

Students in Higher Education Institutions – Wales, 2010/11

This Bulletin provides information about students enrolled at Welsh Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Welsh domiciled Higher Education (HE) students enrolled at HEIs throughout the UK in the 2010/11 academic year. The data included are taken primarily from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record and based on the HESA standard registration population, which includes student enrolments throughout the year.

Summary of main findings

- There was a small increase in enrolments to Welsh HEIs in 2010/11 whilst HE enrolments amongst Welsh domiciled students at UK HEIs saw no percentage change compared with 2009/10.
- Enrolments at Welsh HEIs increased steadily from the mid- 1990's until 2006/07 and then levelled off briefly, before numbers began to increase again after 2007/08. While postgraduate and full-time undergraduate enrolments have continued to rise, part-time undergraduate enrolments have fallen from around 38,000 in 2006/07 to just below 25,000 in 2010/11.
- There were 102,625 Welsh domiciled enrolments to HE at UK HEIs in 2010/11, similar to the total in the previous year. Enrolments of Welsh students peaked in 2004/05, since when numbers have fallen slightly and currently stand just below 2003/04 levels. The fall in part-time undergraduate enrolments has been the main factor in the overall decrease in numbers, falling by 20 per cent since 2004/05.
- There were 20,780 qualifications obtained at Welsh HEIs at first degree level in 2010/11, with 14 per cent of these obtaining a first class honours degree. Welsh domiciled students obtained 14,825 first degree level qualifications with 13 per cent of these obtaining a first class honours degree.
- Wales is a net importer of full-time students. In 2010/11, there were 19,285 enrolments from Welsh students to UK HEIs outside of Wales, four per cent higher than 2009/10 but still five per cent lower than in 2001/02. There were 30,695 enrolments of students from the UK outside of Wales to Welsh HEIs, six per cent higher than 2009/10 and 15 per cent higher than in 2001/02.

Substantial changes have been made to the format and content of this bulletin, aiming to provide more useful commentary and detail. We welcome feedback and suggestions from users, via the contact details below.

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Policy context

In 2009 the then Welsh Assembly Government published 'For Our Future', a new higher education strategy and plan for Wales which built upon and replaced 'Reaching Higher'. The plan set out a range of expectations for higher education with a particular focus on the Welsh Government's priorities of social justice and supporting a buoyant economy. The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) corporate strategy sets out the indicators associated with the strategy, available via the following link: [HEFCW | Corporate Strategy](#)

In September 2011 the Welsh Government introduced the Programme for Government, which translates its manifesto into a clear plan to deliver for the people of Wales. One of the key themes set out in the Programme for Government is Education. In Higher Education (HE) the Government intends to transform the sector so that HE supports the economy in Wales, whilst providing the appropriate financial support to students. A link to the program for government is given below.

[Welsh Government | Programme for Government 2011-2016](#)

The Welsh Government is seeking to transform the HE sector through the creation of a smaller number of stronger universities. Recently, this can be seen by the merger of the University of Wales, Lampeter and Trinity College, Carmarthen to form the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David in 2010. This merged institution will be accounted for in this publication, (see paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7 in the Notes section). In late 2011, the governing bodies of the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David and Swansea Metropolitan University agreed to an additional merger to form a single university, (this will not be accounted for in this publication). Furthermore, the options for creating a single institution in South East Wales, alongside Cardiff University, are being considered. One option for achieving this would be a merger between University of Wales, Newport, the University of Glamorgan and Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Section A- Enrolments and qualifications at Welsh HEIs (excludes the Open University)

Enrolments

Chart A.1: HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs by level



- In 2010/11 there were 131,005 HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs, two per cent higher than in 2009/10 and 19 per cent higher than in 2001/02.
- The slight increase in overall HE enrolments recently has been driven by a rise in postgraduate enrolments (up 7 per cent since 2009/10 and up 64 per cent since 2001/02).
- Undergraduate enrolments also increased, being one per cent higher than in 2009/10. In 2010/11, 77 per cent of enrolments were at undergraduate level, down from 83 per cent in 2001/02.

Overall enrolments increased slightly on the previous year, with postgraduate enrolments increasing for a third successive year.

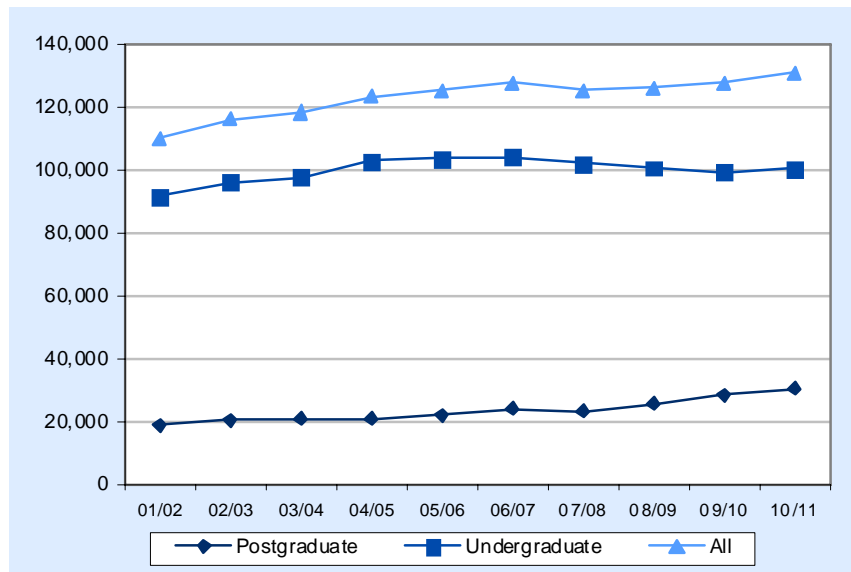


Chart A.2: HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs by mode 

- In 2010/11, part-time enrolments fell by two per cent on the previous year.
- Having risen steadily to a peak in 2006/07, the number of part-time enrolments at Welsh HEIs has since fallen by 11,875 to a level below that of 2001/02.
- In 2006/07, part-time enrolments represented 40 per cent of enrolments to Welsh HEIs compared to 30 per cent in 2010/11.
- Full-time enrolments increased by four per cent on 2009/10 levels and have been steadily increasing year on year since 2001/02 to 91,830 in 2010/11, a rise over that period of 36 per cent.

Full-time enrolments increase, whilst part-time enrolments fall for the fourth consecutive year.

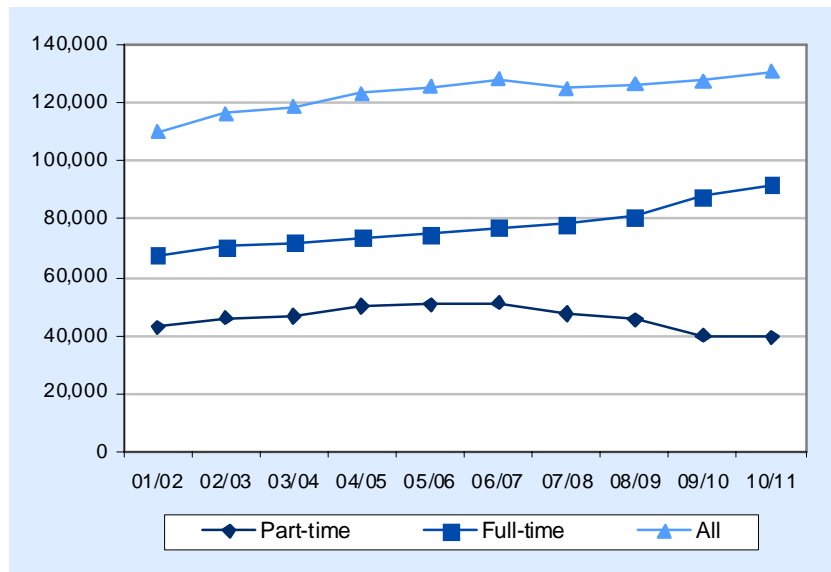
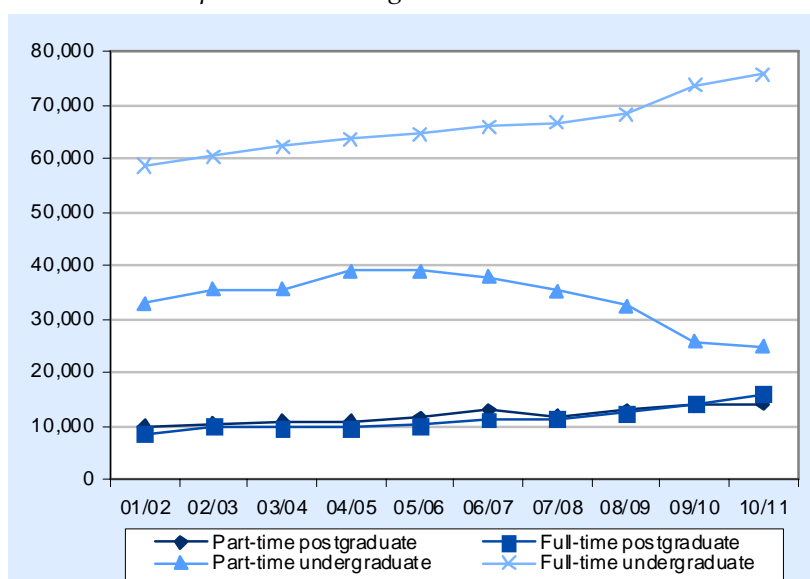


Chart A.3: HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs by mode and level



- The overall decrease in part-time enrolments since 2006/07 has been driven by a fall of 35 per cent in the number of part-time undergraduates, from 38,060 enrolments in 2006/07 to 24,880 enrolments in 2010/11.
- In 2006/07, 37 per cent of undergraduate enrolments were part-time compared to 25 per cent in 2010/11.
- The trend in full-time undergraduate and all postgraduate enrolments has been a steady increase since 2001/02.

Sharp decline in part-time enrolments since 2006/07 driven by fall in part-time undergraduate enrolments.



Closer examination of the underlying data reveals that between 2007/08 and 2009/10 Cardiff Metropolitan University was largely responsible for driving the 19 per cent growth in part-time post graduate enrolments. Between 2009/10 and 2010/11 Cardiff Metropolitan University (formerly University of Wales Institute Cardiff) was also partly responsible for driving the 13 per cent growth in full-time post graduate enrolments (the institution recorded a 36 per cent increase in full-time post graduate enrolments). The institution has advised that both periods of growth can be attributed to the expanding portfolio of Masters of Business Administration (MBA) programmes.

The sharp fall in part-time undergraduate enrolments between 2005/06 and 2009/10 can, in part, be explained by the impact of preparations for the merger between the University of Lampeter and Trinity College, Carmarthen in 2009/10 and on changes in the way data was submitted at Lampeter in 2008/09 (see paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7 in the 'Notes' section). Between 2005/06 and 2009/10, Lampeter accounted for over 41 per cent of the fall of 13,330 part-time undergraduate enrolments in Wales; Lampeter and the University of Glamorgan between them accounted for 65 per cent of the fall. Further information on the decline in part-time undergraduate enrolments was the subject of a report commissioned by the Welsh Government in January 2010¹. This report, which was published in November 2010 identified potential barriers to part-time provision and made a series of recommendations to the Government and HEFCW on how to address these. Between 2009/10 and 2010/11, part-time undergraduate enrolments fell in six out of ten Welsh HEIs, although the large falls experienced at Lampeter appear to have eased, with the first year's data for the new merged institution: University of Wales, Trinity Saint David showing no percentage change on the previous year.

Meanwhile, full-time undergraduate enrolments have continued to increase steadily since the mid 1990's. In 2010/11, full-time undergraduate numbers increased by three per cent from the previous year, driven largely by 790 additional enrolments at Glyndwr, compared with the previous year. The institution has advised that a large part of that increase was due to new partnerships with external organisations running Glyndwr's BA Business, BA Theology and BSC Health studies programmes (mainly, provision of a non practice based theoretical Health Studies degree to international students).

¹[Research into Part-time Higher Education Supply and Demand'; \(Old Bell 3 Ltd\), commissioned by Welsh Assembly Government Social Research 2010](#)

First year HE enrolments to Welsh HEIs

A decrease of 3 per cent in the number of full-time undergraduate entrants and a decrease of 2 per cent in the number of part-time undergraduate entrants between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

- There were 47,215 first year enrolments at undergraduate level at Welsh HEIs, a two per cent decrease on the figure reported in 2009/10. This decrease may be due to the 18 year old population shrinking, there was a fall of 12,300 in the estimated number of 18 year olds in the UK between mid-2009 and mid-2010. Furthermore the decrease in numbers is the second successive decrease in first year undergraduate numbers, after a year-on-year increase between 2001/02 and 2008/09.
- Between 2009/10 and 2010/11 the number of Welsh domiciled, full-time, undergraduate entrants to Welsh HEIs fell from 15,690 to 13,150 (a 16 per cent fall in enrolments). This is comparable to 2010 UCAS entry numbers, which show that Welsh domiciled applicants accepted to Welsh HEIs fell by 15.3 per cent¹.
- The number of non-EU domiciled, full-time, undergraduate entrants increased by 35 per cent (from 3,365 in 2009/10 to 4,540 in 2010/11).
- Six of the ten Welsh institutions saw a fall in numbers of first year entrants. The largest decline in full-time undergraduate numbers was seen at Bangor University (12 per cent fall), followed by Swansea University and Swansea Metropolitan (both fell 10 per cent).
- The number of postgraduate entrants increased by eight per cent between 2009/10 and 2010/11. This increase can largely be explained by a 23 per cent increase in the number of non-EU entrants (1,640 more non-EU entrants in the 2010/11 academic year).

Further Education enrolments reported by Welsh HEIs

- In 2010/11 there were 28,960 Further Education (FE) enrolments reported by Welsh HEIs, a 50 per cent increase on the previous year. This large percentage increase may be due to reporting changes for Merthyr College, Glamorgan in 2010/11 (see paragraph 5.6 in the Notes section).

Enrolments of overseas students at Welsh HEIs

- In 2010/11, EU domiciles² accounted for five per cent of all enrolments at Welsh HEIs compared to four per cent in 2001/02.
- The number of non-EU overseas enrolments has also increased, from four per cent of all enrolments in 2001/02 to 15 per cent of enrolments in 2010/11, an increase of over 15,060 from 4,770 to 19,835. Much of the increase (around 10,920 enrolments) was amongst Asian students, particularly from India and China.

¹ This number is slightly lower than that reported by HESA as there were more acceptances to Welsh HEIs after the UCAS application deadline of 15th January. Furthermore, UCAS do not record figures for applications to diplomas, NVQ and HNC courses. There are also a small number of applications directly to an institution rather than through UCAS.

² Excludes UK (inc. the Channel Islands and Isle of Man)

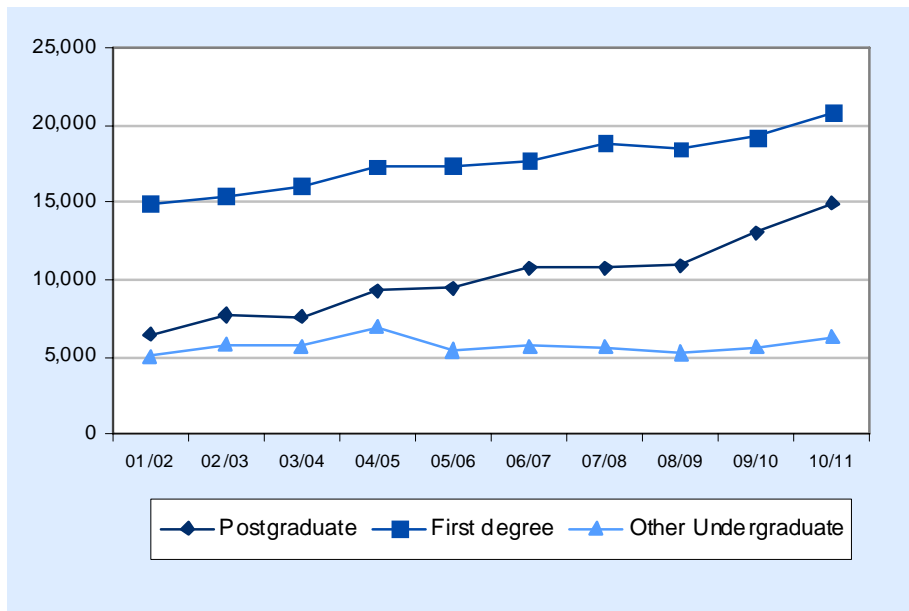
Qualifications obtained

Chart A.4: HE qualifications obtained at Welsh HEIs



- 41,935 higher education qualifications were obtained at Welsh HEIs in 2010/11; of these 14,890 were at postgraduate level, and 6,265 at other undergraduate level.
- Of the 41,935 qualifications obtained, 20,780 were at first degree level with 14 per cent of these obtaining a first class honours degree and 44 per cent obtaining an upper second class honours degree.
- Since 2009/10, there has been a 14 per cent increase in postgraduate qualifications and an overall increase of 11 per cent in all qualifications
- There were 59 per cent more qualifications obtained in 2010/11 than 2001/02, an increase of 15,500. Postgraduate qualifications more than doubled in number over this time while first degree qualifications increased by 39 per cent.

Postgraduate qualifications achieved more than doubled since 2001/02



Students studying wholly overseas

Information on students studying wholly outside the UK who are either registered with the reporting institution or are studying for an award of the reporting institution is captured in the HESA Aggregate Offshore Record.

- There were 6,265 students at Welsh HEIs studying wholly overseas within the EU in 2010/11, showing no percentage change on the number for 2009/10. The number of students studying wholly overseas and outside the EU increased by 36 per cent over the same period to 12,180.

Individual Welsh Higher Education Institutions

- Cardiff University had the highest number of enrolments of all the Welsh HEIs in 2010/11, accounting for 22 per cent of the total (excluding the Open University), followed by the University of Glamorgan (15 per cent of enrolments) and Swansea University (11 per cent of enrolments). Swansea Metropolitan has the lowest number of enrolments representing only five per cent of the total.
- The highest proportion of enrolments at postgraduate level was at Cardiff Metropolitan University (38 per cent), followed by Cardiff University (28 per cent) and Bangor University (25 per cent). The lowest proportion was at Glyndwr, Aberystwyth and Swansea University (all 16 per cent).
- Between 2009/10 and 2010/11 Glyndwr University registered a 12 per cent increase in enrolments, Trinity Saint David also saw an increase (10 per cent), and the University of Wales, Newport recorded an increase of eight per cent). Three institutions experienced a decrease in enrolments: Glamorgan and Swansea Metropolitan (both four per cent) and Bangor University saw a two per cent fall.

The Open University in Wales

See paragraph 3.5 in the Notes section for a description of the Open University (OU) in Wales.

- In 2010/11 there were 9,085 enrolments to the OU in Wales, an increase of only one per cent on 2009/10 (following on from two consecutive years of double digit growth).

Table A.1: Enrolments at Welsh HEIs by institution, level and mode (2010/11) (a)



	Postgraduate			Undergraduate			All		
	Full-time and part-time	Part-time and other	All	Full-time and sandwich	Part-time and other	All	Full-time and sandwich	Part-time and other	All
The University of Wales, Newport	820	1,290	2,110	3,800	4,130	7,930	4,625	5,420	10,040
Glyndwr University	780	605	1,390	3,850	3,720	7,570	4,630	4,330	8,960
Cardiff Metropolitan University (b)	1,800	3,300	5,100	7,540	840	8,385	9,345	4,140	13,485
University of Glamorgan	2,175	1,850	4,025	12,020	4,170	16,185	14,190	6,020	20,210
Swansea Metropolitan University	755	550	1,305	3,485	1,175	4,660	4,240	1,725	5,965
The University of Wales, Trinity Saint	915	605	1,520	3,065	2,120	5,185	3,980	2,725	6,705
Aberystwyth University	990	810	1,800	7,390	1,950	9,340	8,380	2,760	11,140
Bangor University	1,800	965	2,765	7,395	1,015	8,410	9,195	1,980	11,175
Cardiff University	4,405	3,740	8,150	16,765	3,930	20,695	21,170	7,670	28,840
Swansea University	1,690	575	2,265	10,380	1,830	12,215	12,070	2,405	14,480
All Welsh HEIs excluding OU	16,130	14,295	30,430	75,695	24,880	100,575	91,830	39,175	131,005
The Open University in Wales	*	475	475	*	8,615	8,615	*	9,085	9,085
All Welsh HEIs incl OU	16,130	14,770	30,900	75,695	33,495	109,190	91,830	48,265	140,090

Source: HESA

(a) All figures are rounded to the nearest 5. Figures less than 3 are rounded to 0 and represented as "".

(b) University of Wales Institute, Cardiff became Cardiff Metropolitan University in 2011.

Section B- Welsh domiciled enrolments and qualifications at UK HEIs

Enrolments

Chart B.1: Welsh domiciled HE enrolments at UK HEIs, by level



- In 2010/11 there were 102,625 Welsh domiciled higher education enrolments at UK HEIs, showing no percentage point change from 2009/10 but a five per cent increase on 2001/02.
- Undergraduate enrolments showed no percentage point change in 2010/11 from 2009/10. Undergraduate enrolments peaked at 89,700 in 2004/05, since then they have fallen by four per cent to 86,165.
- There were 16,460 postgraduate enrolments in 2010/11, one per cent higher than in 2009/10, and eight per cent higher than in 2001/02.

Undergraduate enrolments of Welsh domiciled students were still below the peak of 2004/05, though higher than in 2001/02.

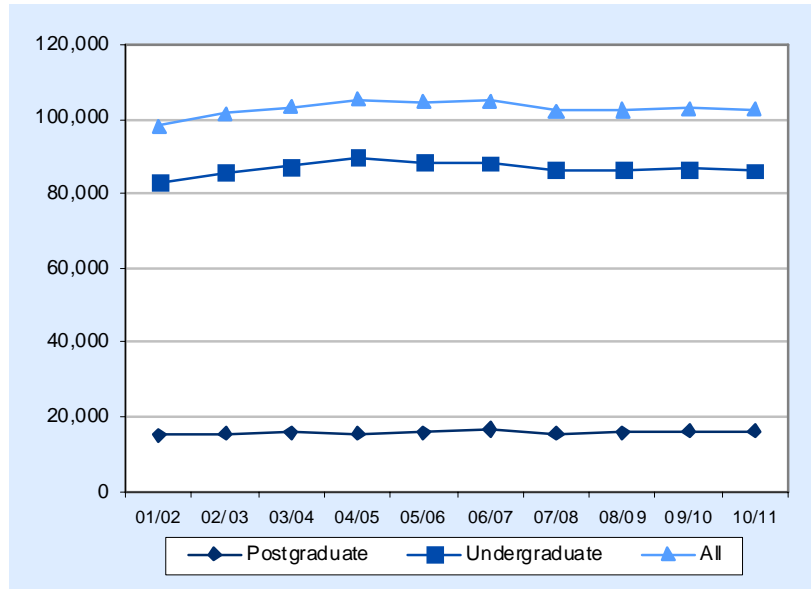


Chart B.2: Welsh domiciled HE enrolments at UK HEIs, by mode



- Part time enrolments of Welsh domiciled students at UK HEIs peaked in 2004/05 at 49,260. Numbers declined from this peak until 2009/10 and 2010/11 saw no percentage change on last year at 41,800.
- In 2004/05, part-time enrolments accounted for 47 per cent of Welsh domiciled enrolments compared to 41 per cent in 2010/11.
- Full-time enrolments fell by one per cent between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Full-time enrolments fell slightly, whilst part-time enrolments remained unchanged in 2010/11.

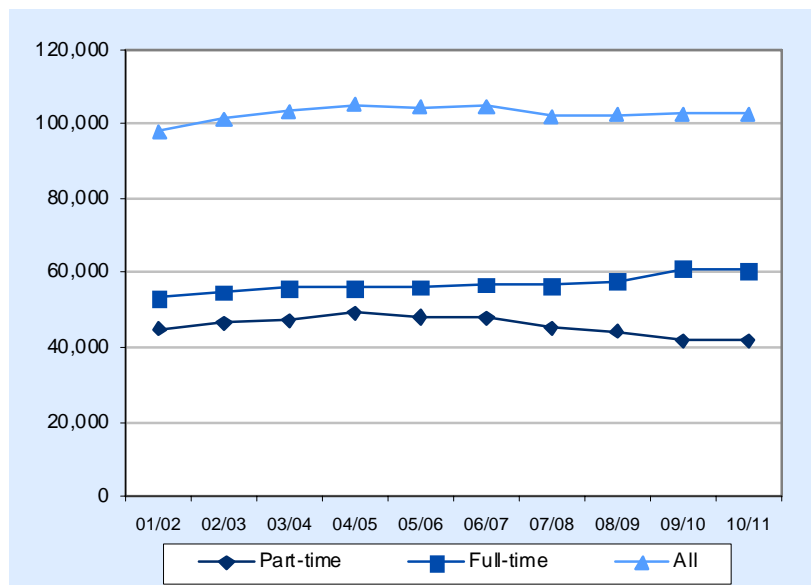
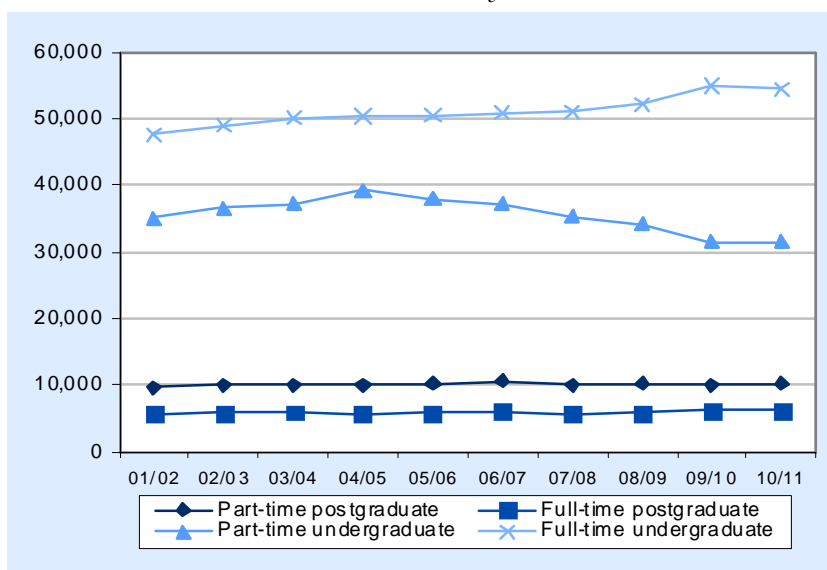


Chart B.3: Welsh domiciled HE enrolments at UK HEIs by level and mode



- The decrease in part-time enrolments since 2004/05 has been largely driven by a fall in undergraduate numbers. In 2004/05, 44 per cent of undergraduate enrolments were part-time compared to 37 per cent in 2010/11.
- Despite a one per cent fall in enrolments in the last year, there were still 54,600 full-time undergraduate enrolments in 2010/11, compared with only 47,735 in 2001/02.
- Enrolments postgraduates have remained fairly constant across the time series.

20 per cent fall in part-time undergraduate enrolment since largest peak in numbers in 2004/05, while part-time postgraduate numbers have remained relatively stable.



Between 2006/07 and 2007/08, Welsh domiciled enrolments at UK HEIs saw a decrease in numbers of around 3,000 enrolments. This fall was followed by a small increase over two successive years; however, numbers then fell slightly in 2010/11. This fall was driven by a drop in full-time undergraduate numbers (360 fewer enrolments in 2010/11 than in 2009/10).

Furthermore the increase in postgraduate numbers in 2010/11 at Welsh HEIs was not matched by Welsh domiciles at UK HEIs.

First year HE numbers

- Between 2009/10 and 2010/11, Welsh domiciled undergraduate entrants at UK HEIs decreased by five per cent (from 41,735 to 39,775).
- Between 2009/10 and 2010/11, full-time undergraduate entrants fell by nine per cent (from 21,475 to 19,500) and the number of part-time undergraduate entrants showed no percentage change. This is comparable with 2010 UCAS entry numbers, which show that Welsh domiciled applicants accepted to all UK HEIs fell by 7.6 per cent¹.

Welsh domiciled Further Education enrolments

- There were 28,530 further education Welsh domiciled enrolments reported by UK HEIs in 2010/11, that is, a 51 per cent increase on the figure for 2009/10. This large percentage increase may be due to reporting changes for Merthyr College, Glamorgan in 2010/11, (see paragraph 5.6 in the Notes section).

¹This number is slightly lower than that reported by HESA as there were more acceptances to UK HEIs after the UCAS application deadline of 15th January. Furthermore UCAS do not record figures for applications to diplomas, NVQ and HNC courses. There are also a small number of applications directly to an institution rather than through UCAS.

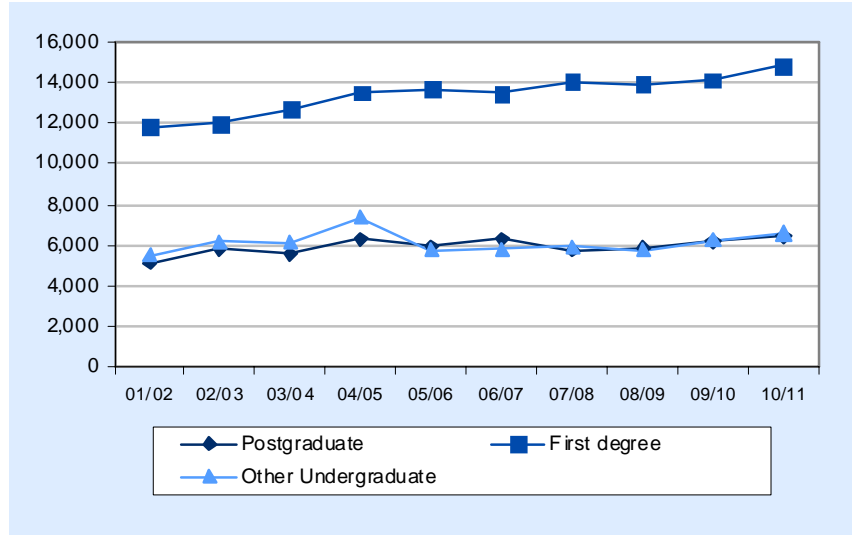
Qualifications obtained



Chart B.4: HE qualifications obtained by Welsh domiciled students

- There were 27,835 higher education qualifications obtained by Welsh domiciled students in 2010/11, an increase of 5 per cent on last year.
- Of these qualifications, 6,425 were at postgraduate level and 6,585 at other undergraduate level.
- Of the 27,835 qualifications, 14,825 were at first degree level with 13 per cent of these obtaining a first class honours degree and 44 per cent obtaining an upper second class honours degree.
- Since 2001/02, there has been an overall increase in all qualifications by 24 per cent.

First degree qualifications have risen by 26 per cent since 2001/02.



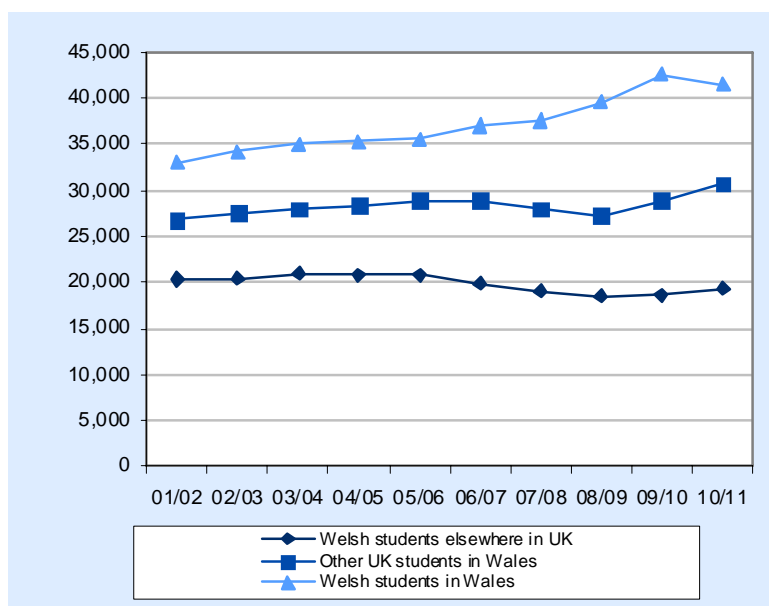
Section C- Cross border flows

Cross border flows of UK domiciled³ full-time HE students

Chart C.1: Flows of full-time students between Wales and the rest of the UK

- Wales is a net importer of full-time students. In 2010/11, there were 19,285 Welsh domiciled enrolments at UK HEIs outside of Wales and 30,695 enrolments from students elsewhere in the UK studying in Wales.
- Between 2009/10 and 2010/11 the number of Welsh domiciled students studying elsewhere in the UK increased by 4 per cent and the number of other UK students studying in Wales increased by 6 per cent.
- After a year on year increase from 2001/02 to 2009/10, the number of full-time Welsh domiciled students studying in Wales fell from 42,590 to 41,535 (a two per cent decrease) in 2010/11.
- 47 per cent of those students from outside Wales studying in Wales came from the South East and South West of England.

Wales remains a net importer of students, with the flow out of Wales slightly higher than in 2009/10 but still lower than in 2001/02



- Of those full-time, UK domiciled students at Welsh HEIs in 2010/11, 57 per cent (60 per cent in 2009/10) of undergraduates and 63 per cent (67 per cent in 2009/10) of postgraduates were Welsh domiciled.
- Of those full-time, Welsh domiciled undergraduate students who enrolled at UK HEIs, 68 per cent enrolled at a Welsh HEI. This is similar to the proportion of Northern Ireland domiciles enrolling at a Northern Ireland HEI, but well below the figure of 95 per cent for Scottish domiciles enrolling in Scotland.
- The retention rate for undergraduate enrolments in Wales is higher than all English regions, the highest of which are the North West and the North East (both 63 per cent).
- 68 per cent of Welsh domiciled postgraduates who enrolled at UK HEIs enrolled at a Welsh HEI, slightly lower than the equivalent figure for Northern Ireland, but again well below the 84 per cent of Scottish domiciled postgraduate enrolments that were at Scottish HEIs.
- Two English regions have a higher retention rate amongst postgraduate enrolments than Wales, namely, London (72 per cent) and the North East (69 per cent).
- The highest proportion of all full-time, Welsh domicile students studying outside of Wales was seen in the North West of England, (7 per cent).

³ In this instance EU domicile does not include any UK domiciles, Channel Isles or Isle of Man domiciles

Notes

1 Context

1.1 Wider context

The primary use of the Student Record in Wales is to inform distribution of funding of Higher Education, undertaken by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW). Further information on the distribution of HEFCW's recurrent grant for teaching and is covered in the HEFCW circular, 'Recurrent Grant 2010/11' published in March 2010 available via the following link:

http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/publications/circulars/circulars_2010_all.aspx

Higher Education Institutions in Wales may provide a volume of HE provision beyond HEFCW funded levels, including some "fees only" students. The Minister Education and Skills has approved the introduction of measures to control full time undergraduate student numbers from the 2011/12 academic year. Initial guidance is included in the linked HEFCW circular:

http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/documents/publications/circulars/circulars_2010/W10%2033HE%20Guidance%20on%20management%20of%20fulltime%20undergraduate%20numbers.pdf

Changes have been made to the tuition fees for undergraduate courses recently. Increased fee levels (called 'top-up fees') were introduced for courses at HE institutions outside Wales in 2006/07 and Welsh institutions were able to charge higher tuition fees in 2007/08. There were different financial support schemes for students from different UK countries. Welsh (and EU) students starting a course in Wales between 2006/07 and 2009/10 may have been eligible for a Tuition Fee Grant to cover the cost of the increase in fees, however entrants in 2010/11 (excluding deferrals) were not eligible for this grant. Entrants in 2010/11 were able to apply for a higher level of Assembly Learning Grant. Further details can be found in the Notes to the Student Loans Company publication referred to in paragraph 1.2.

1.2 Related Publications

This bulletin has been preceded by the following outputs also covering the 2010/11 academic year:

The HESA statistical release covering HE enrolments and qualifications for 2010/11 was published in January 2012 (see <http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/2355/393/>).

Final UCAS data on accepted applicants for the 2010/11 academic year was published in January 2011, and we published a bulletin on this data for Wales in March 2011, available here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/post16education2011/110331/?lang=en>

Data for 2011/12 and early information on applications for entry in 2012/13 are also accessible from the UCAS website via the following link:

http://www.ucas.ac.uk/about_us/media_enquiries/media_releases/

Statistics on student support (grants and loans) for full-time undergraduates is published by the Student Loans Company. The latest release is linked below, with final data for 2010/11 and provisional information for 2011/12:

<http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/national-statistics/newnationalstatistics1.aspx>

2. Data Source

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on students, staff and resources of higher education institutions (HEIs) in the UK. The data presented in this bulletin are taken primarily from HESA's Student Record which contains information on all students enrolled on credit bearing courses at UK HEIs.

A summary of the Student data collection process for 2010/11 covering timescales, validation and business rules and checking processes is included on the HESA website at:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_studrec&Itemid=232&mnl=10051

In addition, HESA published a circular in July 2011 (REF: C10051) to provide further guidance to institutions returning data, covering a summary of previously announced changes to the data collection system, guidance on fields identified as having data quality issues in 2010/11, plus a summary of the data collection system and timetable and checks required to optimise the quality of data returned. A link to circular C10051 is provided here: <http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/2131/128/>

3. Definitions

3.1 Coverage

The **HESA standard registration population** is a count of all enrolments within the reporting year 1 August to 31 July. Students who leave within 2 weeks of their start date, or anniversary of their start date, and are on a course of more than two weeks duration, are not included in the standard registration population. Dormant students, incoming visiting and exchange students from overseas and students studying for the whole of their programme of study outside of the UK are also excluded from this population.

From 2007/08, the standard HE registration population has not included writing-up or sabbatical students, where previously they were included under 'part-time and other'. All charts in this publication use figures based on the current definition of the registration population; figures prior to 2007/08 have been re-calculated to allow these comparisons over time, so will not match previously published data for these earlier years.

The **HESA qualifications obtained population** is a count of student enrolments associated with the award of an HE qualification (excluding HE institutional credits) during the reporting year. For qualifications obtained, awards from dormant status and those writing-up theses are classified to their previous mode of study, i.e. full-time or part-time.

First year students

First year students commenced their programme of study in the reporting period relevant to the data collection year.

3.2 Level of study

Higher education (HE) students are those students on programmes of study for which the level of instruction is above that of level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework, i.e. courses leading to the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education (GCE A-levels), the Advanced Level of the Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE A-levels) or the Advanced Higher Grade and Higher Grade of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Advanced Highers/Highers).

Further education (FE) students are those students on programmes of study for which the level of instruction is equal to or below that of level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework, i.e. courses leading to the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education (GCE A-levels), the Advanced Level of the Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE A-levels) or the Advanced Higher Grade and Higher Grade of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA Advanced Highers/Highers).

From 2007/08, the way in which data on Welsh for Adults (FE) learners and enrolments were collected changed. This means that several thousand FE learners in Wales, who would have been reported elsewhere previously, are now reported to HESA by the five Welsh HEIs who act as regional centres for Welsh for Adults provision.

3.3 Mode of study

Full-time students are those normally required to attend an institution for periods amounting to at least 24 weeks within the year of programme of study, on thick or thin sandwich courses, and those on a study-related year out of their institution. During that time students are normally expected to undertake periods of study, tuition or work experience which amount to an average of at least 21 hours per week.

Part-time students are those recorded as studying part-time, or studying full-time on courses lasting less than 24 weeks, on block release, or studying during the evenings only.

See paragraph 3.1 for details of **Important Changes** to the standard registration population.

3.4 Domicile

The domicile field defines the country of the student's permanent or home address prior to entry to the course. It is not necessarily the correspondence address of the student and because length of residence at the permanent address is not captured, does not necessarily represent the country where a student received the majority of their pre-HE learning. In addition to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, for the purposes of this publication, **UK domiciled** students also include those whose permanent or home address prior to course entry is in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Of those students who are not UK domiciled, **other EU** students are those whose permanent or home address prior to entry is in countries which were European Union (EU) members as at 1 December of the reporting period. **Non-EU** students are those whose permanent or home address prior to commencing their course was outside the EU.

3.5 Location of institution

The allocation of an institution to a geographical region is done by reference to the administrative centre of that institution. There may be students registered at institutions who are studying in regions other than that of the administrative centre of the institution.

The **Open University** is counted as a wholly English institution as the (main) administrative centre is located in England, although The Open University teaches throughout the UK. Hence there are Welsh domiciled students studying at the OU. From 2005/06 funding for teaching in the Open University in Wales has been administered by Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), hence resulting in the 'OU in Wales'. However in our bulletins data on Welsh students at the OU continues to be **excluded** from total figures for students at Welsh HEIs as it is still an English institution. Tables presenting information about Welsh domiciled students studying at the Open University are available in [StatsWales](#). Data on Welsh students at the Open University continue to be excluded from figures for Welsh HEIs.

From 2008/09 the way that we count the number of students registered at the Open University in Wales has been adjusted to conform to the HEFCW approach. We now look the number of *HEFCW funded* students at the 'OU in Wales' rather than the number of *Welsh domiciled* students at the OU. Therefore it is possible for non-Welsh students to appear in this total.

4. Rounding strategy

The presentation of figures in this Statistical Bulletin follows the principals of the HESA rounding strategy. The strategy is intended to prevent the disclosure of personal information about any individual. This strategy involves rounding all numbers to the nearest 5. A summary of this strategy is as follows:

- 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0 and represented as '*'.
- All other numbers are rounded to the nearest 5.

Total figures are also subject to this rounding methodology; the consequence of which is that the sum of numbers in each row or column may not match the total shown precisely. Percentages have been calculated using precise raw numbers. Percentages less than 0.5 per cent are represented by ‘-’.

5. Key Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability. It also covers specific issues relating to quality of 2010/11 data, and describes the quality management tool applied to this area of work. Between September and November 2010 we conducted a public consultation on our Education Statistics outputs, in which we asked for feedback on the quality of the outputs. A summary of responses has been published and is available here

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/statistics/education/?lang=en>

5.1 Relevance

HESA is the official agency for the collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative information about higher education. It was set up by agreement between the relevant government departments, the higher education funding councils and the universities and colleges. The primary purpose of the Student data collection is to provide each of the bodies listed above with accurate and comprehensive statistical information regarding student enrolments.

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Officials in the Welsh Government;
- Other government departments;
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales;
- Higher Education Institutions and representative bodies;
- Students, researchers, and academics;
- Individual citizens, private companies, and the media;

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- general background and research;
- inclusions in reports and briefings;
- advice to Ministers;
- to inform the education policy development and decision-making process in Wales;
- to forecast future expenditure of student support schemes for Welsh domiciled students;
- international benchmarking.

5.2 Accuracy

The Student Record contains information about individual enrolments, which, because a student can be enrolled on more than one programme of study, will exceed the number of students. Previous analysis has shown that for Welsh HEIs full-time enrolments are less than 1 per cent higher than full-time student numbers; part-time enrolments are less than 2 per cent higher than part-time student numbers.

Postdoctoral students are not included in the HESA Student Record.

The Student record is an annual census of students. The steps taken by HESA to ensure quality of the data were outlined in Paragraph 2 (‘Data Source’) earlier in this section. In addition, HESA provide draft student enrolment tables and lists of anomalies to all statutory customers, including the WG, to review before tables are signed off as accurate.

The following table gives the proportion of the overall student population where ethnicity and disability were unknown both for Welsh domiciles and students at Welsh HEIs. The proportion of enrolments for whom their unitary authority of residence was unknown is also given for Welsh domiciles.

Proportion unknown for key variables

	<u>2003/04</u>	<u>2004/05</u>	<u>2005/06</u>	<u>2006/07</u>	<u>2007/08</u>	<u>2008/09</u>	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>2010/11</u>
UA unknown:								
Welsh domiciles	2.3%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.9%	1.2%	1.2%	0.8%
Ethnicity unknown: (a)								
Welsh domiciles	7.2%	6.1%	4.7%	4.3%	3.6%	3.3%	2.8%	2.3%
Welsh HEIs (b)	6.0%	5.0%	3.6%	3.2%	2.8%	2.6%	2.0%	2.0%
Disability unknown: (c)								
Welsh domiciles	1.5%	7.7%	6.6%	6.4%	6.5%	6.9%	5.3%	0.3%
Welsh HEIs (b)	1.4%	2.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.1%

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

(a) Unknown includes not known or refused.

(b) The figures for Welsh HEIs refer just to UK domicile students.

(c) Increase rate of unknown since 2004/05 due to incorrect coding being used by specific institutions.

5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

HESA collected student enrolment data for the 2010/11 academic year between August and October 2011. They produce their own publication in January 2012, WG produced this bulletin in February 2012, meeting the planned date of publication.

5.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical bulletin is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Governments website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on StatsWales, a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

5.5 Comparability

HESA collects student enrolment data from all publicly funded UK HEIs, so comparison with other countries within the UK is possible. It produces its own Statistical First Release 'Higher Education Student Enrolments and Qualifications Obtained at Higher Education Institutions in the United Kingdom', the latest version of which (covering the 2010/11 academic year) can be found via the following link: [HESA - Higher Education Statistics Agency - Press release 155 - Students in Higher Education Institutions 2009/10](#)

HESA follow this up later in the year, with the annual 'Students in Higher Education Institutions' which includes breakdowns by region of domicile and institution. The latest version (for the 2009/10 academic year) can be found via the following link: <http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/1943/161/>.

This publication will be released for the academic year 2010/11 on 23 February 2012.

Scotland and Northern Ireland also produce annual bulletins based on student enrolments, around the same time as the Welsh bulletin. The latest version of 'Students in Higher Education at Scottish Institutions' can be found via the 'Education and Skills' topic in the publications section of the Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/Recent>

When making comparisons with Scotland, it must be noted that a far higher proportion of students in Scotland studying at HE level attend colleges, as opposed to HEIs, and data for these institutions is not collected by HESA. 'Enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions: Northern Ireland Analysis' can be found via <http://www.delni.gov.uk/higher-education-enrolments.htm>.

The 2011 edition of 'Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators', linked below, presents data comparing OECD countries to each other on a range of education indicators, including some relating to tertiary education: http://www.oecd.org/document/2/0,3746,en_2649_39263238_48634114_1_1_1_1,00.html

5.6 Data quality issues

In 2010/11, many more Further Education (FE) students who were enrolled at Merthyr College, Glamorgan were reported to HESA as opposed to LLWR than in the 2009/10 academic year. In 2009/10 only 950 FE enrolments were registered at Merthyr Tydfil College (as part of Glamorgan University), whilst in 2010/11 the number of enrolments jumped to 7,855.

University of Wales Institute, Cardiff changed its name to Cardiff Metropolitan University in late 2011.

In 2009/10, the University of Glamorgan changed its reporting practices for a number of their full-time postgraduate taught students that were active over two reporting years. These students were previously returned as active in their first year but dormant in their second year. For 2009/10 these students are now returned as active in both academic years, in line with HESA reporting requirements. This contributed to Glamorgan reporting an increase of 670 enrolments (around 58 per cent) to its full-time postgraduate taught courses. Consequently the number of full-time postgraduate enrolments Wales has shown a larger percentage increase than expected; with Glamorgan postgraduate taught enrolments excluded from calculations, the increase is 8 per cent as opposed to 14 per cent when they are included.

In 2008/09, Lampeter University showed a drop of 2,195 part-time other undergraduate enrolments, representing a 39 per cent decrease on 2007/08. This was, in part, due to those students being re-coded as dormant which automatically excluded them from enrolment data.

During 2009/10, Bangor University took part in a trial with an external partner in relation to a large set of their Welsh for Adults data (that is, Further Education enrolments normally included on the HESA record). Due to the nature of the trial, some data which forms part of the HESA data set was not available before the HESA submission deadline. As a result, Bangor University's Welsh for Adults data is not all included in the HESA record, leading to some degree of undercount in the FE figures reported in this bulletin.

5.7 Impact of merger between University of Lampeter and Trinity College, Carmarthen

The 2010/11 academic year is the first for which HESA has provided data for the new merged institution: University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

In 2009/10, there was a reduction of around 3,070 part-time enrolments at the University of Lampeter compared to 2008/09, due to programmes being withdrawn or not actively recruited for. The vast majority (91 per cent) of these were to 'other' undergraduate courses.

5.8 Quality Management

The Office for National Statistics have developed a prototype 'Quality Methods and Harmonisation Tool' (QMHT), designed as a 'stand alone' tool for managers to use in order to evaluate surveys and outputs. It uses many ideas from a previous Self-Assessment Checklist developed for the Government Statistical Service and also from a Eurostat model designed for surveys only. The tool encourages managers to identify and prioritise areas needing improvement, so that they can plan how to address these in a focused way. Knowledge and Analytical Service within Welsh Government have been piloting this tool, and it has been applied to the Higher Education statistical outputs including this release. Further information on the tool is available at the link below:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/harmonisation/index.html>

STATS WALES

Tables associated with this bulletin containing a greater amount of detail are available on the Assembly's interactive data dissemination service StatsWales (www.statswales.gov.uk). In addition to mode and level, these tables enable analysis of enrolment figures to include gender, age, ethnicity, disability, institution and domicile.

From 2007/08, the standard registration population, on which the enrolment counts in this bulletin are based, has excluded writing-up and sabbatical students. Enrolment counts in all StatsWales tables covering academic years prior to 2007/08 have been recalculated on the basis of the current definition of the standard registration population to allow comparison over time. Similarly, any references in this bulletin to enrolments prior to 2007/08 refer to the re-calculated figures.

The definition of the standard registered population had previously changed in 2000/01, though this only affected all year enrolment figures. As the time series in this bulletin and in the StatsWales tables referenced in this bulletin do not go back beyond 2001/02, this earlier change does not need to be taken into account. However, should a time series going back beyond 2001/02 be required, this can be obtained via StatsWales tables based on 1 December enrolment figures, which have been calculated in an identical manner from the start of the time series in 1994/95.