

Students in Higher Education Institutions – Wales, 2011/12

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 2011/12 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

- Enrolments at Welsh HEIs remained constant in 2011/12 whilst HE enrolments by Welsh domiciled students at UK HEIs saw a small decrease compared with 2010/11.
- While both full-time postgraduate and full-time undergraduate enrolments have continued to rise, part-time enrolments at Welsh HEIs have fallen from around 51,000 in 2006/07 to just below 38,000 in 2011/12, a 26 per cent decrease.
- Overall there were 102,110 Welsh domiciled enrolments to HE at UK HEIs in 2011/12, approximately 500 fewer than in the previous year. Enrolments of Welsh students peaked in 2004/05, with numbers falling gradually since then. The fall in part-time undergraduate enrolments has been the main factor in the overall decrease in numbers.
- Wales is a net importer of full-time students. In 2011/12, there were 20,355 full-time enrolments from Welsh students to UK HEIs outside of Wales, six per cent higher than 2010/11 and 33,320 full-time enrolments of students from the UK outside of Wales to Welsh HEIs, nine per cent higher than 2010/11.
- There were 22,250 qualifications obtained at Welsh HEIs at first degree level in 2011/12 compared to 20,780 in 2010/11, an increase of 7 per cent. First degrees accounted for 51 per cent of qualifications obtained at HEIs in Wales in 2011/12.
- 15 per cent of the first degree level qualifications obtained at Welsh HEIs were at first class honours level. Welsh domiciled students obtained 15,580 first degree level qualifications, and similarly 15 per cent of these obtained a first class honours degree.

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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. Education is one of the key themes set out in the Programme for Government. 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. In 2010 the University of Wales, Lampeter merged with Trinity College, Carmarthen to form the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David. 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 but this was not in place for the 2011/12 year covered in this publication. Furthermore, the proposal for creating a single institution in South East Wales, alongside Cardiff University, has taken a further step forward. University of Wales, Newport and the University of Glamorgan have agreed to merge with effect from April 2013.

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

Enrolments

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



- In 2011/12 there were 131,185 HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs, showing no percentage change since 2010/11 but 11 per cent higher than in 2003/04.
- Despite no overall change in enrolments there was a 7 per cent fall in postgraduate enrolments compared to 2010/11.
- Conversely, undergraduate enrolments increased by 2 per cent from the previous year. In 2011/12, 79 per cent of enrolments were at undergraduate level, down from a high of 83 per cent in 2004/05.

Overall enrolments showed no change on previous year but postgraduate enrolments decreased following a four year upward trend.

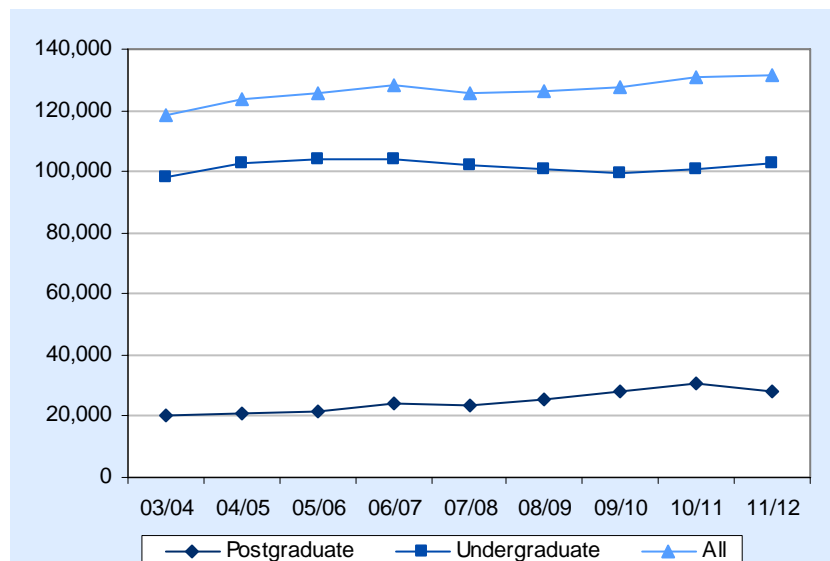


Chart A.2: HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs by mode



- In 2011/12, part-time enrolments fell by three per cent on the previous year.
- The number of part-time enrolments at Welsh HEIs has declined steadily since its peak in 2006/07.
- In 2006/07, part-time enrolments represented 40 per cent of enrolments to Welsh HEIs compared to 29 per cent in 2011/12.
- Full-time enrolments increased by one per cent on 2010/11 levels and have increased year on year since 2003/04.

Full-time enrolments increased, whilst part-time enrolments fell for the fifth consecutive year.

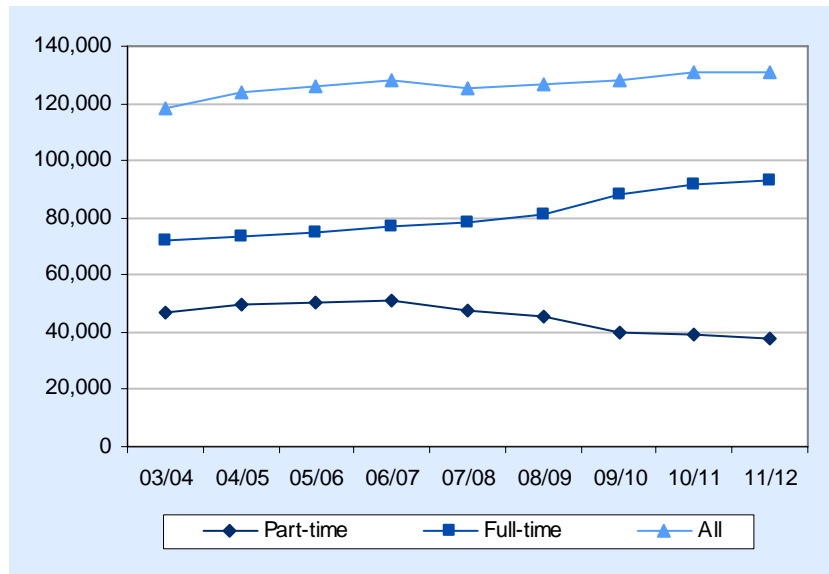
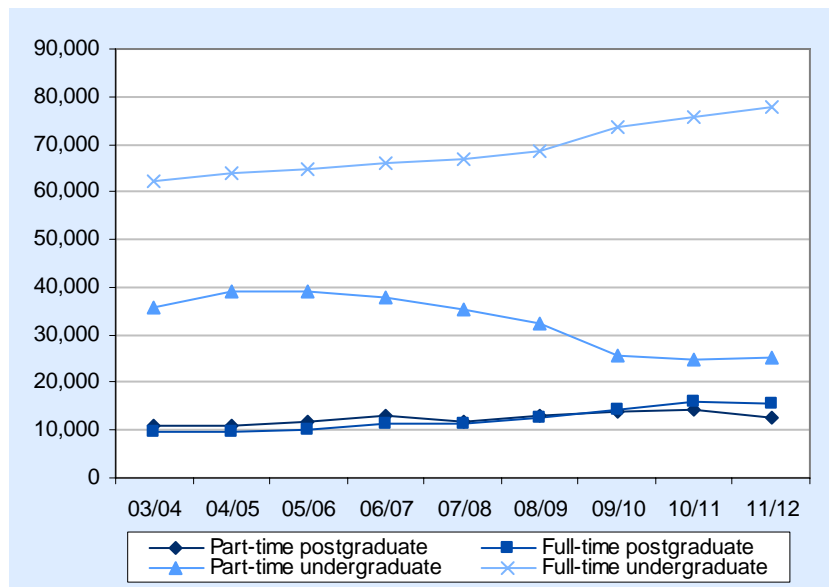


Chart A.3: HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs by mode and level



- The overall decrease in part-time enrolments since 2006/07 has been driven by a fall of 33 per cent in the number of part-time undergraduates, from 38,060 enrolments in 2006/07 to 25,335 enrolments in 2011/12.
- In 2006/07, 37 per cent of undergraduate enrolments were part-time compared to 25 per cent in 2011/12.
- The trend in full-time undergraduate enrolments continued to show a steady increase.

Continuing decline in part-time enrolments offset by increase in full-time undergraduate enrolments.



The decline in part-time enrolments has continued, after reaching a peak in 2006/07. However, within this overall trend it is part-time postgraduate enrolments that have decreased the most and in fact part-time undergraduate numbers increased slightly in 2011/12 compared with 2010/11. The decline in part-time undergraduate enrolments was the subject of a report commissioned by the Welsh Government in January 2010. This report, 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. The report can be accessed at the link below:

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

Full-time undergraduate enrolments have continued to increase steadily over the past fifteen years. In 2011/12, full-time undergraduate numbers grew by three per cent from the previous year, although year on year fluctuations are evident at individual institutions. Glyndwr University continued to expand, with a six per cent increase in total enrolments since 2010/11. The nine per cent fall in total enrolments at The University of Wales, Trinity Saint David was mainly due to a 52 per cent fall in full-time postgraduate students; a result of changes at their London campus and the loss of international enrolments.

First year HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs

- There were 48,485 first year enrolments at undergraduate level at Welsh HEIs, a three per cent increase on the figure reported in 2010/11. This increase may well be explained by more students deciding to enter higher education immediately rather than delay entry and necessitate paying increased tuition fees (starting in the 2012/13 academic year).
- The number of Welsh domiciled, first year, full-time, undergraduate entrants to Welsh HEIs fell from 13,150 in 2010/11 to 12,675 in 2011/12 (a four per cent decrease in enrolments). This is similar to 2011 UCAS entry numbers, which show that Welsh domiciled applicants accepted to Welsh HEIs fell by 3.4 per cent. (Note: UCAS do not record applications for non-degree higher education courses and HESA enrol a small number of applicants directly rather than through UCAS.)
- Five of the ten Welsh institutions saw a fall in the number of first year entrants. The largest decline in first year full-time undergraduate numbers, compared with 2010/11, was seen at University of Wales, Trinity Saint David (14 per cent fall), whilst the greatest increase was seen at Aberystwyth University (17 per cent rise).
- Bangor and Aberystwyth universities were the only institutions showing any increase in the number of first year postgraduate enrolments.
- There was a 12 per cent drop in the number of first year overseas (non-EU) enrolments in 2011/12; this follows a marked, steady increase over the previous seven years.

Further Education enrolments reported by Welsh HEIs

- In 2011/12 there were 34,225 Further Education (FE) enrolments reported by Welsh HEIs, an 18 per cent increase on the previous year, following a 50 per cent increase from 2009/10 to 2010/11. This large increase in numbers is partly explained by Merthyr Tydfil College submitting their data to HESA now that they are part of the University of Glamorgan. The other notable increase in FE enrolments is at Bangor University where there has been additional uptake of Welsh for Adults courses.

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 6,380 students at Welsh HEIs studying wholly overseas within the EU in 2011/12, showing a two per cent increase on the number for 2010/11. The number of students studying wholly overseas and outside the EU increased by 12 per cent over the same period to 13,645.
- Cardiff Metropolitan University have confirmed that their 32 per cent growth in offshore study was due to a reconfiguration of courses and growth of overseas provision.

Individual Welsh Higher Education Institutions

- Cardiff University was the Welsh HEI with the highest number of enrolments in 2011/12; accounting for 21 per cent of the total (excluding the Open University), followed by the University of Glamorgan (16 per cent of enrolments) and Swansea University (11 per cent of enrolments). Swansea Metropolitan and The University of Wales, Trinity Saint David had the lowest number of enrolments, each accounting for approximately five per cent of the total.
- 35 per cent of enrolments at Cardiff Metropolitan University were at postgraduate level, followed by Cardiff University (26 per cent) and Bangor University (25 per cent). The lowest proportion of postgraduate enrolments were at Glyndwr and Aberystwyth universities (both 15 per cent).
- The general fall in postgraduate enrolments between 2010/11 and 2011/12 has had a greater effect on some institutions than others. The two universities with the lowest proportion of postgraduates both registered an increase in the total number of all enrolments (Glyndwr University up six per cent and Aberystwyth University up five per cent). Conversely, both Cardiff University and Cardiff Metropolitan university recorded a four per cent fall in total enrolments.

The Open University in Wales

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

- In 2011/12 there were 9,265 enrolments with the OU in Wales, an increase of two per cent on 2010/11.
- As with the individual Welsh institutions a fall in postgraduate enrolments reduced overall growth.

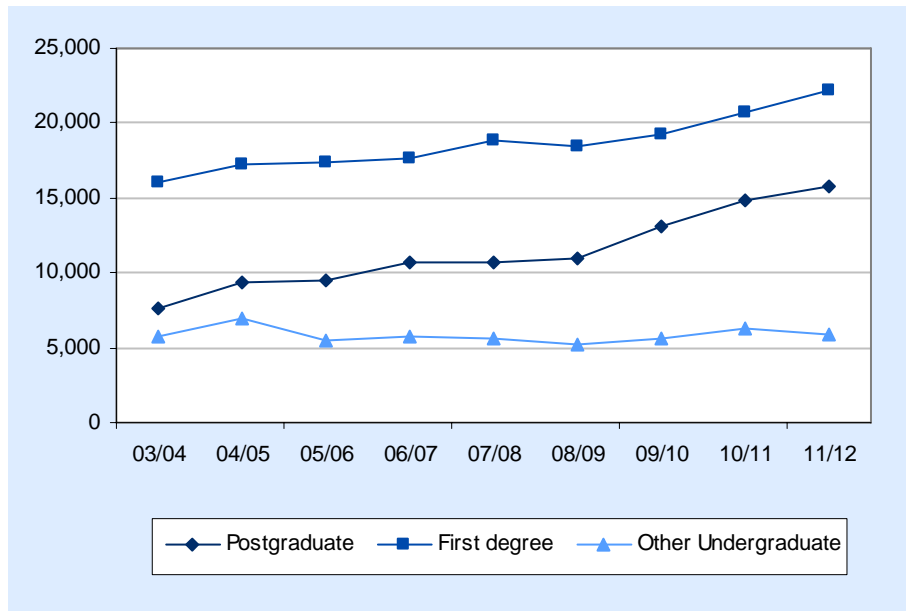
Qualifications obtained

Chart A.4: HE qualifications obtained at Welsh HEIs



- 43,915 higher education qualifications were obtained at Welsh HEIs in 2011/12; of these 15,835 were at postgraduate level, and 5,830 at other undergraduate level.
- 22,250 qualifications were at first degree level with 15 per cent of these obtaining a first class honours degree and 44 per cent obtaining an upper second class honours degree.
- Postgraduate qualifications increased by six per cent in 2011/12 and there was an overall increase of 5 per cent in all qualifications.
- 50 per cent more qualifications were obtained in 2011/12 than 2003/04.

First Degree and Postgraduate qualifications continued to increase.



- There were seven per cent more first degree qualifiers in 2011/12 than in 2010/11, this largely reflects the increasing number of applicants in earlier years feeding through the system.
- First degrees accounted for 51 per cent of qualifications obtained in 2011/12.
- 56 per cent of first degree graduates in 2011/12 were women, the same percentage as in 2010/11.
- Postgraduate level qualifications (research and taught) increased by eight per cent compared to the previous year.
- The number of qualifications obtained by students following part-time courses fell by 13 per cent whilst full-time courses resulted in 11 per cent more qualifications than in 2010/11.

Table A.1: Enrolments at Welsh HEIs by institution, level and mode (2011/12)



	Postgraduate			Undergraduate			All		
	Full-time and sandwich	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	685	1,260	1,945	4,095	3,945	8,045	4,780	5,210	9,990
Glyndwr University	850	570	1,415	4,395	3,725	8,120	5,245	4,290	9,535
Cardiff Metropolitan University	2,175	2,425	4,600	7,675	730	8,410	9,850	3,160	13,005
University of Glamorgan	2,130	1,700	3,830	12,580	4,780	17,360	14,710	6,475	21,190
Swansea Metropolitan University	685	520	1,205	3,710	940	4,650	4,390	1,465	5,855
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	435	560	995	3,080	2,065	5,140	3,515	2,625	6,135
Aberystwyth University	1,080	720	1,795	8,050	1,860	9,910	9,125	2,580	11,705
Bangor University	1,830	985	2,820	7,365	1,070	8,435	9,195	2,055	11,255
Cardiff University	3,820	3,315	7,135	16,245	4,365	20,610	20,060	7,680	27,745
Swansea University	1,815	600	2,415	10,505	1,850	12,355	12,320	2,450	14,770
All Welsh HEIs excluding OU	15,495	12,655	28,150	77,700	25,335	103,035	93,195	37,990	131,185
The Open University in Wales	*	440	440	*	8,825	8,825	*	9,265	9,265
All Welsh HEIs including OU	15,495	13,095	28,590	77,700	34,160	111,860	93,195	47,255	140,450

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

(a) All figures are rounded to the nearest 5. Values of 0, 1 and 2 are represented by "**".

Section B- Welsh domiciled enrolments and qualifications at UK HEIs

Enrolments

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



- In 2011/12 there were 102,110 Welsh domiciled higher education enrolments at UK HEIs, showing less than one per cent decrease from 2010/11.
- Undergraduate enrolments showed no percentage point change in 2011/12. Undergraduate enrolments peaked at 89,700 in 2004/05, since then they have fallen by four per cent to 86,180.
- There were 15,925 postgraduate enrolments in 2011/12, down three per cent from 2010/11 but higher than in 2007/08.

Undergraduate and Postgraduate enrolments of Welsh domiciled students remained relatively constant.

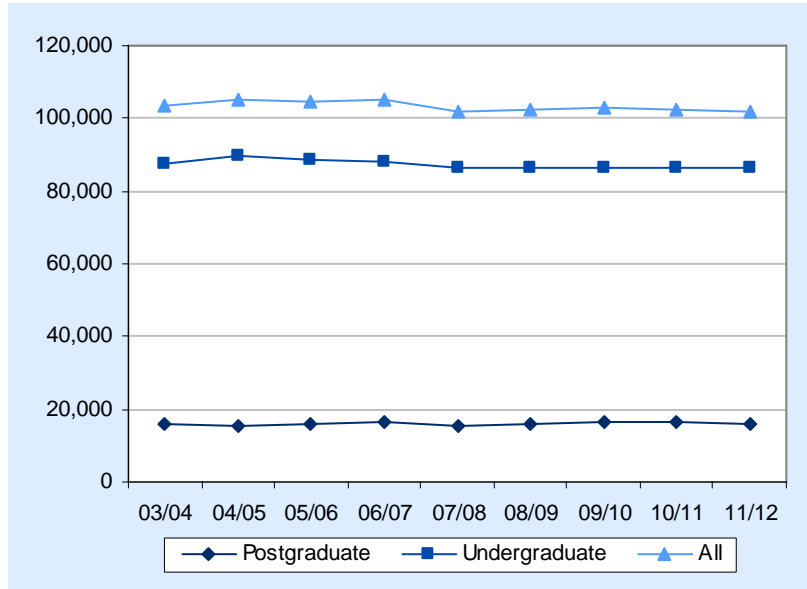


Chart B.2: Welsh domiciled HE enrolments at UK HEIs, by mode



- Part time enrolments of Welsh domiciled students at UK HEIs peaked in 2004/05 at 49,260. Numbers have continued to decline since this peak but less so over the last three years.
- In 2004/05, part-time enrolments accounted for 47 per cent of Welsh domiciled enrolments compared to 41 per cent in 2011/12.
- Full-time enrolments showed no change between 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Full-time and Part-time enrolment numbers showed little change over the last three years.

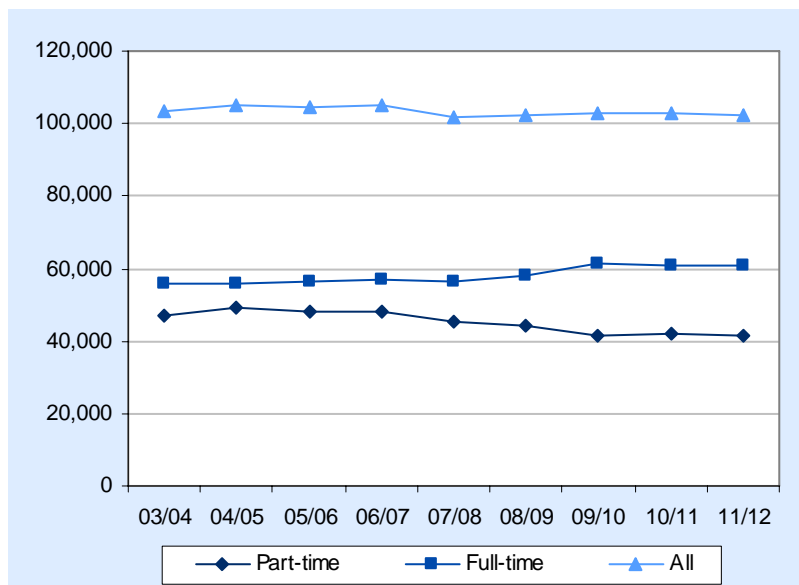
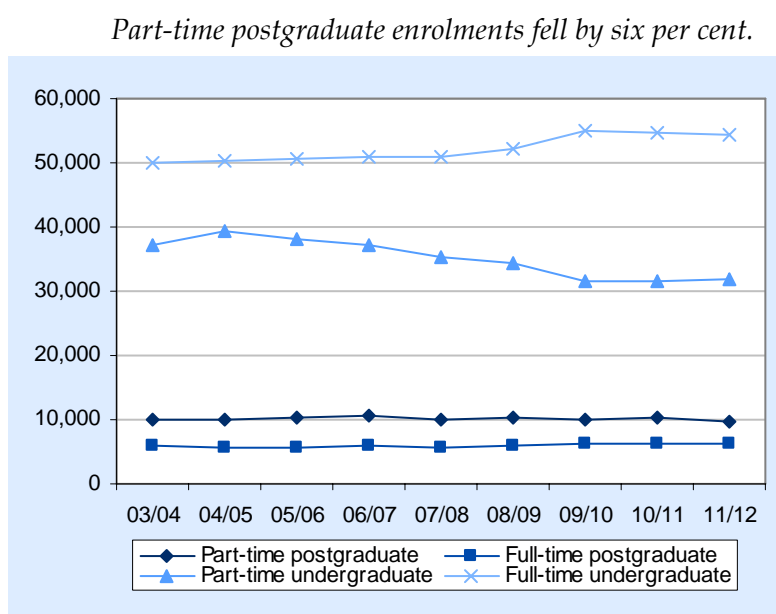


Chart B.3: Welsh domiciled HE enrolments at UK HEIs by level and mode



- Part-time undergraduate enrolments have fallen since the peak in 2004/05 but have shown little change in the last three years.
- Full-time undergraduate enrolments are nine per cent higher than in 2003/04.
- Part-time postgraduate enrolments have fallen six per cent compared to 2010/11 but full-time postgraduate enrolments have risen slightly.



Welsh domiciled enrolments at UK HEIs showed a similar pattern to total enrolments at Welsh HEIs; namely, part-time postgraduate numbers decreased whilst undergraduate enrolments remained constant or showed a small increase.

First year HE numbers



- Welsh domiciled first year undergraduate entrants to UK HEIs showed no percentage change in numbers between 2010/11 and 2011/12.
- Full-time first year postgraduate enrolments rose by two per cent but the 11 per cent fall in part-time numbers meant that overall postgraduate enrolment fell by five per cent between 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Welsh domiciled Further Education enrolments

- There were 33,410 further education Welsh domiciled enrolments reported by UK HEIs in 2011/12; a 17 per cent increase on the figure for 2010/11, following a 51 per cent increase from 2009/10 to 2010/11. This large increase in numbers is partly explained by Merthyr Tydfil College submitting their data to HESA now that they are part of the University of Glamorgan. The other notable increase in FE enrolments is at Bangor University where there has been additional uptake of Welsh for Adults courses.

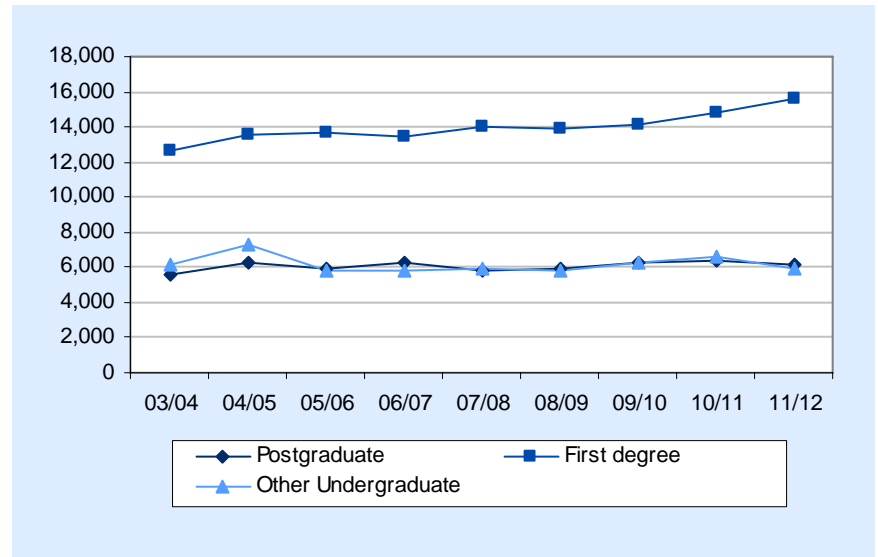
Qualifications obtained

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



- There were 27,690 higher education qualifications obtained by Welsh domiciled students in 2011/12, one per cent fewer than last year; mainly due to a fall in 'Other undergraduate' qualifications.
- Of the 27,690 qualifications, 15,580 were at first degree level with 15 per cent of these obtaining a first class honours degree and 45 per cent obtaining an upper second class honours degree.
- The total number of qualifications obtained has risen by 14 per cent since 2003/04.

First degree qualifications continued to rise.



- There were five per cent more first degree qualifiers in 2011/12 than in 2010/11, but foundation degree qualifications fell by 15 per cent.
- First degrees accounted for 56 per cent of qualifications obtained by Welsh domiciled students in 2011/12.
- 60 per cent of first degree graduates in 2011/12 were women, the same percentage as in 2010/11.
- Postgraduate level qualifications (research and taught) decreased by three per cent compared to the previous year.
- The number of qualifications obtained by students following part-time courses fell by 10 per cent whilst full-time courses resulted in three per cent more qualifications than in 2010/11.

Section C- Cross border flows

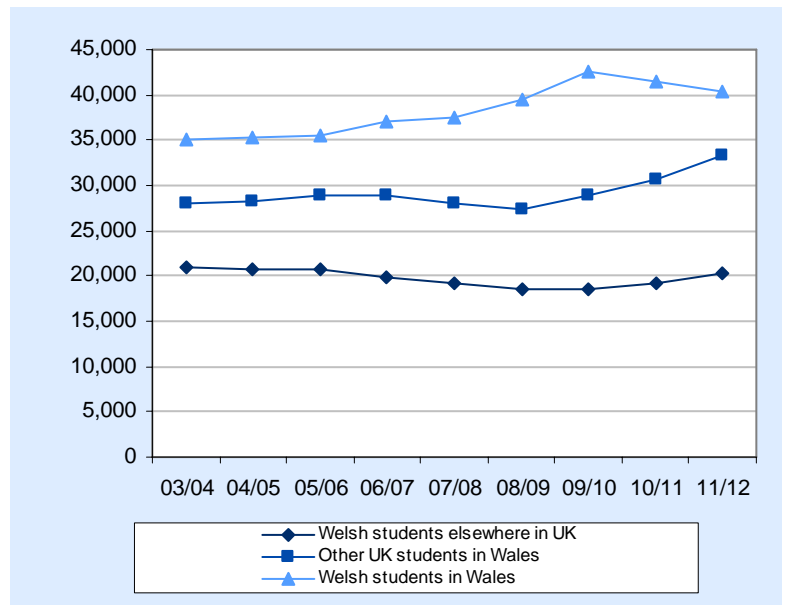
Cross border flows of UK domiciled full-time HE students

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 2011/12, there were 20,355 Welsh domiciled enrolments at UK HEIs outside of Wales and 33,320 enrolments at Welsh HEIs from students normally resident elsewhere in the UK.
- Between 2010/11 and 2011/12 the number of Welsh domiciled students studying elsewhere in the UK increased by 6 per cent and the number of other UK students studying in Wales increased by 9 per cent.
- After a year on year increase from 2003/04 to 2009/10, the number of full-time Welsh domiciled students studying in Wales fell from 42,590 to 40,375; a five per cent decrease over the last two years.

Wales remained a net importer of students, with the net flow into Wales 14 per cent higher than in 2010/11.



- Of those full-time, UK domiciled students at Welsh HEIs in 2011/12, 54 per cent (57 per cent in 2010/11) of undergraduates and 65 per cent (63 per cent in 2010/11) of postgraduates were Welsh domiciled.
- 66 per cent of Welsh domiciled full-time undergraduate enrolments were at Welsh HEIs. 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.
- 68 per cent of Welsh domiciled full-time 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.

Notes

1 Context

1.1 Wider context

The primary use of the Student Record in Wales is to inform the distribution of funding for 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, 'Strategic Implementation Allocations 2011/12' published in March 2011 available via the following link:

http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/about_he_in_wales/funding_he_in_wales/annual_grant_he_insts.aspx

Higher Education Institutions in Wales may provide some HE provision which lies outside the HEFCW funding remit; this includes "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. The relevant HEFCW circular can be found at the following link:

http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/documents/publications/circulars/circulars_2011/W11%2041HE%20Control%20of%20student%20numbers%20final%20numbers%20guidance%20for%202011_12%20future%20arrangements.pdf

A number of changes have been made to the tuition fees for undergraduate courses in recent years. 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. Entrants in 2010/11 and 2011/12 were able to apply for a higher level of Assembly Learning Grant. Further details can be found in the Student Loans Company publication referred to in paragraph 1.2 below.

1.2 Related Publications

This bulletin has been preceded by the following outputs also covering the 2011/12 academic year:

The HESA statistical release covering HE enrolments and qualifications for 2011/12 was published in January 2013.

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2667&Itemid=161).

Final UCAS data on accepted applicants for the 2011/12 academic year was published in December 2011, and the Welsh Government published a statistical bulletin relating to Welsh HEIs and Welsh domiciled applicants in March 2012.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/post16education2012/120327/?lang=en>

Data for 2012/13 and early information on applications for entry in 2013/14 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 publication for Wales is for academic year [2012/13](#) ([Excel table version](#))

[http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/official-statistics-\(slc\).aspx](http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/official-statistics-(slc).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 is 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 2011/12 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=11051

In addition, HESA published a circular in June 2012 to provide further guidance to institutions returning data, covering a summary of previously announced changes to the data collection system and guidance on field completion. A link to the circular 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 are those who 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. As a result several thousand FE learners in Wales, who would previously have been recorded elsewhere, 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.

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 this bulletin 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 method used to count the number of students registered at the Open University in Wales was adjusted to conform to the HEFCW approach. The enrolment count is based on 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 the unrounded values. 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 2011/12 data, and describes the quality management tool applied to this area of work. Between September and November 2010 Welsh Government statistical services conducted a public consultation on their Education Statistics outputs, which asked for feedback on the quality of the outputs. A summary of responses was 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

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
UA unknown:									
Welsh domiciles	2.3%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.9%	1.2%	1.2%	0.8%	0.7%
Ethnicity unknown:									
Welsh domiciles	7.2%	6.1%	4.7%	4.3%	3.6%	3.3%	2.8%	2.3%	2.4%
Welsh HEIs (b)	6.0%	5.0%	3.6%	3.2%	2.8%	2.6%	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%
Disability unknown:									
Welsh domiciles	1.5%	7.7%	6.6%	6.4%	6.5%	6.9%	5.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Welsh HEIs (b)	1.4%	2.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

(a) Unknown includes not known or refused.

(b) The figures for Welsh HEIs refer only to UK domiciled students.

(c) Incorrect completion of the disability field resulted in high numbers of 'unknown disability' from 2004/05. Accuracy has improved since 2010/11

5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

HESA collected student enrolment data for the 2011/12 academic year between August and October 2012. They produced their first statistical release in January 2013, WG produced this bulletin in February 2013, 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 2011/12 academic year) can be found via the following link:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2667&Itemid=161

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. This press release and data download for the 2011/12 year was released on 14 February 2013.

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. The 2010/11 '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

From 2010/11, Further Education (FE) students who were enrolled at Merthyr Tydfil College, Glamorgan were reported to HESA rather than solely to the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR). In 2009/10 only 950 FE enrolments were registered at Merthyr Tydfil College (as part of Glamorgan University), whilst in 2011/12 the number of FE enrolments was 8,580.

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 and a subsequent rise in the number of full-time postgraduate enrolments at Welsh HEIs.

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 (Further Education enrolments normally included on the HESA record). Due to the nature of the trial, some data was not available before the HESA submission deadline, this resulted in an undercount for that year. In 2011/12 Bangor University recorded a 112 per cent increase in FE enrolments since 2009/10; currently there is no reason to suggest that this is due to anything other than full reporting and increased provision.

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

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

There continues to be marked year on year fluctuations in enrolment and qualification numbers at the new institution. 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. In 2011/12 there was a fall in first year full-time enrolments (mainly overseas students) due to the closure of their London college. At the same time, qualification numbers from University of Wales, Trinity Saint David increased; partly due to exit awards following the end of the London partnership but also due to increased numbers of HND/DipHE and other awards resulting from arrangements with local FE colleges.

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 the re-designed 2009/10 version of 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 Welsh Government'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.