

## Cylchlythyr | Circular

# Widening Access Strategy allocations for 2012/13

**Date:** 19 July 2012  
**Reference:** W12/24HE  
**To:** Heads of higher education institutions in Wales  
**Response by:** 31 October 2012  
**Contact:** Name: Jane Johns  
Telephone: 029 2068 2219  
Email: [jane.johns@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:jane.johns@hefcw.ac.uk)

This circular provides information on the Widening Access Strategy allocations to higher education institutions for 2012/13, summarises relevant policy developments and confirms the date for return of Annual Monitoring Statements for 2011/12.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please telephone us on (029) 2068 2225 or email [info@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:info@hefcw.ac.uk).



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## Introduction

1. This circular provides information on the Widening Access Strategy allocations to higher education institutions for 2012/13, summarises relevant policy developments and confirms the date for return of Annual Monitoring Statements (AMS) for 2011/12.

## Background

2. In circular [W10/41HE: Learning and Teaching and Widening Access Strategies 2011/12 to 2013/14: Initial Guidance](#) we invited higher education institutions to submit strategies for learning and teaching and for widening access to cover the three years 2011/12 to 2013/14. We provided additional guidance in circular [W11/17HE: Learning and Teaching and Widening Access Strategies 2011/12 to 2013/14: Supplementary Guidance](#).
3. Institutions are asked to report annually on progress against strategies. We provided information on institutional annual monitoring statements for 2011/12 in circular [W12/21HE: Request for strategic planning information, forecasts and Annual Monitoring Statements 2012](#).
4. Some institutions have developed joint Learning and Teaching and Widening Access strategies. Where this is the case, we expect the SMART outcomes for learning and teaching and widening access to be reported separately through the AMS process, to demonstrate progress and success and account for public funding.

## Policy and practice developments

### Communities First: HEFCW Corporate Strategy measure

5. Progression to HE and FE from Communities First areas remains a Corporate Strategy widening access measure. We will retain our current definitions of Communities First areas until the end of this Corporate Strategy period (March 2013). We will consult on our new Corporate Strategy for 2013-14 to 2015-16 later in the summer and its widening access measures will be informed by Communities First Programme developments, including the move to Communities First cluster structures<sup>1</sup>.

### Funding

6. Following budget reviews and efficiency gain requirements, from 2012/13 we will contract the services of the Supporting Professionalism in Admissions (SPA) Programme on an ad hoc basis, as SPA moves to new contracting arrangements with UCAS, UUK and other funders. We will continue to meet the SPA Director annually, SPA will continue to attend the UCAS Welsh Standing Group and the Welsh sector will continue to benefit from SPA's UK-wide dissemination of effective practice in fair access and admissions.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/communitiesfirst/?lang=en>

### Part-time provision

7. In March 2012 we submitted a report to the Minister on *Widening Access to higher education: part-time employer-focussed provision in higher education and progression from further education to higher education*. The Welsh Government asked us to publish this report and it is available, with the underpinning data and evidence and the Minister's response on our website<sup>2</sup>.

8. The Minister's response states that:

***'Part-time higher education in Wales continues to be a priority for the Welsh Government. I am therefore concerned about the decline in part-time enrolments in Wales in recent years and I anticipate that the Council will address this issue in the development of its forthcoming action plan.'***

9. The Minister identifies the following areas of part-time provision where he expects us to explore innovative approaches:

- How to incentivise part-time study for post-graduates, employer-led courses, and bite-size provision;
- How to promote part-time study to exploit opportunities that arise from the new part-time support package;
- Alternative models for the provision of part-time study e.g. FE sector providing more HE courses in collaboration with employers and the HE sector;
- Providing clarity on HEFCW's future funding intentions for part-time provision in Wales and communicating those arrangements to stakeholders; and the
- Promotion of best practice.

10. We will develop a part-time action plan, aligned to our new Corporate Strategy, to address these and other issues related to part-time provision. We will consult the sector and other partners in developing our part-time action plan.

### Evaluations

11. The Higher Education Academy has evaluated the 2011/12 to 2013/14 Learning and Teaching, Widening Access and Reaching Wider Partnership Strategies in Wales. The review was led by Professor Liz Thomas and will be published shortly on the Academy website.

12. We are finalising proposals for a WISERD led evaluation of widening access policy and practice, including the Reaching Wider Programme<sup>3</sup>. This work will inform our understanding of the impact and effectiveness of

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/policy\\_areas/widening\\_access/part\\_time\\_provision.aspx](http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/policy_areas/widening_access/part_time_provision.aspx)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/>

widening access policy and practice, identify and disseminate the most effective indicators of widening access policy and practice and suggest how widening access to HE in Wales can be maximised to contribute to key national priorities. We anticipate that this work will begin in early 2012/13.

### **Widening Access Strategy allocations 2012/13**

13. **Annex A** sets out institutional allocations for 2012/13. The total sum available for Learning and Teaching Strategies for 2012/13 is **£5,290,832**. This represents an efficiency gain of 5.8% on the sum provided in 2011/12, with some rounding. As in 2011/12, no floors or ceilings have been applied to the allocations. . The notes in the annexed funding tables provide further information.
14. Widening Access Strategy funding includes a widening access element (**£1,899,632**) and a part-time student element (**£3,391,200**). *In locating the part-time funding within the Widening Access Strategy funding we are ring-fencing it to be used solely to support learning and teaching and widening access for part-time students<sup>4</sup>*. Both funding streams should be used for the purposes for which they were intended and as set out in our Widening Access Strategy guidance circulars. We are retaining support for non-traditional students through arrangements for Widening Access Strategies, as we confirmed in these guidance circulars, though specific funding is not linked to this group.
15. Please note that, in the light of uncertainties regarding the level of the fee grant commitment, all figures above and allocations set out in **Annex A** are provisional, and are subject to change in-year. We will, of course, inform you of any changes as soon as possible.
16. We recognise that to support widening access developments institutions utilise a range of funding streams including: the Access and Retention Premium, Disabled Students' Premium, the Part-time Students' Premium and other internal and external funding<sup>5</sup>. We would like to understand the funding implications and intended outcomes of institutions' investment in widening access and would appreciate reference to such resources in the AMS.

### **2011/12 Annual Monitoring Statement**

17. In early July HEFCW officers sent electronic templates containing individually agreed Widening Access measurable outcomes, as set out in circular [W12/21HE: Request for strategic planning information, forecasts and Annual Monitoring Statements 2012](#).
18. The AMS form asks institutions to:
  - Report progress against measurable outcomes for 2011/12;

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<sup>4</sup> See circular W11/17HE paragraph 37.

<sup>5</sup> For premia allocations see HEFCW circular [W12/10HE](#)

- Complete a declaration of expenditure to confirm that the 2011/12 Widening Access Strategy allocation has been fully spent and used for the purposes for which it was provided. This should be signed by the head of the institution; and
  - Provide measurable outcomes and expenditure plans for 2012/13 which will form the basis of next year's AMS. Expenditure for 2012/13, as in 2011/12, will include Widening Access Strategy funding and funding from other sources, such as fee income.
19. We recognise that institutions' widening access measurable outcomes will vary to some extent, depending on their mission and purpose. Please ensure that, in addition to WA strategic priorities agreed with us, AMSs provide measurable outcomes for 2012/13 in the following areas, taking account of feedback we have provided on Widening Access Strategies, and that ambitious, SMART outcomes are included for these priorities:
- Widening Access *For our Future* priorities, including: Communities First, low participation neighbourhood and UHOVI residents; Assembly Learning Grant recipients;
  - Part-time students at pre- and post-entry level;
  - Looked after children and care leavers, including engagement with the Buttle UK Quality Mark; and
  - Welsh medium WA provision, taking account of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol developments.
20. Where Fee Plan measures are included in AMS reporting, please ensure that these are clearly marked and that the Fee Plan measures are as agreed with us.
21. We expect to pay the first tranche of funding for 2012/13 in September 2012 and, subject to receipt of satisfactory AMS returns, the second tranche in March 2013.

### Further information

22. In early July HEFCW officers sent electronic AMS templates containing individually agreed measurable outcomes to institutional widening access contacts. Please return the signed AMS for 2011/12 to HEFCW by **31 October 2012**, as set out in Circular W12/21HE.
23. For further information, contact Jane Johns (tel 029 2068 2219; email [jane.johns@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:jane.johns@hefcw.ac.uk)).

**Annex A**  
**Widening Access Strategy Allocations 2012/13<sup>6</sup>**

Institution	WA strategy funding £	Part-time funding £	Total £
University of Glamorgan	375,803	515,975	<b>891,778</b>
Aberystwyth University	120,217	92,475	<b>212,692</b>
Bangor University	118,548	56,358	<b>174,906</b>
Cardiff University	190,265	221,862	<b>412,127</b>
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	84,765	131,604	<b>216,369</b>
Swansea University	194,635	129,703	<b>324,338</b>
Cardiff Metropolitan University	174,622	94,472	<b>269,095</b>
University of Wales, Newport	208,043	537,256	<b>745,299</b>
Glyndŵr University	112,772	319,897	<b>432,669</b>
Swansea Metropolitan University	134,747	156,594	<b>291,341</b>
The Open University in Wales	185,216	1,135,001	<b>1,320,217</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,899,632</b>	<b>3,391,200</b>	<b>5,290,832</b>

<sup>6</sup> See the following notes for further information on the funding model. The usual regulations regarding verification apply.

## Annex A Continued

The widening access element of the Widening Access Strategy Allocations 2012/13

WA element split as follows: £

90% £1,709,669  
10% £189,963  
Total £1,899,632

Institution	Eligible students				Total Students	Eligible Students as % of Total Students	90% pro-rata to Eligible Students	10% pro rata % of Eligible Students to Total Students	Total
	Communities First (CF) students	Low participation students	Assembly Learning grant (ALG) students	Sum of CF, low participation, ALG students					
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	%	£	£	£
University of Glamorgan	2,177	5,280	2,517	9,974	13,646	73.09	352,771	23,032	<b>375,803</b>
Aberystwyth University	496	1,811	779	3,086	8,786	35.12	109,149	11,068	<b>120,217</b>
Bangor University	328	1,778	854	2,960	6,732	43.97	104,692	13,855	<b>118,548</b>
Cardiff University	1,147	2,899	1,065	5,111	16,964	30.13	180,771	9,494	<b>190,265</b>
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	336	1,020	580	1,936	3,745	51.70	68,474	16,290	<b>84,765</b>
Swansea University	1,007	2,812	1,234	5,053	10,005	50.50	178,720	15,915	<b>194,635</b>
Cardiff Metropolitan University	808	2,253	1,339	4,400	7,298	60.29	155,624	18,998	<b>174,622</b>
University of Wales, Newport	1,133	3,115	985	5,233	7,183	72.85	185,086	22,957	<b>208,043</b>
Glyndŵr University	293	1,747	660	2,700	4,925	54.82	95,496	17,275	<b>112,772</b>
Swansea Metropolitan University	701	1,556	902	3,159	4,325	73.04	111,731	23,016	<b>134,747</b>
The Open University in Wales	1,407	3,319	0	4,726	8,245	57.32	167,154	18,062	<b>185,216</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,833</b>	<b>27,590</b>	<b>10,915</b>	<b>48,338</b>	<b>91,854</b>	<b>602.84</b>	<b>1,709,669</b>	<b>189,963</b>	<b>1,899,632</b>
						sum of %, not total %			

## Annex A Continued

### The part-time element of the Widening Access Strategy Allocations 2012/13<sup>7</sup>

Part-time element funding: £3,391,200

<b>Part-time element</b>					
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Total credits<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Low participation credits</b>	<b>Communities First credits</b>	<b>Weighted total for allocation</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>£</b>
University of Glamorgan	212,486	99,093	37,884	280,975	<b>515,975</b>
Aberystwyth University	43,875	8,030	4,935	50,358	<b>92,475</b>
Bangor University	25,990	7,100	2,300	30,690	<b>56,358</b>
Cardiff University	103,880	20,060	13,810	120,815	<b>221,862</b>
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	59,300	19,220	5,510	71,665	<b>131,604</b>
Swansea University	52,340	24,590	11,990	70,630	<b>129,703</b>
Cardiff Metropolitan University	38,785	18,240	7,080	51,445	<b>94,472</b>
University of Wales, Newport	220,695	103,654	40,082	292,563	<b>537,256</b>
Glyndŵr University	146,215	48,450	7,520	174,200	<b>319,897</b>
Swansea Metropolitan University	67,754	24,331	10,708	85,274	<b>156,594</b>
Open University in Wales	478,950	196,535	81,695	618,065	<b>1,135,001</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,450,270</b>	<b>569,303</b>	<b>223,514</b>	<b>1,846,679</b>	<b>3,391,200</b>

<sup>7</sup> Model includes credits for PT students studying for at least 10 credits - all such PT students included - all money allocated pro rata

<sup>8</sup> Credit data has been verified.



## **Widening Access Strategy Allocation Funding Notes**

### Source of widening access data:

1. Communities First, Low Participation and total student numbers are extracted from the HESA 2010/11 student record and confirmed by HEIs as part of the verification process for the widening access premium 2012/13. The number of students entitled to a full Assembly Learning Grant is taken from the Student Loans Company aggregated data.
2. Suitably eligible students may be counted in one or more of the three categories: Communities First, Low Participation or Assembly Learning Grants.
3. For young full-time undergraduate enrolments - low participation neighbourhoods are those areas in the bottom 40% of areas as defined by POLAR2. For mature full-time undergraduate and all part-time enrolments - low participation neighbourhoods are those areas in the bottom 40% of areas as defined by the proportion of working age adults with HE level qualifications (as measured using Census 2001 data). Young is defined as being aged 20 or under at start of course. Mature is defined as being aged 21 or over at start of course. The vast majority of students entitled to a full Assembly Learning Grant are full-time.

### Source of part-time data:

4. The model includes credits for part-time students studying for at least 10 credits. All such part-time students are included and all money is allocated pro-rata.
5. Total credits studied by Communities First, Low Participation and total students extracted from HESA 2010/11 student record.
6. Suitably eligible students may be counted in either or both Communities First and Low Participation categories.
7. The majority of students entitled to a full Assembly Learning Grant are full-time, therefore, this element is excluded from the method for allocation.
8. The weighted total is calculated as total credits plus average of Low Participation and Communities First credits. Funding is allocated pro rata to weighted total.