

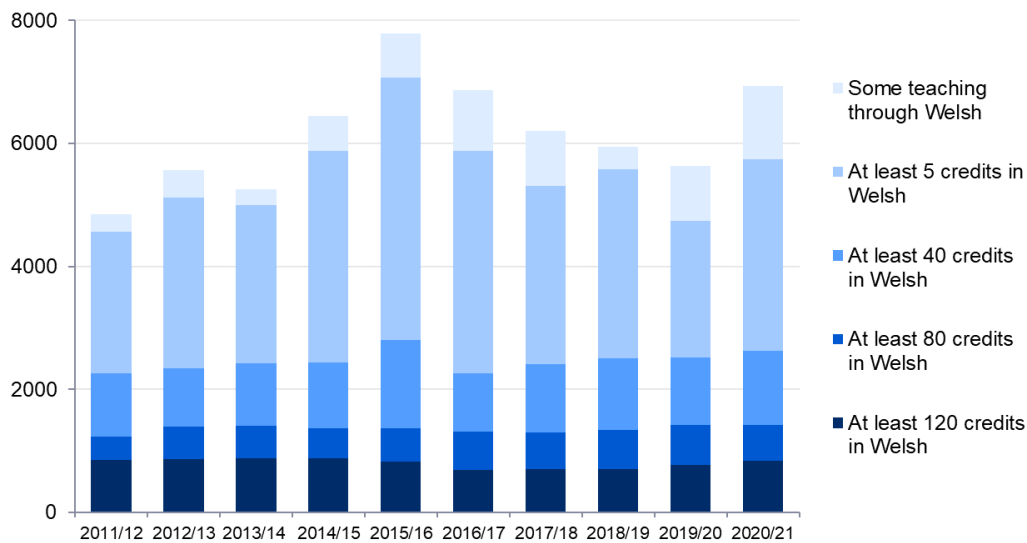


Welsh Language in Higher Education, 2020/21

28 July 2022
SB 19/2022

This bulletin provides information about higher education students studying higher education courses through the Welsh language at Higher Education Providers in Wales. It also covers higher education staff teaching through Welsh and trainee teachers able to teach in Welsh.

Students in Welsh higher education providers by the credits studied through Welsh^(a) and year



a) Higher education at Further Education Institutions is excluded

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

- Of the 5,740 students studying at least 5 credits through Welsh-medium, 2,630 studied at least 40 credits through Welsh, 1,430 studied at least 80 credits through Welsh, and 835 were studying at least 120 credits through Welsh.
- 1,305 more students received some teaching in Welsh in 2020/21 than in 2019/20. The University of Wales Trinity St David had a large peak in students taking at least 5 credits through Welsh in 2015/16 in part due to better reporting of 'bite sized' Welsh courses at their Coleg Sir Gar campus. The University have reported that this provision has since declined, accounting for much of the reduction in students studying through Welsh following the peak in 2015/16.
- The number of staff able to teach in Welsh has increased by 35% between 2011/12 and 2020/21.

About this bulletin

The data included here are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Student Record and Staff Record. Unless otherwise stated, Welsh students enrolled at the Open University (OU) and higher education enrolments at further education institutions are included in the data, and figures are for the 2020/21 academic year. Higher education enrolments at alternative providers are not included in the data.

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Policy background

Y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

The [Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol](#) works with universities across Wales to develop Welsh-medium opportunities for students. It supports the development of provision and Welsh-medium lecturers, and offers undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships for students to study higher education courses through the medium of Welsh.

Targets

The figures in this bulletin:

- only include figures from further education institutions from 2016/17 onwards;
- are in enrolments not headcounts;
- include all modules being studied in a year, instead of all modules started in a year.

For this reason, this bulletin cannot be used to assess performance against the targets. However, the targets are useful context and provide an indication of the direction and scale of change.

In November 2018, HEFCW published performance measures for higher education during its current corporate strategy period, 2017-20. These include the number of students studying higher education courses undertaking at least 5 credits and at least 40 credits through the medium of Welsh per annum.

From 2017-18 the funding of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol became the responsibility of the Welsh Government. The number of students studying at least 5 and 40 credits through the medium of Welsh continues to be monitored against set targets.

Cymraeg 2050

The Welsh Government's long-term strategy for the promotion and facilitation of the use of the Welsh language, [Cymraeg 2050: a million Welsh speakers](#) was published July 2017. Along with targets for increasing the number of learners in Welsh-medium education and actions to enable them to progress through their compulsory and post-compulsory education through the medium of Welsh, Cymraeg 2050 also includes targets for increasing the number of teachers able to teach Welsh and through the medium of Welsh.

Staff

This section covers academic staff employed at Welsh universities, and whether they are currently teaching, or able to teach, through the medium of Welsh. The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol initially funded academic posts to enable teaching through the medium of Welsh to take place. From 2019/20 the Coleg supports institutions with specific grants to grow higher education provision that will include staff planning.

Amount of study in credits

The amount of a student's learning undertaken through Welsh is presented in credits rather than as a percentage of their learning. This presents a better picture of the actual amount of learning being undertaken in Welsh. Credits also allow a closer comparison with the targets. See [Definitions](#) for more information.

Open University

Students from Wales attending the Open University (OU) are now included. Most other Welsh Government higher education statistical releases include OU students, and they are included in the targets.

FPE in subjects data

Subjects data are reported in Full-Person Equivalents (FPE) rather than Full-Time Equivalents (FTE). FPE are more comparable with the other figures in the bulletin.

FPE in staff

Staff figures are reported in FPE. Previously, unless mentioned otherwise, they were reported in raw numbers. This would have double-counted staff with contracts across multiple areas.

Higher Education Providers

Data for Higher Education Providers includes both Higher Education Institutions, Welsh domiciles at the Open university, and higher education courses studied at Further Education Institutions, unless otherwise stated. Data for higher education courses studied at Further Education Institutions is only available from 2016/17 so in order to make time series consistent, some charts only include data from Higher Education Institutions.

Section A: Students at Welsh Higher Education Providers

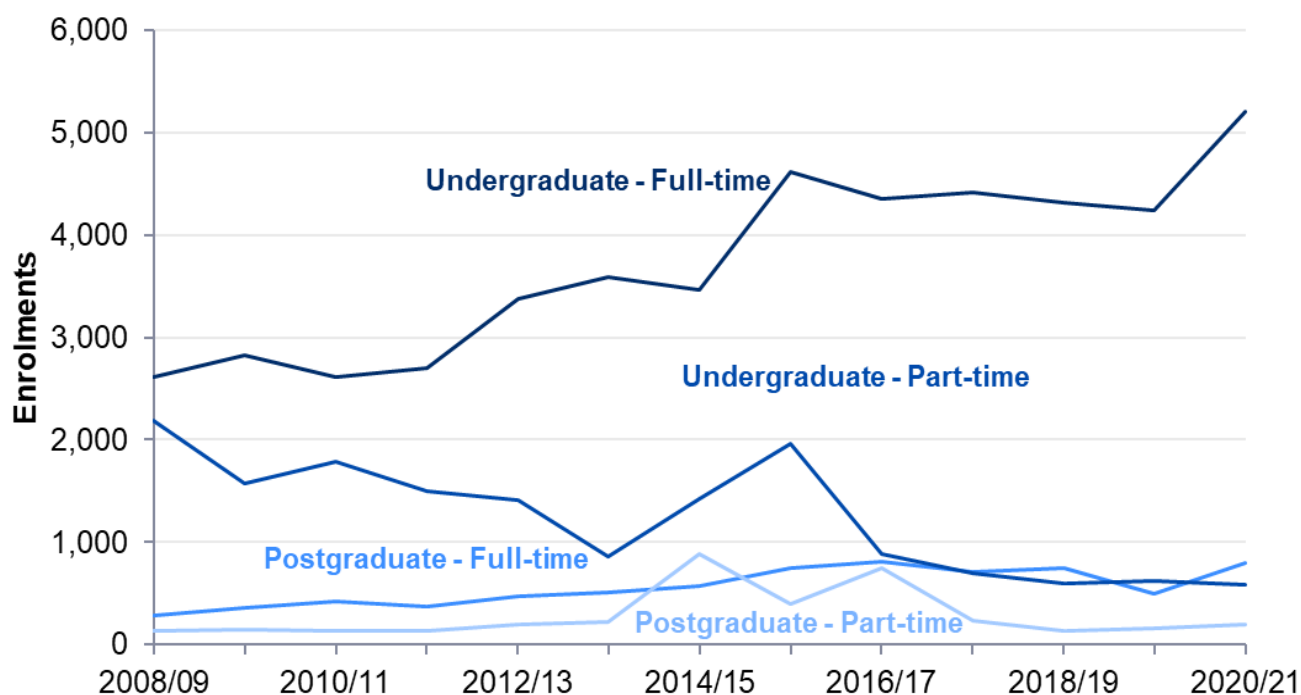
This section covers students who attended a Welsh Higher Education Provider and studied through the medium of Welsh.

Students are now separated by the amount of credits they studied through Welsh that year. It counts the amount actually studied through Welsh. If a student studied half of a 20 credit module through Welsh, that would be counted as studying 10 credits through Welsh. The *some credits, at least 5 credits, at least 40 credits, at least 80 credits and at least 120 credits* categories also overlap. Everyone who has studied at least 40 credits through Welsh is included as having studied at least 5 credits through Welsh.

There has been a large decrease in students studying at least 5 credits through the Welsh-medium over the past five years. Most of this decline is due to the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David who have reported that since 2015/16 their provision of 'bite sized' Welsh courses has declined.

Further breakdowns of the data can be found on [StatsWales](#).

Chart A.1: Students with some teaching through Welsh by level and mode of study, at Welsh Higher Education Providers ^(a) ^(b)



Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

(a) Excludes Open University and Higher Education students at Further Education institutions.

(b) A small number of students from the University of Newport/South Wales are omitted in 2011/12 and 2013/14.

[\[View the data\]](#)

- The number of full-time students receiving some teaching through Welsh has fluctuated but is higher for both undergraduates and postgraduates than it was in 2008/09. However, there was a drop in 2019/20 but this was followed by an increase in 2020/21 for both undergraduates (a

23% increase compared to 2019/20) and postgraduates (a 58% increase compared to 2019/20).

- The fall in part-time undergraduates studying through Welsh should be looked at in the context of a steady fall in part-time undergraduates studying in any language at Welsh Higher Education Providers (excluding Open University and further education institutions) since 2010/11.
- The peak in part-time postgraduates in 2014/15 was caused by the Masters in Educational Practice, which was offered for free to Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs).
- The number of part-time postgraduate students with some teaching through Welsh has increased this year but are still similar to 2012/13 levels.

Table A.1: Amount studied through Welsh by students at Welsh Higher Education Providers^(a)

	<i>Enrolments and percentages</i>								
<u>Enrolments</u>	2012/13	2013/14 (a)	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Some teaching through Welsh	5,560	5,260	6,445	7,780	6,870	6,205	5,940	5,635	6,940
<i>(c) Of which is equal to:</i>									
At least 5 credits in Welsh	5,115	5,000	5,875	7,070	5,885	5,315	5,575	4,740	5,740
At least 40 credits in Welsh	2,340	2,430	2,435	2,800	2,265	2,410	2,510	2,510	2,630
At least 80 credits in Welsh	1,390	1,410	1,365	1,370	1,320	1,300	1,340	1,415	1,430
At least 120 credits in Welsh	870	885	885	825	690	710	710	780	835
No teaching in Welsh	131,955	131,885	126,530	120,905	121,135	121,720	124,565	129,155	136,930
All enrolments	137,520	137,145	132,975	128,685	128,005	127,925	130,510	134,790	143,870
<u>Percentages (%)</u>									
Some teaching through Welsh	4%	4%	5%	6%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%
At least 5 credits in Welsh	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%
At least 40 credits in Welsh	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
At least 80 credits in Welsh	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
At least 120 credits in Welsh	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
No teaching in Welsh	96%	96%	95%	94%	95%	95%	95%	96%	95%

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

(a) Excludes Higher education students at Further education institutions

(b) The University of Newport, now part of the University of South Wales, reported additional students with some teaching through Welsh who are not included in the table. This number was 75 in 2013/14.

(c) The number of students studying some credits in Welsh includes the numbers of students studying at least 5, 40, 80 and 120 credits in Welsh. Following this pattern, the number of students studying at least 5 credits in Welsh includes students studying at least 40, 80 and 120 credits in Welsh. The number of students studying at least 40 credits in Welsh includes students studying at least 80 and 120 credits in Welsh. The number of students studying at least 80 credits in Welsh includes students studying at least 120 credits in Welsh.

[\[View the data\]](#)

- In 2020/21, 5,740 students at Welsh higher education providers (excluding Higher education enrolments at further education institutions) studied at least 5 credits through Welsh-medium. Of those, 2,630 studied at least 40 credits through Welsh, of those 1,430 studied at least 80 credits and, of those, 835 studied at least 120 credits.
- The overall number of students studying some credits in Welsh has increased from 5,635 in 2019/20 to 6,940 in 2020/21. This increase should be considered alongside the overall increase in enrolments. Enrolments with some teaching through Welsh as a proportion of all enrolments have increased slightly compared to last year (5% of all enrolments in 2020/21 compared to 4% of all enrolments in 2019/20).

Table A.2: Teaching through Welsh, by Higher Education Provider, 2020/21*Enrolments and percentages*

Enrolments	Some	At least	At least	At least	No		All
	teaching through Welsh	At least 5 credits in Welsh	40 credits in Welsh	80 credits in Welsh	120 credits in Welsh	teaching in Welsh	
Bangor University	1,485	1,445	960	665	310	8,215	9,705
Glyndŵr University	10	5	0	0	0	7,475	7,485
Aberystwyth University	380	375	305	155	50	7,660	8,040
University of Wales TSD	3,510	2,470	540	240	210	11,285	14,795
Swansea University	580	535	225	40	30	20,885	21,465
University of South Wales	100	100	60	15	10	23,050	23,150
Cardiff University	380	380	260	110	65	33,125	33,510
Cardiff Metropolitan University	330	290	250	200	155	11,105	11,435
Open University	160	135	25	0	0	14,130	14,290
All Higher Education Institutions	6,940	5,740	2,630	1,430	835	136,930	143,870
Grwp Llandrillo Menai	280	280	195	100	60	770	1,050
NPTC Group	0	0	0	0	0	195	195
Gower College Swansea	0	0	0	0	0	65	65
Total	7,220	6,015	2,825	1,530	895	137,960	145,175
<i>Percentages (%)</i>							
Bangor University	15%	15%	10%	7%	3%	85%	100%
Glyndŵr University	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
Aberystwyth University	5%	5%	4%	2%	1%	95%	100%
University of Wales TSD	24%	17%	4%	2%	1%	76%	100%
Swansea University	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%	97%	100%
University of South Wales	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
Cardiff University	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	99%	100%
Cardiff Metropolitan University	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	97%	100%
Open University	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	99%	100%
All Higher Education Institutions	5%	4%	2%	1%	1%	95%	100%
Grwp Llandrillo Menai	27%	27%	19%	10%	6%	73%	100%
NPTC Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
Gower College Swansea	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
Total	5%	4%	2%	1%	1%	95%	100%

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government[\[View the data\]](#)

- 1% of students at Welsh Higher Education Providers studied 120 credits or more through the medium of Welsh in 2020/21. The highest proportion was at Grwp Llandrillo Menai (6%) followed by Bangor University (3%).
- Of the higher education institutions, the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David had both the highest number of students (3,510) and the highest proportion of its students (24%) receiving some teaching through the medium of Welsh. This has increased by 4 percentage points, up from 20% in 2019/20.

- Glyndwr University and the University of South Wales had the lowest proportion (0%) of students receiving some teaching through the medium of Welsh of any higher education institution.
- Enrolments at Bangor University and the University of Wales, Trinity St David together accounted for over two thirds (69%) of enrolments with at least some teaching through the medium of Welsh.
- There are currently known inconsistencies in the way in which higher education providers return Welsh medium module data on the HESA record, both in terms of how to define a Welsh medium module and in calculating the percentage of the module that is taught through the medium of Welsh. Investigation into this and discussion between HEFCW, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and providers is ongoing with the aim to establish clear guidance on how to report all data relating to Welsh medium provision on the HESA record which aims to improve the data quality in future.

Table A.3: Mode of study of students at Welsh Higher Education Providers, by amount studied through Welsh, 2020/21

<i>Enrolments and percentages</i>							
	Some teaching through Welsh	At least 5 credits in Welsh	At least 40 credits in Welsh	At least 80 credits in Welsh	At least 120 credits in Welsh	No teaching in Welsh	All enrolments
Enrolments							
Full-time	6,160	5,295	2,675	1,510	890	99,125	105,285
Part-time and other	1,060	720	155	20	5	38,835	39,895
All modes	7,220	6,015	2,825	1,530	895	137,960	145,175
Percentages (%)							
Full-time	6%	5%	3%	1%	1%	94%	100%
Part-time and other	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	97%	100%
All modes	5%	4%	2%	1%	1%	95%	100%

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

[\[View the data\]](#)

- A higher proportion of full-time students received some teaching through Welsh (6%), than part-time and other students (3%).

Table A.4: Level of study of students at Welsh Higher Education Providers, by amount studied through Welsh, 2020/21

<i>Enrolments and percentages</i>							
Enrolments	Some teaching through Welsh	At least 5 credits in Welsh	At least 40 credits in Welsh	At least 80 credits in Welsh	At least 120 credits in Welsh	No teaching in Welsh	All enrolments
Postgraduate Research	45	35	25	20	15	4,380	4,425
Postgraduate Taught	980	845	435	330	290	28,680	29,660
First Degree	5,020	4,350	2,120	1,055	490	85,655	90,675
Other Undergraduate	1,170	785	245	125	105	19,245	20,415
Higher Education	7,220	6,015	2,825	1,530	895	137,960	145,175
<i>Percentages (%)</i>							
Postgraduate Research	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	99%	100%
Postgraduate Taught	3%	3%	1%	1%	1%	97%	100%
First Degree	6%	5%	2%	1%	1%	94%	100%
Other Undergraduate	6%	4%	1%	1%	1%	94%	100%
Higher Education	5%	4%	2%	1%	1%	95%	100%

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

[\[View the data\]](#)

- First degree and Other undergraduate students had the highest proportion of students receiving some teaching in Welsh and studying at least 5 credits through Welsh. First degree students also had the highest proportion of students studying at least 40 credits in Welsh.

Table A.5: Sex of students at Welsh Higher Education Providers, by amount studied through Welsh, 2020/21

<i>Enrolments and percentages</i>							
Enrolments	Some teaching through Welsh	At least 5 credits in Welsh	At least 40 credits in Welsh	At least 80 credits in Welsh	At least 120 credits in Welsh	No teaching in Welsh	All enrolments
Male	2,435	1,855	705	340	190	60,190	62,625
Female	4,775	4,150	2,120	1,190	705	77,480	82,255
Persons	7,220	6,015	2,825	1,530	895	137,960	145,175
<i>Percentages (%)</i>							
Male	4%	3%	1%	1%	0%	96%	100%
Female	6%	5%	3%	1%	1%	94%	100%
Persons	5%	4%	2%	1%	1%	95%	100%

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

[\[View the data\]](#)

- More women than men studied through the medium of Welsh. 6% of women has some teaching through Welsh compared to 4% of men.

Table A.6: Domicile of students at Welsh Higher Education Providers, 2020/21

Enrolments	<i>Enrolments</i>		
	Welsh Domicile	Non-Welsh Domicile	All
Some teaching through Welsh	6,570	650	7,220
At least 5 credits in Welsh	5,555	460	6,015
At least 40 credits in Welsh	2,780	45	2,825
At least 80 credits in Welsh	1,515	15	1,530
At least 120 credits in Welsh	890	5	895
No teaching in Welsh	69,600	68,350	137,960
All enrolments	76,170	69,000	145,175

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

[\[View the data\]](#)

Students' domicile is determined from their address before beginning higher education. Some non-Welsh domiciles who learn through Welsh may be students who grew up in Wales but moved to a different country before starting higher education.

- 9% of students from Wales at Welsh Higher Education Providers received some teaching through Welsh, whereas 1% of students from outside of Wales received some teaching in Welsh.
- Very few students of non-Welsh domicile studied 120 credits in Welsh.

Section B: Module subjects

This section provides information on the subject breakdown of students who attended a Welsh university and studied through the medium of Welsh. The subjects a student studies are calculated on a module-by-module basis, unlike other published higher education data. This is because Welsh-medium information is collected on a module-by-module basis.

A student can study modules in multiple subjects, and even multiple subjects within a single module. Any combination of subjects and modules might have some teaching through Welsh. This means it is not possible to report subject numbers in a way which is both consistent with the Welsh-medium totals elsewhere; and where the percentage of students studying a subject through Welsh is accurate. We have chosen to make the percentages accurate.

Subjects reported in Full-Person Equivalent (FPE) split each student across the module subjects they study. If half a student's modules were Maths modules, and half were law modules, they would count as half a student (0.5) studying Maths and half a student studying Law. Once a student's subjects are calculated in FPE, we check if any part of a subject was studied through Welsh. This means if half a student's course is Maths (0.5 FPE), and they study some Maths through the Welsh-medium, then they also count as half a student studying Maths through Welsh (0.5 FPE).

Table B.1: Module subjects of students at Welsh Higher Education Providers with some teaching through Welsh, 2020/21

Enrolments (Full-Person Equivalents) and percentages

	Some teaching through Welsh	Percentage (%)	All enrolments
Medicine and dentistry	110	2%	4,475
Subjects allied to medicine	720	4%	16,045
Biological and sport sciences	345	3%	10,455
Psychology	140	2%	7,640
Veterinary sciences	0	0%	40
Agriculture, food and related studies	65	5%	1,280
Physical sciences	15	0%	3,900
Mathematical sciences	40	1%	3,070
Engineering and technology	150	2%	9,620
Computing	245	3%	8,540
Geography, earth and environmental studies	55	2%	3,170
Architecture, building and planning	80	3%	2,420
Social sciences	1,070	7%	15,690
Law	110	2%	6,685
Business and management	330	2%	21,140
Media, journalism and communications	75	3%	2,530
Language and area studies	390	5%	7,300
Welsh studies	325	96%	335
Other Celtic Language	35	38%	85
Other European Language	5	0%	1,590
Historical, philosophical and religious studies	170	4%	3,960
Design, and creative and performing arts	1,120	15%	7,240
Drama	135	17%	780
Music	40	3%	1,505
Cinematics and photography	100	10%	970
Education and teaching	1,315	17%	7,540
Teacher Training	675	30%	2,255
Studies in Education	640	12%	5,285
Combined and general studies	115	5%	2,435
All Subjects	6,655	5%	145,170

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

[\[View the data\]](#)

- Education and teaching had the highest number of students studying some Welsh (1,315) but the modules with the highest proportion of students studying some Welsh were Welsh studies (96%) and Other Celtic Languages (38%).
- 325 students who received some teaching through the Welsh-medium in 2020/21 were receiving it from a module specifically designed to teach Welsh studies.

- Business & Management Studies modules were the most popular, but only 2% of students studying these modules received any teaching through Welsh.
- Veterinary Sciences modules had the least Welsh-medium teaching closely followed by modules in Other European languages and Physical Sciences.

Section C – Welsh speakers

HESA collect data from all students enrolled at Welsh universities where the student is ordinarily (prior to study) resident in Wales. The data records whether the student deems themselves to be a Welsh speaker and whether they are fluent or not. Data quality across institutions is variable, with a couple of institutions having a markedly larger proportion of unknowns than the majority.

However, as the overall rate of unknowns is low compared with earlier years, it is now more useful for analysis.

Table C.1: Ability to speak Welsh of students from Wales at Welsh Higher Education Providers, by amount studied through Welsh, 2020/21

	<i>Enrolments</i>						
	Some teaching through Welsh	At least 5 credits in Welsh	At least 40 credits in Welsh	At least 80 credits in Welsh	At least 120 credits in Welsh	No teaching in Welsh	All enrolments
Fluent Welsh speaker	3,110	2,975	2,170	1,380	800	7,230	10,345
Welsh speaker not fluent	995	815	330	95	55	9,490	10,485
Not a Welsh speaker	2,300	1,645	230	40	30	45,745	48,050
Unknown	160	120	50	0	0	7,130	7,290
All	6,570	5,555	2,780	1,515	890	69,600	76,170

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

[\[View the data\]](#)

- The number of students receiving some teaching through Welsh were fairly evenly split between fluent and non-fluent Welsh speakers. There were 3,110 fluent Welsh speakers that had some study through the Welsh-medium in 2020/21 and 3,300 students who were not Welsh speakers or spoke Welsh, but weren't fluent, that had some study through the Welsh-medium.
- There were 30 students studying 120 credits through Welsh even though it was reported that they were not Welsh speakers. This suggests there may still be some issues with the data.

Table C.2: University and ability to speak Welsh of students from Wales at Welsh universities, 2020/21

	<i>Enrolments</i>				
	Fluent Welsh speaker	Welsh speaker not fluent	Not a Welsh speaker	Unknown	All
Bangor University	1,525	585	1,920	0	4,030
Glyndŵr University	465	785	3,005	85	4,345
Aberystwyth University	870	550	1,450	40	2,905
University of Wales Trinity St David	1,045	1,210	5,490	240	7,985
Swansea University	1,650	1,555	6,675	0	9,880
University of South Wales	1,275	1,770	11,245	140	14,430
Cardiff University	1,670	1,630	7,490	20	10,805
Cardiff Metropolitan University	875	855	4,465	0	6,195
Open University	660	1,280	5,715	6,635	14,290
All Higher Education Institutions	10,030	10,220	47,455	7,165	74,870
Grwp Llandrillo Menai	275	230	410	125	1,040
NPTC Group	25	30	140	0	195
Gower College Swansea	10	5	45	0	65
Total	10,345	10,485	48,050	7,290	76,170

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

[\[View the data\]](#)

- Of Higher Education Institutions, Bangor University (38%), Aberystwyth University (30%) and Swansea University (17%) had the highest proportions of students known to be fluent Welsh speakers out of all higher education institutions. However, Cardiff University had the highest number of students known to be fluent Welsh speakers (1,670). Only 5% of Welsh Open University students were known to be fluent Welsh speakers.
- The percentage of students known to be fluent Welsh speakers at Glyndŵr is at 11%, closely followed by University of South Wales (9%).
- Overall, almost 63% of Welsh domiciled students were identified as non-Welsh speakers. When considering higher education institutions, the University of South Wales had the highest proportion of known non-Welsh speakers (78%) followed by Cardiff Metropolitan University (72%) and Cardiff University and Glyndŵr with 69% of Welsh domiciled students known to be unable to speak Welsh.

Section D - Initial Teacher Education

An Initial Teacher Education (formerly Initial Teacher Training) student counted as able to teach bilingually has completed a course that was designed to enable students to teach in English and Welsh, that may or may not have led to a formal certificate for bilingual education.

Table D.1: School level of students completing ITE courses in Wales leading to bilingual teaching

		<i>Qualifiers from ITE courses</i>								
		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Primary School	Trained to teach in Welsh	160	150	145	145	115	110	100	130	145
	Not trained to teach in Welsh	510	520	480	495	525	495	445	460	495
Secondary School	Trained to teach in Welsh	100	145	115	80	80	75	70	95	125
	Not trained to teach in Welsh	705	610	570	450	425	375	340	345	505
All	Trained to teach in Welsh	255	300	260	225	195	185	170	225	270
	Not trained to teach in Welsh	1,210	1,130	1,050	945	950	870	785	805	1,000

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

[View the data](#)

- There were 270 students who completed an Initial Teaching Education (ITE) course which trained them to teach through the medium of Welsh in 2020/21.
- 21% of all completers trained to teach bilingually in 2020/21, 1 percentage point lower than in 2019/20.
- In 2020/21, 23% of Primary school trainee teachers and 20% of Secondary school trainee teachers were able to teach bilingually.

Table D.2: Type of degree of students completing ITE courses in Wales leading to bilingual teaching

		<i>Qualifiers from ITE courses</i>								
		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
PGCE	Trained to teach in Welsh	185	215	185	165	155	135	120	175	230
	Not trained to teach in Welsh	980	900	840	735	735	680	610	620	845
Other Degree	Trained to teach in Welsh	70	85	80	60	45	50	50	50	40
	Not trained to teach in Welsh	230	225	210	210	215	225	210	210	215

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

[View the data](#)

- In 2020/21, 86% of ITE completers that were able to teach bilingually gained a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE).
- 21% of all ITE graduates qualified to teach bilingually in 2020/21.

Table D.3: Self-reported Welsh speaking ability of qualifiers from ITE courses in Wales by ability to teach in Welsh, 2020/21

	<i>Qualifiers from ITE courses</i>		
	<u>Fluent Welsh Speaker</u>	<u>Not a fluent Welsh speaker</u>	<u>All</u>
Trained to teach in Welsh	225	45	270
Not trained to teach in Welsh	105	865	1,000
All	330	910	1,270

Source: HESA Student Record via Welsh Government

[\[View the data\]](#)

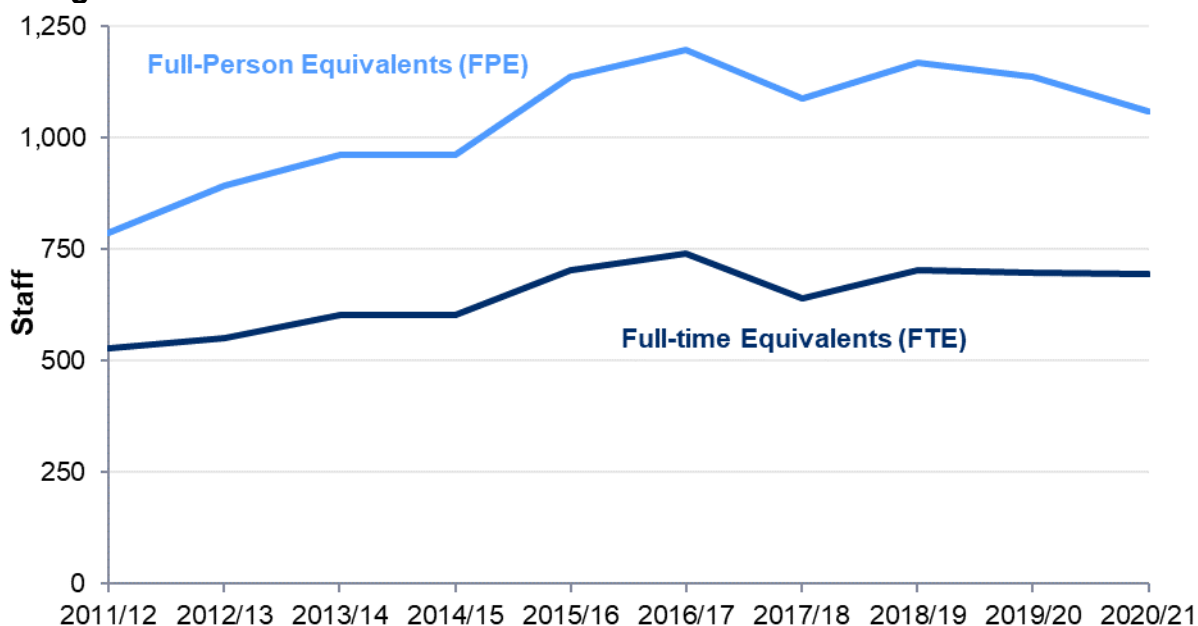
- In 2020/21, 69% of fluent Welsh speakers who completed ITE courses were trained to teach through the medium of Welsh.
- 16% of students training to teach in Welsh consider themselves not fluent in the language. This suggests there may still be some issues with the data.

Section E – Staff

This section covers academic staff employed at Welsh Higher Education Institutions, and whether they are currently teaching, or able to teach, through the medium of Welsh. The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol initially funded academic posts to enable teaching through the medium of Welsh to take place. From 2019/20 the Coleg supports institutions with specific grants to grow higher education provision that will include staff planning.

All figures in this section are stated in Full-Person Equivalents (FPE), unless stated otherwise. Further information on staff in Welsh universities can be found on [StatsWales](#).

Chart E.1: Full-person and full-time equivalents of academic staff able to teach through the medium of Welsh



Source: HESA Staff Record via Welsh Government

[\[View the data\]](#)

- The number of staff (FPE) who were able to teach in Welsh was 35% higher in 2020/21 than it was in 2011/12.
- The number of staff able to teach in Welsh dropped slightly in 2020/21, from 1,135 in 2019/20 to 1,060 in 2020/21.

Table E.1: Higher Education Institution staff teaching or able to teach through the medium of Welsh, 2020/21 ^(a)

	Staff (Full-Person Equivalents)			All
	Teaching in Welsh	Able to teach in Welsh (a)	Unable to teach in Welsh	
Bangor University	230	295	585	995
Glyndwr University	0	10	175	195
Aberystwyth University	120	155	535	695
University of Wales, Trinity St David	35	255	425	700
Swansea University	45	70	1,040	1,665
University of South Wales	35	95	1,425	1,665
Cardiff University	95	135	3,245	3,380
Cardiff Metropolitan University	20	40	660	740
Total (Welsh HEIs, Excludes the OU)	575	1,060	8,085	10,045

Source: HESA Staff Record via Welsh Government

(a) Able to teach in Welsh includes those teaching in Welsh.

[\[View the data\]](#)

- In 2020/21, the Bangor University had the highest number of academic staff **able** to teach through the medium of Welsh (295) and also the highest number **actually teaching** through the medium of Welsh (230).
- University of Wales, Trinity Saint David had the highest proportion (37%) of academic staff able to teach through the medium of Welsh. Cardiff and Swansea University had the lowest proportion (4%) of staff able to teach through Welsh.

Table E.2: Staff teaching or able to teach through the medium of Welsh at Welsh Higher Education Institutions ^(a)

	Staff (Full-Person Equivalents)								
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Able to teach in Welsh	895	960	960	1,135	1,200	1,090	1,170	1,135	1,060
Unable to teach in Welsh	6,520	7,710	8,795	7,870	8,300	8,290	7,965	8,185	8,085
Information not sought	2,150	1,470	650	660	740	875	1,130	840	895
All	9,565	10,140	10,410	9,670	10,240	10,255	10,265	10,165	10,045
Teaching in Welsh	635	590	625	590	635	635	605	600	575
Not teaching in Welsh	6,860	8,465	8,810	7,325	7,665	7,765	6,180	6,805	6,470
Information not sought	2,075	1,085	975	1,755	1,945	1,855	3,475	2,755	2,995
All	9,565	10,140	10,410	9,670	10,240	10,255	10,265	10,165	10,045

Source: HESA Staff Record via Welsh Government

(a) Able to teach in Welsh includes those teaching in Welsh.

[\[View the data\]](#)

- In 2020/21 the total number of academic staff **teaching** through the medium of Welsh decreased by 4% from 600 in 2019/20 to 575 in 2020/21.
- The number of academic staff **able** to teach through the medium of Welsh, decreased by 7% from 1,135 in 2019/20 to 1,060 in 2020/21.
- 54% of staff who were able to teach in Welsh were providing some teaching through the medium of Welsh in 2020/21, compared with 53% in 2019/20.

- Please note: for 2017/18, these figures differ from those on the StatsWales website. An error was detected in the HESA data provided to the Welsh Government for Cardiff University and Swansea University, and corrected high-level figures were obtained directly from the universities for the purpose of this bulletin. However, the underlying detailed breakdown of these figures on StatsWales is provided by HESA and is yet to be revised.

Table E.3: Cost centre of academic staff teaching through the medium of Welsh, 2020/21

	<i>Staff (Full-Person Equivalents)</i>				Percent by Cost Centre
	Teaching in Welsh	Not teaching in Welsh	Information not sought	All	
Academic services	10	30	90	130	9%
Administrative, business & social studies	40	955	395	1,395	3%
Agriculture, forestry and veterinary science	10	90	20	125	8%
Architecture & planning	0	105	10	120	2%
Biological, mathematical & physical sciences	25	870	315	1,215	2%
Design, creative & performing arts	55	565	405	1,025	5%
Education	175	340	105	620	28%
Engineering & technology	10	580	600	1,190	1%
Humanities, languages & archaeology	140	475	165	775	18%
Law, Economics and politics	25	330	135	495	5%
Medicine, dentistry & health	85	2,130	750	2,960	3%
All	575	6,470	2,995	10,045	6%

Source: HESA Staff Record via Welsh Government

[\[View the data\]](#)

- The highest number of staff teaching through the medium of Welsh were found in Education and Humanities, Languages & Archaeology. Together, these cost centres accounted for more than half of the total staff teaching through Welsh.

Methodology

Important notes on how the statistics were calculated. See the [Definitions](#) section for more detailed information on the terms used in this bulletin.

Data source

The data in this bulletin mostly come from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record and Staff Record.

A summary of the Student data collection process for 2020/21 covering timescales, validation and business rules and checking processes is included on the [HESA website](#). The same can be found for the [Staff data collection](#).

Coverage

Students

The statistics only cover students who are part of HESA's Higher Education standard registration population or qualifications obtained population. More information on these populations can be found in the [student definitions on the HESA website](#).

All uses of 'students' in this bulletin refer to 'student enrolments'. This is a count of each enrolment for a course. In rare instances where a student was enrolled in two different courses in the same year, that student would be counted twice.

Previous analysis has shown that, for Welsh HEIs: full-time enrolments are less than 1% higher than full-time student numbers; and part-time enrolments are less than 2% higher than part-time student numbers.

All uses of 'qualifiers' in this bulletin refer to 'qualifications obtained'. In the rare instance where a student received two different qualifications in the same year, that student would be counted twice.

Staff

All tables in this bulletin are based on the HESA academic staff contract population, which includes those contracts that were active on 1 December within the reporting period.

Academic staff are defined as academic professionals who are responsible for planning, directing and undertaking academic teaching and research within Higher Education Institutions.

Following a HESA review, the methodology used to locate academic professionals changed in 2012/13. This caused a material difference in the percentage of staff identified as "information not yet sought" in the able to teach through Welsh/teaching through Welsh field.

Rounding strategy

The presentation of figures in this bulletin follows the principals of the HESA rounding strategy. The strategy is intended to prevent the disclosure of personal information about any individual. This strategy involves rounding all numbers to the nearest 5. A summary of this strategy is as follows:

- Numbers lower than 3 are rounded to 0.
- All other numbers are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5.

Total figures are also subject to this rounding methodology; the consequence of which is that the sum of numbers in each row or column may not match the total shown precisely. Percentages have been calculated using precise raw numbers and rounded to 0 decimal places.

Definitions

Definitions for sections A to C – Students

Amount studied through Welsh

The amount studied through Welsh presents information on how much learning a student undertook through the Welsh language that year. It accounts for the amount of each module studied through Welsh. If a student studied half of a 20 credit module through Welsh, that would be counted as 10 credits. The some/5/40/80 categories also overlap. For example, everyone who has studied at least 40 credits through Welsh is included as having studied at least 5 credits in Welsh.

First degree

First degree refers to what might be thought of as the “standard” undergraduate course. It does **not** mean that it’s the first undergraduate degree a student has taken.

It includes first degrees with or without eligibility to register to practice with a Health or Social Care or Veterinary statutory regulatory body, first degrees with qualified teacher status (QTS)/registration with the General Teaching Council (GTC), enhanced first degrees, first degrees obtained concurrently with a diploma and intercalated first degrees.

Full-time equivalent (FTE)

FTE presents students in terms of equivalent full-time students. A joint honours student whose course is half maths, is half of an equivalent single honours Maths student (0.5 FTE). A part-time student whose course would last 6 years instead of 3 is counted as half of an equivalent full-time student (0.5 FTE).

Full-person equivalent (FPE)

Full-person equivalents divide students up across their various modes of study, regardless of the total time a student studies. A part-time joint honours student, studying half Maths, is still counted as half a Maths students (0.5 FPE). In FTE that joint honours student would be counted as half of half a Maths student (0.25 FTE), if their overall study is also half of a full-time equivalent’s.

Sex

Other (non-binary) sexes are included in the totals.

Level of study

Whether the student is studying a postgraduate course, undergraduate first degree or undergraduate other degree. Postdoctoral students are not included.

Mode of study

Whether a student studies full-time or part-time. Full-time students are normally required to attend an institution for periods amounting to at least 24 weeks within the year of programme of study. During that time, students are normally expected to undertake periods of study, tuition or work experience which amount to an average of at least 21 hours per week.

Other undergraduate degrees

Other undergraduate degrees include qualification aims below degree level, such as: Foundation Degrees; diplomas in HE with eligibility to register to practice with a Health or Social Care regulatory body; Higher National Diploma (HND); Higher National Certificate (HNC); Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE); Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE); foundation courses at HE level; NVQ/SVQ levels 4 and 5; post-degree diplomas and certificates at undergraduate level; professional qualifications at undergraduate level; other undergraduate diplomas and certificates including post registration health and social care courses; other formal HE qualifications of less than degree standard; institutional undergraduate credit; and no formal undergraduate qualifications.

Students from Wales/Welsh domiciles

Students classified as Welsh domiciled are those whose home postcode on entry to a higher education institution was in Wales.

Year

Years are academic years, from 1 August to the 31 July.

Definitions for Section D – Initial Teacher Education

Ability to teach bilingually

Students are defined as ‘able to teach in bilingually’ if they take part in a course which either leads to a formal certificate of bilingual education, or does not lead to a certificate, but is designed to enable students to teach in Welsh.

Degree type

PGCE includes Postgraduate Certificate of Education, Professional Graduate Certificate of Education and Professional Diploma of Education. The Postgraduate Certificate of Education is a Masters level qualification, but the Professional Graduate Certificate of Education is **not**. In some cases, a student might start studying a postgraduate course, but leave with an undergraduate qualification.

Most ‘Other Degree’ courses are Bachelors level, with a teaching component that leads to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

Initial Teacher Education (ITE)

Initial Teacher Education used to be known as Initial Teacher Training (ITT) or Initial Teacher Education and Training (ITET). It covers all paths to someone becoming a teacher – gaining QTS. This bulletin covers people becoming teachers through formal Higher Education courses.

Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

Qualified Teacher Status is necessary to teach in a Welsh school. QTS in Wales is different from QTS in England or General Teaching Council registry in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

School level

School level refers to whether the course is focused on training primary or secondary school teachers. This is often known as 'school phase'. When qualified a teacher may teach a different age range than they originally trained for.

Definitions for Section E - Staff

Full-time equivalent (FTE)

Full-time equivalent (FTE) is that recorded in the contract and measures the equivalence to full-time over the course of the reporting period 1 August to 31 July.

Full-person equivalent (FPE)

Individuals can hold more than one contract with an institution and each contract may involve more than one different activity. Staff counts have been divided amongst their activities in proportion to the declared FTE for each activity. This results in counts of full-person equivalents (FPE). Staff FPE counts are calculated on the basis of contract activities that were active on 1 December of the reporting period.

Staff teaching through the medium of Welsh

The contract table includes details of staff teaching through the medium of Welsh. The number of staff teaching through the medium of Welsh is a count of academic staff with at least one academic contract involving some teaching through the medium of Welsh.

Key quality information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability. [HESA](#) (the data source) are themselves publishers of National Statistics and give detail on the quality of their data on their website.

Relevance

Changes were made to the bulletin following feedback from Y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and Welsh Language policy officials. In 2011 changes were made to the content of the bulletin following feedback from the Welsh Language Board. The bulletin was also included in a consultation on education statistics, which did not prompt major requests for changes.

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the Senedd;
- Officials in the Welsh Government;
- Other government departments;
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales;
- Higher Education Institutions and representative bodies;
- Students, researchers, and academics;
- Individual citizens, private companies, and the media;

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- Informing the education policy decision-making process in Wales and to inform existing strategies, for example the Welsh-medium Education Strategy.

Accuracy

Self-assessed variables

Many of the key HESA fields relating to the Welsh language rely on the assessment of either the student or university. The WELSSP indicator for the ability of the student to speak Welsh is self-assessed by the student and the standard for fluency may change from person to person. Signs that the indicator might not always be reliable are pointed out under table D.1.

A student's domicile is used as a proxy in for their nationality. However, it's not always true that a Welsh student is a Welsh domicile. Someone may have moved out of Wales shortly before starting their course. This may lead to non-Welsh domiciles studying through the Welsh medium.

Likewise, the LANGPCNT field is used to calculate whether and how much study a student undertook through Welsh. This field is assessed by the university and universities may assess the Welsh-medium content of modules differently. In 2015/16, it was discovered that some Welsh language modules were not being assessed as entirely undertaken through the Welsh-medium.

In the past it has been required for institutions to either submit course averages or the actual values per enrolment to HESA. For the statistics used in this bulletin, the course average values are not appropriate. This over-estimates the number of students being taught through Welsh, since more students will have non-zero values.

Amendments

In 2011 it came to light that, the University of Wales, Newport (now the University of South Wales) had submitted course average values for Welsh-medium study which met HESA requirements, but did not contain the level of detail required for these statistics. Amended data was obtained directly from the University of Wales, Newport for 2008/09, 2009/10, 2011/12 and later from the University of South Wales for 2013/14. However, the amended data did not contain the level detail required for this bulletin, or StatsWales, so it has only been included in footnotes.

Timeliness and punctuality

HESA collected student enrolment and staff data for the 2020/2021 academic year from August 2020. They produced their own Higher Education Student Enrolment and Qualifications Obtained at Higher Education Institutions release in January 2022 and released their latest Staff in Higher Education Institutions publication in February 2022. This Welsh Medium bulletin now highlights a Wales specific dimension to the student and staff data collections. The release of this bulletin was moved forward from August to July to improve timeliness.

Accessibility and clarity

This statistical bulletin is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics & Research section of the Welsh Government website.

This bulletin will be accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a dissemination site that allows visitors to view, manipulate and create tables to download.

Comparability and coherence

Owing to the subject matter of this bulletin, there are no comparable statistics produced for other countries within the UK. Definitions are consistent with other Welsh Government Higher Education releases, except for the subject breakdowns which are calculated on a per-module basis here to incorporate the Welsh-medium information.

National Statistics status

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the wellbeing goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before Senedd Cymru. Under section 10(8) of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, where the Welsh Ministers revise the national indicators, they must as soon as reasonably practicable (a) publish the indicators as revised and (b) lay a copy of them before the Senedd. These national indicators were laid before the Senedd in 2021. The indicators laid on 14 December 2021 replace the set laid on 16 March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the wellbeing goals and associated technical information is available in the [Wellbeing of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local wellbeing assessments and local wellbeing plans.

Further details

The document is available at:

<https://gov.wales/welsh-language-higher-education-september-2020-august-2021>

Tables associated with this bulletin and which contain more details are available through [StatsWales](#), our interactive data distribution service.

Next update

July 2023 for academic year 2021/22.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to highereducationandstudentfinance.stats@gov.wales

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