schools. This reduces the incentive experienced classroom teachers have to help develop the next generation of teachers.