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Managing full-time under-graduate student numbers

Following a consultation (W10/27HE) with universities on the Welsh Assembly Government's request that an upper limit on full-time undergraduate numbers is fixed and adhered to, we wrote to institutions on 30 September with guidance on the control of student numbers. The guidance circular gives information on how a cap on these student numbers will be calculated and divided between institutions. More detailed information, tailored to each institution, followed in October.

- Circular W10/27HE
- Summary of consultation outcomes

HEFCW's response to the Browne Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance in England

In Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government will determine Wales's response to the *Browne Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance in England*,

taking account of what Lord Browne has proposed and, more importantly, of the response to it by the Westminster Government.

As far as HEFCW is concerned, we will await guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government, and will then consider how best to use all available resources to ensure the strongest possible higher education system in Wales, focused on delivery of the key *For our Future* objectives of social justice and supporting a buoyant economy.

While the recommendations are for England, we will need to ensure that the implementation of any recommendations that affect the operation of the QAA and OIA will take account of the fact that these are cross-border operations, and that their future will require UK-wide discussion.

Invitation to HEFCW's annual meeting for the public

HEFCW's annual public meeting will take place at the HEFCW offices in Llanishen, Cardiff at 10:00 am on Friday, 29 October 2010. All are welcome to attend, whether you are involved in higher education professionally or academically, if you are a student, graduate or parent, or if you are a member of the public with an interest in HE. It's free to attend; all you need to do is register your interest at info@hefcw.ac.uk or phone 029 2076 1861 to ensure entry into the building on the day.

We will use the October annual public meeting to launch our most recent annual report. The report focuses on achievements during the 2009-10 financial year and HEFCW's progress against our operational plan. In it, you will also find information about student numbers and funding, and a summary of our annual accounts.

Employability statements

The Unistats website gives information on each higher education institution in Wales and England, including facts about courses and student satisfaction data. To maintain comparability of practice with England, we have asked higher education institutions to produce 'employability statements' which will be included in the commentary section of the Unistats website. This will let prospective students assess

more information on the costs, graduate earnings and student satisfaction of different university courses.

- ➔ [Circular W10/32HE: Employability Statements](#)
- ➔ [Unistats](#)

National Teaching Fellowship Scheme

This academic year Wales will join the National Teaching Fellowship Scheme, which recognises and rewards individuals in higher education whose achievements have transformed the student learning experience.

The awards are open to staff at HEFCW-funded higher education institutions and at FE institutions which have 100 or more full-time equivalent students on higher education programmes directly funded by HEFCW.

Up to 55 awards of £10,000 will be made to recognise individual excellence from candidates in eligible institutions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Key dates:

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| • 5 January 2011 | Call for nominations and application form released |
| • 23 March 2011 | Nominations close – deadline for electronic copies of nominations |
| • 30 March 2011 | Deadline for hard copy nominations |
| • 21 April 2011 | Deadline for submitting profiles and photographs |

A workshop will be held on 24 November 2010 in Llandrindod Wells to support Welsh institutions responding to the call for nominations. Further information will be made available via the HE Academy website.

- ➔ [HE Academy website](#)

National Student Survey

From 2011 Welsh institutions will be able to add optional questions to the online national student survey. Full details will be provided via a circular on our website later this month.

Widening access to higher education

Our widening access policies aim to ensure equity, opportunity and success in higher education to enable learners across all age ranges and backgrounds, who face the highest social and economic barriers, to fulfil their potential as students, lifelong learners, citizens and employees.

We are currently developing our widening access position statement: *HEFCW's Strategic Approach to Widening Access to Higher Education*. Our *Strategic Approach* will set out our commitments to meeting higher education strategy *For Our Future's* widening access-related priorities, including contributing to improving social justice and supporting a buoyant economy.

To ensure that this policy contributes effectively to widening access to and through higher education, we have consulted with the main stakeholders, and will be involving a wider range of interested parties in assessing the impact on equality of this major policy document.

Individuals or organisations who are interested in contributing to the equality impact assessment process should contact us on equality@hefcw.ac.uk.

In the meantime, we have revised guidelines to institutions which outline how we would expect them to progress their widening access activities and what to focus on, such as an ongoing commitment to care leavers and support for disabled students.

➔ Circular W10/30HE: Widening Access to Higher Education Allocations 2010/11 and Related Information

Providing incentives for universities to recruit to science

Over the summer, we invited bids from institutions to convert existing university places into places for science, technology, engineering and maths subjects (STEM) in order to support Welsh Assembly Government plans for economic renewal, and following widespread employer calls for more graduates in these subjects. We let institutions know their individual allocations earlier this month.

Coleg Ffederal update

As we reported in June, the mission of the Coleg Ffederal ('Federal College') is to maintain, develop and oversee Welsh medium provision in higher education in Wales. It would not be a single geographical entity nor a degree awarding body in its own right, but would work in partnership with and through the existing higher education (HE) institutions in Wales. It would be a new and independent legal entity with its own Constitution.

The draft Constitution for the Coleg was considered by representative bodies Higher Education Wales (HEW) and Chairs of Higher Education Wales (CHEW), and HEFCW at meetings at the Strategic Dialogue event in Bangor on 2 September, where it received broad support. It will now be considered formally by the governing bodies of the HE institutions during their meetings in October and early November. The Coleg can then be legally incorporated.

Proposed name

The proposed name for the Coleg is Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, which, it is considered, will provide a short descriptive name which will be meaningful to current and potential students.

Coming up

Over the next few months, progress will be made on the arrangements for appointing the independent chair and directors of the Coleg, so that the Coleg can start its work from April 2011.

More information

- [Coleg Ffederal Bulletin October 2010](#)
- [Coleg Ffederal Bulletin June 2010](#)

Call for chair for proposed Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

The proposed Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (previously referred to as the 'Coleg Ffederal') will work with and through universities in Wales to deliver increased opportunities for students to study their courses through the medium of Welsh. HEFCW is supporting the arrangements for setting up the Coleg, and we are now seeking, on behalf of the proposed Coleg, a Chair of the Board of Directors for the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

- [More details and a brief job description](#)

Institutional Visits

Our Council and senior management team were welcomed to the University of Glamorgan in mid-September as part of our series of Institutional Visits. Institutions get a chance to showcase recent developments – such as refurbishments, new buildings, laboratories, and so on - during these visits, before engaging in discussions with HEFCW about their strategic direction. The next visit is scheduled for **Friday 28 January 2011** at Bangor University.

Training for university staff to help increase donations

The Scheme which funds voluntary gifts to higher education in Wales with matched funding from HEFCW is now in its second year.

University staff can make the most of professional development opportunities to help boost institutions' fundraising activities and growing philanthropic income.

CASE Europe has made available a number of training opportunities for academic leaders, including Vice-Chancellors and development professionals in Welsh higher education institutions, with scholarships available for people to attend conferences, seminars and events.

Led by expert practitioners, these events will provide staff from institutions with training and knowledge that will benefit institutions.

HEFCW Scholarships available for CASE Europe events and conferences, 2010 – 2011

Training opportunities include:

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| Regional Forum in Cardiff | 15 November 2010 | 2 scholarships per institution |
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This half day seminar will be led by Sion Lutley, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, University of Bath and Julian Smyth, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Aberystwyth University.

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| Expert Forums in Campaigns, Legacies, Major Gifts | Various dates | 2 scholarships available |
| Leading Change in Fundraising and Development: The Role of the Governor | 19 November 2010 | 2 scholarships |

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| Annual Giving Conference | 9 -10 December 2010 | 4 scholarships |
| 'Introduction to' seminars | Various dates | 4 scholarships |
| Spring Institute for Educational Fundraising | 28 March - 1 April 2011 | 4 scholarships |
| Vice-Chancellors' Seminar | 12 May 2011 | 4 scholarships |
| Development for Deans and Academic Leaders | 27 June 2011 | 8 scholarships |

To apply for a scholarship, visit www.case.org/matchedfunding and select the Matched Funding in Wales page to access the form.

You can find CASE Europe's events calendar at www.case.org through selecting the Europe region in the Conferences and Training section so please visit this page for more information on the events.