

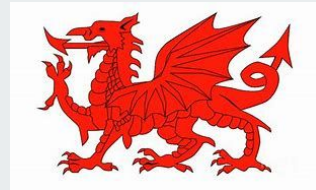


The Dragon, The Thistle and The Shamrock

Llinos Angharad Williams- Group Chair for HELOA Wales

Calum Fraser- Group chair for HELOA Scotland

Niamh Gallagher- Vice Chair Membership and Communications for HELOA North West
England and Northern Ireland





Croeso!

Fàilte!

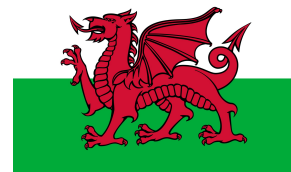
Fáilte!



What do you already know?

Based on the flag on your table, write down what you know about:

- Qualifications
- Student Finance System
- HEI Provision
- Language spoken
- Fun facts/Myths



Education in Wales / Addysg yng Nghymru

Students can study qualifications through Welsh or English

No academies, free schools nor state grammar schools

GCSEs are the main general qualifications taken by 16-year-old learners in Wales, including Welsh and Welsh as a second language, but grading scales remain **A* to G**

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced (A) levels are the main general qualifications at Level 3 and are usually taken at age 16-19 (other qualifications are available)

In Wales, A level qualifications:

- consist of AS and A2 units
- AS is a stand-alone qualification and also contributes 40% towards the full A level
- share the same content as A levels in England - but include a Welsh perspective where appropriate

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/>



Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

A new Level 3 qualification available to learners from September 2023, awarded for the first time in Summer 2025

Will replace the current Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate qualification – which will have its last award in Summer 2024

Primarily designed for students aged 16-19, and can be taken alongside other Level 3 qualifications, including A levels

Consists of 3 Projects graded A-U - Global Community Project (25%), Future Destinations Project (25%), Individual Project (50%)

Equivalent in size and demand to an A Level and will be graded (overall) A*-E

Part of an applicant's offer?



walesonline.co.uk/news/education/top-uk-universities-refuse-accept-27987191



W News ▶ Education ▶ Wales schools

Top UK universities refuse to accept the Welsh Baccalaureate

There is only patchy recognition of the Welsh Government's qualification at the UK's top universities

NEWS By **Abbie Wightwick** Education Editor

13:19, 26 OCT 2023 | UPDATED 16:12, 26 OCT 2023

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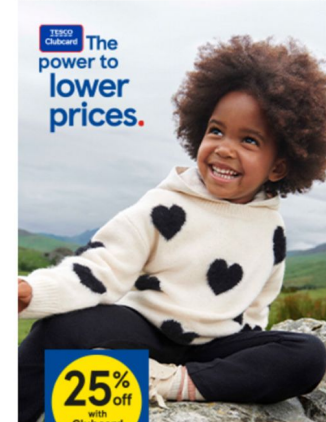
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HE Provision in Wales / Darpariaeth AU yng Nghymru

8 Universities and 1 Conservatoire in Wales

2021/22 - 149,045 students enrolled at Welsh HEP's, 83,970 f/t UG and 38,660 PG

Half of students at Welsh HEP's came from Wales before they began their studies

41,550 f/t students from other UK countries studying in Wales

28,845 f/t students from Wales studying at HEP's in the rest of the UK

Opportunities for students to study through Welsh or English

Scholarships available to students who study certain number of credits through Welsh at University funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

NHS Wales Bursary Scheme is currently available to students choosing to study an NHS course at a HEI in Wales





Student Finance Wales

Universities in Wales can charge up to **£9,000** tuition fees per year

Mixture of loan and grant available each year for all eligible students from Wales on their first undergraduate degree course to help with living costs and a **tuition fee loan** available

The amount for living costs available in 2023/24 to students:

who study away from home - **£11,720**

living with parents - **£9,950**

who study in London not living with parents - **£13,022**

living and studying abroad - **£14,635**

Means tested student finance – amount available as a loan and amount as a grant is determined by students' taxable household income

Welsh Students Funding Table 2023/24

(living away from home outside of London)



Taxable Household Income	Maintenance Grant	Maintenance Loan
£18,370 or under	£8,100	£3,620
£25,000	£6,947	£4,773
£35,000	£5,208	£6,512
£45,000	£3,469	£8,251
£55,000	£1,730	£9,990
£59,200	£1,000	£10,720
	TOTAL	£11,720



Student Finance Wales

Repayments are linked to income – repay 9% of your annual income over **£27,295** per year (repayments made automatically through the tax system)

Partial cancellation scheme – when you start to repay, Welsh Government could cancel up to **£1,500** from any full-time maintenance loan balance, deduction applied when eligible students make their first repayment

<https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/>

HE in Scotland

- Population – 5 million
- 600 years of Higher Education – 4 ancient Universities
- 4000 degree combinations
- 18 HEIs
- Typically 4 year degrees
- Flexibility particularly with the MA degree – up to 4 subjects in years 1 & 2
- Higher Education is free for students nominally resident in Scotland for the last 3 years



Qualifications

- Curriculum for Excellence provides knowledge, skills and attributes for learning and life to all nursery, primary and secondary schooling between the ages of 3 - 18.
- National 5's are the Scottish version of GCSEs
- Highers are typically required for access to HE
- FE Colleges throughout Scotland run HNC and HND courses which can provide entry to HE
- Widening Access – Scottish government policy (SIMD)
- Flexible entry points



Funding & More information

- <http://www.scqf.org.uk/> - Scottish qualifications framework
- [Student Awards Agency Scotland - SAAS - Funding Your Future](#) – Student funding
- [Scottish Qualifications Authority – SQA](#) – Qualifications authority
- [Toolkit | Scotland.org](#) – Marketing support





Education in Northern Ireland

- The education system in Northern Ireland consists of different types of schools under the control of management committees who are also the employers of teachers.
- Controlled schools are managed and funded by the Education Authority through school Boards of Governors (BoGs). Primary and secondary school BoGs consist of representatives of transferors - mainly the Protestant churches - along with representatives of parents, teachers and the Education Authority.
- Catholic Maintained schools are managed by BoGs nominated by trustees - mainly Roman Catholic - along with parents, teachers and EA representatives.
- Voluntary (grammar) and Integrated schools invite Protestant and Catholic to come together with other traditions to improve their understanding of one another, their own cultures, religions, and values.



Irish Language in Northern Ireland/ An Ghaeilge i dTuaisceart Éireann

- Irish has been recognised as an official language since 2022. *The Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022 legislation was actually based off the 1993 Welsh Language Act.*
- Irish-Medium education is education provided in an Irish speaking school or unit.
- There are currently 30 Irish-medium schools in Northern Ireland and a further 10 Irish-medium units attached to English-medium host schools.
 - Of the 30 schools, 28 are primary and two are post primary.
 - Of the 10 Irish-medium units attached to English-medium host schools, 7 are primary and 3 are post-primary.
- You can study Irish from Year 7 as part of modern foreign language(MFL) classes, GCSE Irish and A Level Irish without being in an Irish-medium school
 - Most Gaelscoil Rang 7/Irish-medium p7 pupils will have sat their GCSE Irish before starting high school.
- There are university courses taught partly or wholly in Irish, available at most of the HEIs and at St Mary's University College.



Education qualifications in Northern Ireland

Level 2 (Years 11 & 12)

- (Academic) GCSEs
 - A*- G grading
- (Vocational) BTECs/OCN NI Level 2/NFQ Level 2
 - Pass, Merit & Distinction grading

Level 3 (Years 13 & 14)

Most High Schools have a Sixth form attached or students can choose to attend a college, e.g. Northern Regional College, College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) or Belfast Met College.

In some towns with many local sixth forms there may be a learning partnership in place where students can stay on at their current school for sixth form but choose to study 1 A Level at another school - this gives the students a wider variety of subject choices.

- A Levels - split into AS(Year 13) AND A2(Year 14)
- BTEC qualifications or OCR Nationals (eg Cambridge Technical Award)

General A levels

- Biology
- Geography
- English Literature
- Life & Health Sciences
- History
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Polish
- Religious Studies
- Sociology

Applied A levels

- Art & Design GCE
- BTEC in Art & Design
- Extended Certificate in Applied Business
- BTEC in Construction
- BTEC in Hospitality
- Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT (SA)
- Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in Sport (SA)
- Health & Social Care (Single Award)
- Health & Social Care (Double award)

Magherafelt & Rural Learning Partnership Subject Offer

- BTEC in Engineering
- Chemistry
- Digital Technology
- Environmental Technology
- French
- Government & Politics
- Irish
- Moving Image Arts
- Music
- Nutrition & Food Science
- Performing Arts

Sixth Form Enhancement Courses

- Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (Level 3)
- NEA Level 3 Award in Communication (Level 3)
- NEA Level 3 Award in Performance (Level 3)



HE provision in Northern Ireland

3 Universities

- Queen's University, Belfast
- Ulster University
- Open University

2 University Colleges

- St Mary's
- Stranmillis University College

6 FE colleges - all of which offer opportunities to study for and attain various higher education qualifications.

- Belfast Metropolitan College
- Northern Regional College
- Southern Regional College
- South Eastern Regional College
- North West Regional College
- South West College
- College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)

The vast majority of HE students remain on 3 year full time degrees with the three universities offering a number of Higher Level Apprenticeships working across both universities and employers.

The university colleges offer teaching programmes/ liberal arts degrees, with the six further education colleges offering several foundation degrees as an alternative route to university.



Student Finance in Northern Ireland

- Funding for studying in all publicly funded institutions and most private providers is set at £9,250 per year for UK undergraduates unless they have Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland fee status.
 - In this case students would pay £4,750 per year because the tuition fees are partially funded by the Department for the Economy.

For Maintenance support students can apply for

- a maintenance loan
- maintenance grant (only available if household income is below £41,065)
- special support grant (may be available if household income is below £41,065 and they're eligible for certain qualifying benefits.)

Students start **repaying** their loan after leaving university or college when they are **earning over £22,015** and any loan they still owe will be **cancelled 25 years after** the April when they first became responsible for paying back the loan.



Time to test your knowledge...

Kahoot...