



What is the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research?



The Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act establishes the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research, a new Welsh Government sponsored body, and dissolves the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW). The Commission, which will be operational in 2024, will be responsible for the funding, oversight, quality and regulation of all tertiary education in Wales. This includes:

- Further education (FE), including colleges and school sixth-forms
- Higher education (HE), including research and innovation
- Adult education and adult community learning
- Apprenticeships and training.

Strategic Vision



Working together, we will deliver a more engaged, excellent and equitable Tertiary Education and Research sector in Wales that prioritises the interests of learners and contributes to national prosperity. We wish to see a joined up system in Wales that is easy for all learners to navigate, is valued by the public, creates a highly skilled society, tackles inequalities, is globally renowned for excellent education, training, research and innovation, and has a civic mission at its heart.

Our approach will enable learners to move seamlessly from compulsory to tertiary education, contributing to our national mission for education reform.

Learner engagement and support



The Commission will have a statutory duty to prepare, consult on and publish a Learner Engagement Code. This Code is intended to ensure learners' interests are represented, that learners have the opportunity to give their views to providers about the education they receive, and to participate in the making of decisions by those providers. Registered HE providers will need to comply with the requirements of the Learner Engagement Code.

The Commission may also require HE providers to produce a Learner Protection Plan, setting out how a provider will protect learners' interests in the event of course disruption or closure, and how providers might facilitate the transfer of learners to other providers.

Register of tertiary education providers



The Commission will be required to establish and maintain a register of tertiary education providers in Wales. The register will be a legal mechanism by which appropriate and proportionate regulatory oversight is applied to registered tertiary education providers in receipt of public funds, including grant funding from the Commission and Welsh Government student support.

It is proposed that providers of HE will need to register to ensure that their relevant courses are automatically designated for Welsh Government student support.

To be registered, a provider must meet initial registration conditions relating to education quality, governance and management, and financial sustainability, the effectiveness of the provider's arrangements for supporting and promoting the welfare of its students and staff and where validation arrangements are in place the effectiveness of those arrangements.

The Commission will set ongoing conditions that registered providers must meet to remain on the register.

FACTSHEET 3: HOW WILL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AFFECT UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER PROVIDERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (HE)?

Quality of provision



The Commission will assure and promote improvement in the quality of tertiary education and will develop a framework for quality improvement across post-compulsory education in Wales based on shared principles.

It will have a duty to ensure that quality assessments are carried out on higher education provided by or on behalf of each registered provider and will have the power to designate a body to exercise its assessment functions.

The Commission will develop and publish guidance and information on criteria and processes for the assessment of quality, the roles and responsibilities of assessors and providers, and professional development of the workforce.

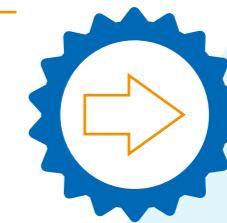
Collaboration



The Commission will have a statutory duty to promote greater collaboration in tertiary education, encouraging providers to work together in the interests of learners and business that is more aligned with local, regional and national education and training needs.

The establishment of the Commission will also open up new opportunities for collaborating with external bodies in research and innovation.

Transitional arrangements



The new registration system will replace the current higher education regulatory oversight regime operated by HEFCW under the Higher Education (Wales) Act 2015.

This will require a period of transition for it to happen effectively. This phased implementation will allow providers and the Commission to work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for learners. The Commission will also have the opportunity to provide the wider sector, individual providers, and learners, with clarity as to exactly what is being changed.