



ESCalate Themed funding: Teacher Educators for the 21st Century Grant Project Interim Report

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Project Title The Work of Teacher Education

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Project Start date 1 March 2010

Project End date 7 April 2011



The Work of Teacher Education

INTERIM REPORT ON PROGRESS FOR ESCalate 28.9.10

Project team: Dr Viv Ellis (Oxford), Dr Jane McNicholl (Oxford), Dr Anna Pendry (Oxford); Prof Jim McNally (Strathclyde)

Planning and preparation for data generation

Since February this year, the project team has met formally on three occasions to plan work and to review actions: 12 March (Oxford); 7 May (Glasgow) and 15 September (Oxford). We have recruited some part-time administrative assistance and we have used the services of a consultant to design and implement an on-line research tool. Through email lists and contact in the teacher education community, we have purposively selected a sample of teacher educators in England (9) and Scotland (5) with whom we have commenced work. We have held introductory meetings for members of our sample at Strathclyde University (7 May) and Oxford University (10 May).

Data generation

1. Interviewing

We have interviewed all members of our sample by telephone to elicit their educational histories and their perspectives on their work as teacher educators. Each interview was between 15 and 30 minutes in duration and has been transcribed.

2. Work diaries

All members of our sample have kept a work diary for one week in May 2010, to a common framework detailing activity and personal/institutional priority of that activity on an hourly basis for the seven day period.

3. On-line research tool

About one third of our sample has made good use of the online research tool to generate their own data about their work setting, institutional contexts and important artifacts. The online research tool is at www.workofteachereducation.org

- but the individual work spaces are private to the participants.

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4. Collection of teacher education job advertisements etc in Scotland
Only one job that met the sample criteria was advertised in Scotland during the collection period! The collection period has been extended indefinitely so that further vacancy information can be collected.

Data analysis

1. Interviewing

Transcribed interviews are currently being analysed using tools from life history and narrative analysis.

2. Work diaries

Work diaries are currently being analysed using simple statistical tools to identify patterns at the individual and field level.

3. On-line research tool

Material from the online research tool will be used to inform the next set of interviews (undertaken during work shadowing – see below) as well as supplementing the data generated during site visits to our participants.

4. Job advertisements etc

Analysis has been delayed so that further data can be collected.

Further data generation

We are currently planning site visits to participants in October/November to shadow them at work for at least one day and also to interview them and photograph the artifacts and resources with which they are working.

Towards the end of the project, as initially planned, we will convene collaborative data analysis workshops with a selection of participants.

Interim outcomes

1. We are about to submit a first paper to the *British Educational Research Journal* that includes background from the first stage of the ESCalate project.

2. We will be presenting this same paper at the UCET conference on 12th November and seeking discussion with delegates.

3. Viv Ellis will be discussing the project during his keynote presentation to the VIA University College Teacher Education conference in Silkeborg, Denmark on 6th October.

4. A project web page is available on the Oxford University Department of Education website:

<http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/research/resgroup/osat/wte.php>

4. The project team is developing ideas for further funding applications to extend the work.

Final comments

We have completed all Phase 2 activity according to our initial timeline and we are making good progress on Phase 3 tasks.

Dr Viv Ellis

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