

THE SECONDARY TEACHERS' TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE OECS

1. BACKGROUND

The Secondary Teachers' Training Program (STTP) was designed to address the critical need for training for secondary school teachers in the OECS. It has received financial support under the OECS Tertiary Education Project. The principles and implementation strategies embodied in this training program also gained the support of the OECS Ministries of Education. The main features of the program are as follows:

- (i) classrooms are used as places where teachers learn to teach and to practice assessment skills.
- (ii) training modules in teaching methods would be used as supplementary materials to face-to-face instruction delivered through evening and vacation classes;
- (iii) Teachers' College tutors/supervisors guide teachers-in-training in the Classrooms, and
- (iv) successful participants are awarded the University of the West Indies Certificate in Education (Secondary)

The project is intended to strengthen the capacity of participating countries, in order to reduce the existing backlog of untrained teachers at the secondary level and to obviate similar future needs.

(ii) WHO MAY PARTICIPATE

The following categories of untrained teachers are eligible:

- (a) Untrained graduate teachers
- (b) Untrained non-graduate teachers with (2) A'Levels, Associate Degrees, CAST Diplomas or other equivalent qualifications.

(iii) PROGRAM CONTENT

Given that eligible candidates will be credited with all content courses
In the Certificate Program, the program's content would be limited to the
Following:

1. Foundations of Education
2. Social Issues
3. Two (2) specialist subjects – chosen from the subjects in the secondary Curriculum, or one specialist subject and Testing and Measurement.
4. Teaching Practice
5. Research Methods in Education
6. One (1) optional subject (approved by the School of Education, UWI)

Courses will be offered and examined on a semester basis over a period of two (2) years.

(iv) ASSESSMENT

- (a) Teachers-in-training may be assessed by (i) written examination; and/or (ii) course work (iii) both, (iv) practicum. (The method of assessment will be agreed between the responsible training institution and the UWI/School of Education).
- (b) Where course work forms part of the assessment of a subject the weighting will be 60% for written examination and 40% for course work. The responsible institution will be required to provide the UWI with details of course/work projects that the trainee will undertake.

(v) REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM COMPLETION

To Obtain the UWI Secondary Certificate of Education, trainee teachers must successfully complete all courses.

(vi) **PROGRAMME DELIVERY**

The body with ultimate responsibility for the Program is the UWI School of Education at Cave Hill Campus. However, several other institutions have important roles and functions in overall program implementation:

- ? Personnel from Local Teachers 'Training Colleges- as Teacher Trainers/Supervisors.
- ? Ministry of Education personnel (Chief Education Officers, Education Officers, Planners), Principals of Secondary Schools, Local Co-ordinator - for guidance and support at the National level.
- ? University of The West Indies:
- ? OECS/EDF/UWI TLIU Tertiary Education Program, Cave Hill, for Project Planning and Administration
- ? School of Education, Cave Hill, responsible — for Program Content, Program Monitoring, Examination and Certification.
- ? The OECS Secretariat — as the responsible co-ordination agency for the OECS (LOME IV) Tertiary Education Project
- ? The European Community (EC) — as the external funding agency.

This program which was developed by the UWI, under the Lome III Convention, was first implemented in Saint Lucia during the years 1997-1999. Unfortunately, Saint Lucia came on board late in the program, after funding had already closed under that phase of training. The island had to finance the total program from its capital Expenditure under the Education vote.

The last program targetted "A" level and primary trained teachers teaching at secondary schools. Twenty-nine (29), trainee teachers who were enrolled under the Lome III program wrote examinations in 1999, results of which are still pending. Twenty-one of those trainees were supposed to submit Individual Studies, to date three (3) of them have yet to submit their studies.

This time around the program target untrained graduates teaching at the secondary schools. At present, a total of eighty-seven (87) untrained graduates have applied to be part of the new program slated to begin this second term. The intake for the program will thirty (30) persons.

Training modules in teaching methods are available in the subject areas of Mathematics, Science, Tech/Voc, Geography, History, English, Modern Languages and Social Studies. Based applications received, the greatest areas of need for training are in the areas of Science, Mathematics, English.

The program will be delivered through a combination of face to face and distance methods. The use of distance teaching materials in the form of modules is the key feature of the program. There is a total of 15 tutors/ face to face instructors and 40 supervisors inclusive of Clinical and Study Supervisors to be chosen for the effective delivery of the program.

The program emphasizes school based learning and as a result, the major responsibility of the Supervisor is to train, observe and assess the trainee in the area of practical teaching, an area which the trainee must be successful in, in order to be certified as a professional secondary teacher. Trainees must successfully complete all required courses to obtain a UWI Secondary Certificate in Education.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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