

## News release

**Date:** Monday, 07 August 2017

**Title:** Universities and colleges offer £29 million in student support

Universities and colleges confirm plans to invest in life-changing opportunities for students studying in Wales. The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) has approved plans that commit to providing more than £29 million for student bursaries, scholarships and hardship funding in the 2018/19 academic year, through fee and access plans.

The plans include investment of more than £104 million in Welsh Government priority areas such as attracting and retaining groups of students traditionally under-represented in higher education, securing student progression, completion and success and enhancing employability skills and graduate employment.

Ten universities and colleges have now had their fee and access plans approved by HEFCW, which also means they can publish their fee levels for full-time undergraduate and PGCE courses for the academic year 2018/19.

Through significant fee and access plan investment, universities and colleges will deliver a wide-range of targeted activities, in addition to student support including working with schools in communities without a strong tradition of higher-level learning and skills and partnering private and third sector organisations to improve graduate skills. Universities and colleges in Wales commit to breaking down barriers to learning faced by many talented students. Fee and access plan funding will support learners with the greatest need including students with a care or other disadvantaged background. All

the universities and colleges involved their students unions or equivalent body in developing and finalising their plans to ensure plans respond to the needs of students.

Dr David Blaney, Chief Executive of HEFCW, said: “Fee and access plans are a testament to Welsh universities and colleges’ commitment to widening access and promoting higher education, regardless of background. We are pleased that universities and colleges are continuing to make a valuable and worthwhile contribution to encouraging anyone with talent to apply to higher education. The activities and targets supported by these plans will contribute to improving access, retention and success in higher education and providing targeted support for those who need it most.

“Institutions must cross a high threshold to have their fee and access plans approved by HEFCW, meeting requirements in terms of quality and financial sustainability in addition to those for equality of opportunity and promotion of HE. They must also be charitable bodies, expected to make a wider contribution to the public good in Wales. As a higher education regulator, we believe in continuing to work with institutions to ensure that their activities, articulated through their fee and access plans, meet the needs of students, graduates, employers and communities.”

**Ends**

**Contact:**

Dale Hall

Council Secretary

[dale.hall@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:dale.hall@hefcw.ac.uk)

029 2085 9665.

## Notes:

The plans set out how universities and colleges will invest around £104 million of full-time undergraduate student tuition fee income to support equality of opportunity measures and promote higher education.

Copies of fee and access plans and details of the fees levels and ranges can be obtained from the universities' and colleges' websites. They will also be linked from [HEFCW's website](#) as they become available on the providers' websites.

Approved 2018/19 fee and access plans from:

- Aberystwyth University
- Bangor University
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Cardiff University
- Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
- Grŵp NPTC
- Swansea University
- University of South Wales
- University of Wales Trinity Saint David
- Wrexham Glyndŵr University

In delivering fee and access plans universities and colleges will take account of the [Welsh Government's Statement](#) on fees (July 2017)

## About HEFCW

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) is the public body that sits between universities and the Welsh Government.

We regulate fee levels at higher education (HE) providers, ensure a framework is in place for assessing the quality of higher education and scrutinise the performance of universities.

We distribute resources for higher education teaching and research, and help to deliver Welsh Government priorities for higher education for the wider benefit of society and the economy. You can find out more about our work at [www.hefcw.ac.uk](http://www.hefcw.ac.uk).