

Press release

Date: 17 January 2012

Title: Student number re-allocations address priorities in higher education

New arrangements for allocating student numbers in Wales from the 2013/14 academic year have been published.

The arrangements – which were consulted on in 2011 – are designed to ensure that all the available funds under the new student fees arrangements are used to best effect in addressing the Welsh Government's priorities for higher education.

They are intended in particular to ensure that the institutions with a high proportion of expensive or priority subjects, or with strong research portfolios, get the funding needed. This requires some adjustments to the overall distribution across institutions of fee income and HEFCW grant.

The numbers of full-time undergraduate and PGCE first year students who study at each university in Wales are set by HEFCW. In 2013/14, HEFCW will remove all non-priority subject and non-quota subject maximum student numbers from institutions and re-allocate:

- 50% of these numbers according to each institution's activity in those areas of national priority identified in the Welsh Government's *For our Future* strategy that are not covered by the fee plans which each institution had to submit in order to charge fees above £4,000 a year.

- the remaining 50% to institutions who reduce their fees for full-time undergraduate and PGCE students to an average fee of £7,500 or less from 2013/14.

Professor Philip Gummett, Chief Executive of HEFCW, said: “Even after these changes, we still expect all universities to have more income for full-time undergraduate students as a result of the new fees regime, compared to the current system.

“These adjustments will help ensure that priority subjects - such as sciences and modern foreign languages - continue to get the investment they need, and that crucial policy priority areas such as research are also properly supported. In doing so, we are helping the higher education sector to meet the needs of Wales by seeking to secure continuing investment in the full range of *For our Future* priorities.

“We welcome the fact that, following our consultation, universities were broadly supportive of us retaining some discretionary funding in order to continue to fund national priorities for higher education and to help sustain a strong and diverse HE sector in Wales.”

Ends

Notes

Fees

From 2012/13, higher education institutions in Wales (and further education colleges which offered eligible HE courses) are able to charge fees of up to £9,000 for full-time undergraduate and PGCE students. Any institution wishing to charge above the basic rate of £4,000 has been required to submit for approval an acceptable Fee Plan to HEFCW detailing its new fees.

Through their fee plans, institutions must provide details of investments they intend to make using a proportion of this new income to encourage:

- further equality of access, and
- more generally, activities which promote higher education in Wales thereby ensuring a more positive student experience.

Any student living in Wales will receive a non-repayable **Fee Grant** to cover the difference in costs between fees charged under the old system in 2011/12 and the new fees charged in 2012/13.

Priority / quota subjects

These are subjects in the priority science, engineering, technology, maths, computing and modern foreign languages subjects and courses in medicine and dentistry, initial teacher training (ITT) leading to qualified teacher status (QTS) and the Performance Element conservatoire training.

Priorities for higher education

[*For our Future*](#) – The Welsh Government's *21st Century Higher Education Strategy and Plan for Wales*

[*HEFCW's Corporate Strategy*](#): HEFCW's plan for delivering *For our Future*, including high-level indicators and measures.

[*HEFCW's Annual Report*](#): provides information on early progress against *For our Future* measures.

References

Guidance for 2013/14: [Strategic Reallocation of Student Numbers 2013/2014 \(W12/03HE\)](#)

W11/41HE: [Control of student numbers: final numbers and guidance for 2011/12 and future arrangements](#)

Outcomes of consultation: [W11/40HE: Changes to the teaching funding mechanism for higher education in Wales](#)

Consultation: [W11/28HE: Consultation on proposed changes to the teaching funding mechanism for higher education in Wales](#)

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Notes

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) is a Welsh Government Sponsored Body responsible for administering funds made available by the Welsh Government in support of:

- education in higher education (HE) institutions;
- research undertaken by HE institutions; and
- higher education courses at further education colleges.

HEFCW is also responsible for accrediting providers of initial teaching training for school teachers and commissioning research to improve the standards of teachers and teacher training.