**Funding opportunity – Accreditation of a School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) provision for Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)**

**Background:**

In line with the commitment for schools to include a Modern Foreign Language (MFL) as part of the English Baccalaureate, and further to discussions with the Independent Schools Council, we are seeking to provide a competitive grant to support a pilot project to set up a School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) provision focused on improving the supply of MFL teachers to the wider schools’ market, as a broad collaboration between state and independent sector schools, and universities.

Historically, schools have experienced difficulties in recruiting high quality trainees in sufficient numbers to supply the demand for MFL teachers. The proposed pilot project aligns with Ministers’ ambitions for the future shape of the ITT market, where high quality SCITT providers are accredited to deliver training in a shortage subject, in higher volumes than a typical SCITT, and nationally for teacher supply. Therefore, it is proposed that a pilot project be initiated to accredit a nationally-based SCITT, with a focus to recruit and train teachers in MFL, utilising both state and independent sector expertise in this subject.

A grant of £25K would be available to a lead state school, to support the school through the process of accreditation and to implementation of systems and strategies required to recruit and train an effective number of applicants as MFL teachers.

**About the grant:**

In order to identify a suitable school to lead this pilot project, the following criteria are essential for the school to be eligible to compete for the grant:

1. They must be a designated Teaching School and a School Direct Lead School in England;
2. The school must have a strong track record of School Direct recruitment in MFL, i.e. at least two year’s experience of MFL provision;
3. The school must have experience of partnership working with independent schools to access expertise in MFL training for trainee teachers, and who should be included as part of the School Direct partnership, along with other state schools;
4. The school should have experience of partnership working and existing links to a university ratifying provider that has capacity and capability for the delivery of MFL ITT;
5. The school must have the capacity to rapidly forge links with state and independent schools, universities, and relevant subject associations, willing and with the capacity to engage fully in MFL ITT provision nationally, evidenced through the proposal set out in the submission seeking accreditation.

The inclusion of state and independent schools demonstrates the SCITT’s capacity to deliver the pilot provision. These parameters will be used to identify a pool of possible schools, who will compete to lead the pilot project, having expressed their interest in leading this project.

The broad aims, supported by NCTL, of the pilot MFL SCITT will be:

* Develop and deliver a high quality and robust bid for accreditation as a national MFL SCITT;
* Lead the formation of a diverse partnership, including both state and independent school partners, to design and implement successful strategies to attract and recruit viable cohorts of trainees to train as MFL teachers;
* Create strong links across organisations / schools, nationally and within the proposed ‘Education Excellence’ areas;
* Create a unique and attractive offer for trainee teachers in MFL;
* Identify and exploit new MFL trainee teacher supply markets;
* Make a significant contribution to increasing the supply of MFL teachers.

Grant funding of up to £25,000 is available.

The funding will be paid to the lead Teaching School following a successful expression of interest, successful accreditation bid, and the completion of funding agreement.

The anticipated timelines for the pilot are:

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| **Activity** | **Development of Non EEA International Network** |
| Invitation to bid open | Friday 19 August 2016 |
| Invitation to bid closed | Friday 2 September 2016  |
| Evaluation of bid completed  | Week commencing 5 September 2016 |
| Bidders notified | Week commencing 5 September 2016 |
| Accreditation submission to NCTL | Week commencing 5 September 2016 |
| Grant funding awarded (depending return of grant terms and conditions) | September 2016 |
| Delivery of ITT | By September 2017 |
| Reports for NCTL | TBC |
| Pilot review  | TBC |

**How to apply:**

For questions and to apply please send an expression of interest using the form below to itt.accreditation@education.gsi.gov.uk **by** **12pm on Friday 2st September 2016**.

**References:**

Please refer to the [Arrangements for ITT accreditation submissions](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/initial-teacher-training-itt-accreditation) for details of submissions requirements and further details for institutions seeking accreditation as ITT providers.