

News release

Date: 2 July 2018

Title: £10 million work experience programme extended for three years

A three-year programme designed to provide tailored work experience for full-time students under the age of 25 has been extended.

GO Wales: Achieve through Work Experience provides tailored support to eligible younger students from more disadvantaged backgrounds to get the best out of their work experience and plan their next steps.

The all-Wales programme, funded by the European Social Fund, HEFCW and higher education providers, is delivered by the universities to help students to develop and refine their employability skills through work experience, so that they are in the best situation to secure employment, training or education when they leave their course.

The programme, which started in 2016, will now complete in January 2022. To date, 655 students have been accepted onto the programme, and 351 students have been supported into work experience.

David Blaney, Chief Executive of HEFCW, said: "It has been great to see the early evidence that the programme is having an impact on students and employers. The programme's mid-point review also underlined that the programme needed a longer time frame in order to gain momentum, given that, naturally, it can take longer for institutions to get in touch with harder-to-reach students, before discussing their needs with them. We are confident that the

participating universities will continue to embed this programme in order to make a difference to as many students' lives as possible over the coming years."

Jane Goodfellow, Head of Careers and Employability at Cardiff University and Chair of AGCAS Cymru, the organisation for HE student career development and graduate employment professionals, said: "The GO Wales programme is a key element of our work experience provision and is a valuable way to develop a diverse range of students and skills. I am therefore delighted that the project has been extended and look forward to working with my colleagues across the HE sector to deliver this important programme."

Notes

The GO Wales: Achieve through Work Experience programme started delivery on 1 April 2016 and was originally due to finish in March 2019. The total value of the programme is £9.6 million.

The target to the end of the programme is 2,161 students accepted onto the programme and 1,839 students undertaking work experience. The programme also has a target for participants at reduced risk of NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training), which is 1,745.

The operations are a partnership of the HEFCW and the nine universities in Wales. The operations provide tailored work experience opportunities for eligible full time students under the age of 25 years, and associated support to help them get the best out of their experience and plan their next steps.

The programme helps those students who, because of their circumstances or needs, find it difficult to access work experience and who need more support than they can get from embedded employability provision and other initiatives available to all students. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds, with

disabilities or caring responsibilities, care leavers, and from black and minority ethnic backgrounds will benefit from the scheme.

The participating universities are: Bangor University, Aberystwyth University, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Swansea University, University of South Wales, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Cardiff University, the Open University in Wales and Wrexham Glyndŵr University.

[Www.gowales.co.uk](http://www.gowales.co.uk)

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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 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.