

Initial Teacher Education for Inclusion: Findings from Phases 1 and 2 of NCSE's Longitudinal Research Study

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Abstract

The Initial Teacher Education for Inclusion project (ITE4I) is a major research study commissioned by NCSE to investigate how well new teachers are prepared for inclusive teaching. All initial teacher education (ITE) programmes in Ireland were recently extended and reconceptualised with additional mandatory content on inclusion. The ITE4I project is studying the outcomes of this process and tracking the progress of the first cohort of new teachers to graduate from the revised ITE programmes. This represents one of the first longitudinal, mixed-methods studies in Europe of system-wide reform of ITE programmes for inclusive teaching. Findings from the first year of the project are based on analysis of ITE programme documents, provider and student surveys, and interviews with staff and student teachers in their final year of study. We will present these findings at the NCSE Research Conference 2017.

Biographical Note

Peter Hick is Principal Lecturer in Inclusive Education at Manchester Metropolitan University. He leads a new Centre for Inclusive Education & Disability Studies, bringing together a range of programmes and projects in these fields. His previous academic posts were at the Universities of Birmingham and Manchester, as a lecturer and research fellow. Peter's professional background was as an educational psychologist, and prior to that as a teacher with young people labelled with learning difficulties and challenging behaviours. His research interests include the role of digital technologies in mediating inclusive practice; the cultural construction of difference as disability; and intersectionalities of race and disability. He has been interested in inclusive pedagogy for some years and co-edited, with Professor Gary Thomas, a volume on 'Inclusive Pedagogy in Curricula and Classrooms' (SAGE, 2009). He is currently Principal Investigator for the 'Initial Teacher Education for Inclusion' Project for NCSE, with colleagues at MMU, UCL IoE and UCC.