

## Students in Higher Education Institutions – Wales, 2012/13

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 2012/13 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

- Compared with 2011/12, enrolments at Welsh HEIs fell by 2 per cent in 2012/13, whilst HE enrolments by Welsh domiciled students at UK HEIs saw a slightly smaller decrease of one per cent.
- The two per cent fall in enrolments was evenly split between full-time postgraduate and full-time undergraduate enrolments. Part-time enrolments at Welsh HEIs have fallen from around 51,000 in 2006/07 to just below 36,000 in 2012/13, a 30 per cent decrease.
- Overall there were 101,270 Welsh domiciled enrolments to HE at UK HEIs in 2012/13, approximately 800 fewer than in the previous year. Enrolments of Welsh students peaked in 2004/05, with a downward trend in numbers since then. The fall in part-time undergraduate enrolments has been the main factor in the overall decrease in numbers.
- In 2012/13, there were 21,610 Welsh domiciled enrolments at UK HEIs outside of Wales and 33,080 enrolments at Welsh HEIs from students normally resident elsewhere in the UK. Wales remained a net importer of students, although the net flow into Wales fell by 12 per cent in 2012/13.
- There were 22,490 qualifications obtained at Welsh HEIs at first degree level in 2012/13 compared to 22,250 in 2011/12, an increase of one per cent. First degrees accounted for 53 per cent of qualifications obtained at HEIs in Wales in 2012/13.
- 15 per cent of the first degree level qualifications obtained at Welsh HEIs were at first class honours level. Welsh domiciled students obtained 15,100 first degree level qualifications, and similarly 15 per cent of these obtained a first class honours degree.

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Llywodraeth Cymru  
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## 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. The merger between the University of Wales, Newport and the University of Glamorgan to form the University of South Wales took place in April 2013, and this will be shown in the next bulletin. In August 2013, the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David and Swansea Metropolitan University also merged to form a single university, however in this case the results are reported for 2012/13 as a single university.

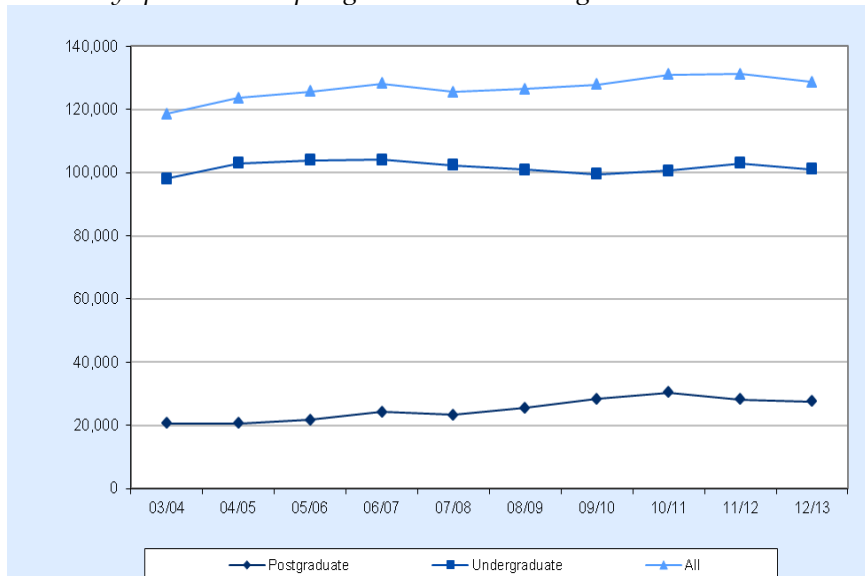
## Section A- Enrolments and qualifications at Welsh HEIs (excludes the Open University)

### Enrolments

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

- In 2012/13 there were 128,780 HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs, showing a 2 per cent fall since 2011/12 but 9 per cent higher than in 2003/04.
- There was also a 2 per cent decrease in postgraduate enrolments compared to 2011/12.
- Undergraduate enrolments also decreased by 2 per cent from the previous year. In 2012/13, 79 per cent of enrolments were at undergraduate level, down from a high of 83 per cent in 2004/05.

*Overall enrolments showed a 2 per cent decrease on the previous year, evenly split between postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments.*

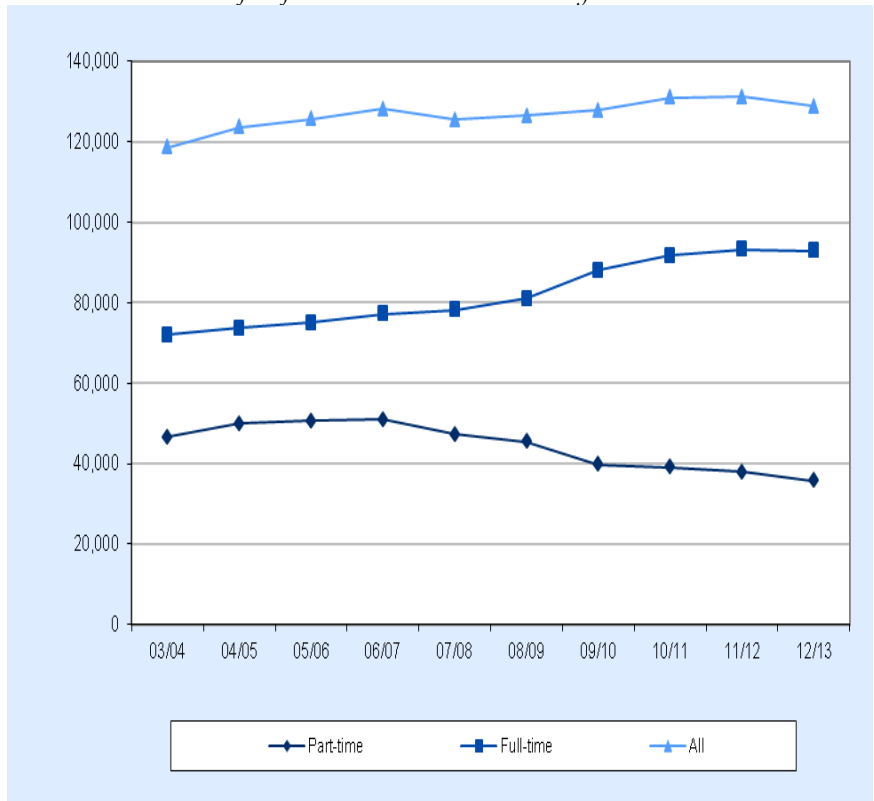


**Chart A.2: HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs by mode**



- In 2012/13, part-time enrolments fell by six 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 28 per cent in 2012/13.
- Full-time enrolments remained the same as 2011/12 levels, bringing to an end the run of increases since 2003/04.

*Full-time enrolments remained the same, whilst part-time enrolments fell for the sixth consecutive year.*

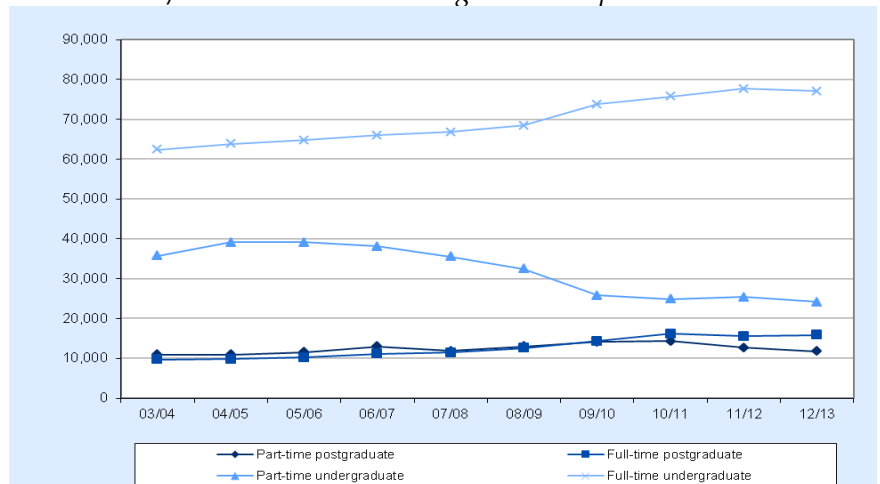


**Chart A.3: HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs by mode and level**



- The overall decrease in part-time enrolments since 2006/07 has been driven by a fall of 37 per cent in the number of part-time undergraduates, from 38,060 enrolments in 2006/07 to 24,110 enrolments in 2012/13.
- In 2006/07, 37 per cent of undergraduate enrolments were part-time compared to 24 per cent in 2012/13.
- A slight fall in full-time undergraduate enrolments in 2012/13 brought to an end a previously steady increase in enrolments each year.

*The steady increase in full-time undergraduate enrolments comes to an end in 2012/13 and also a continuing decline in part-time enrolments.*



The decline in part-time enrolments has continued, after reaching a peak in 2006/07. Part-time postgraduate enrolments have decreased in the last two years after an upward trend previously. Part-time undergraduate numbers also fell again in 2012/13 following a slight increase in 2011/12, however generally the numbers have remained fairly stable since 2009/10, having previously been falling for a few years prior to that. 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 fell one per cent in 2012/13, ending a long period of annual increases. In 2012/13, full-time postgraduate numbers increased by two per cent compared with the previous year. Only Cardiff University (three per cent) and Bangor University (one per cent) showed increases in enrolments in 2012/13. Glyndwr University had an 11 per cent fall in enrolments in 2012/13, following on from a 6 per cent increase in 2011/12. Cardiff Metropolitan University and the University of Glamorgan both had a four per cent fall in enrolments in 2012/13 compared with the previous year.

### First year HE enrolments at Welsh HEIs



- There were 45,175 first year enrolments at undergraduate level at Welsh HEIs, a seven per cent decrease on the figure reported in 2011/12. The decrease is significantly impacted by the drop in deferrals from the previous year's application cycle.
- The number of Welsh domiciled, first year, full-time, undergraduate entrants to Welsh HEIs rose from 12,675 in 2011/12 to 12,790 in 2012/13 (a one per cent increase in enrolments).
- Six of the nine Welsh institutions saw a fall in the number of all first year entrants. The largest percentage decline in first year full-time undergraduate numbers, compared with 2011/12, was seen at University of Wales, Newport (22 per cent fall), whilst the greatest increase was seen at Cardiff University (12 per cent rise).
- Six institutions showed an increase in the number of first year postgraduate enrolments, the highest being at The University of Wales, Trinity Saint David (26 per cent).
- Although there was a 2 per cent drop in the overall number of first year overseas (non-EU) enrolments in 2012/13, there was a 14 per cent increase in the number of first year full time enrolments from overseas. Additionally the number of first year enrolments from overseas (non-EU) is 7,265 higher than in 2004/05.

### Further Education enrolments reported by Welsh HEIs

- In 2012/13 there were 24,660 Further Education (FE) enrolments reported by Welsh HEIs, a 28 per cent decrease on the previous year, following an 18 per cent increase from 2010/11 to 2011/12. This large decrease in numbers in 2012/13 is almost entirely explained by a change in recording protocol, where the Merthyr College at the University of Glamorgan are no longer required to make a return to HESA for further education students.

## **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 5,885 students at Welsh HEIs studying wholly overseas within the EU in 2012/13, showing an eight per cent decrease on the number for 2011/12. The number of students studying wholly overseas and outside the EU increased by two per cent over the same period to 13,850.

## **Individual Welsh Higher Education Institutions**

- Cardiff University was the Welsh HEI with the highest number of enrolments in 2012/13; accounting for 22 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). Glyndwr University had the lowest number of enrolments, accounting for approximately seven per cent of the total.
- 31 per cent of enrolments at Cardiff Metropolitan University were at postgraduate level. The next highest proportions were at Cardiff University and Bangor University (both 26 per cent). The lowest proportions of postgraduate enrolments were at Glyndwr University (16 per cent) and Aberystwyth University (15 per cent).

## **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 8,725 enrolments with the OU in Wales, a decrease of six per cent on 2010/11.

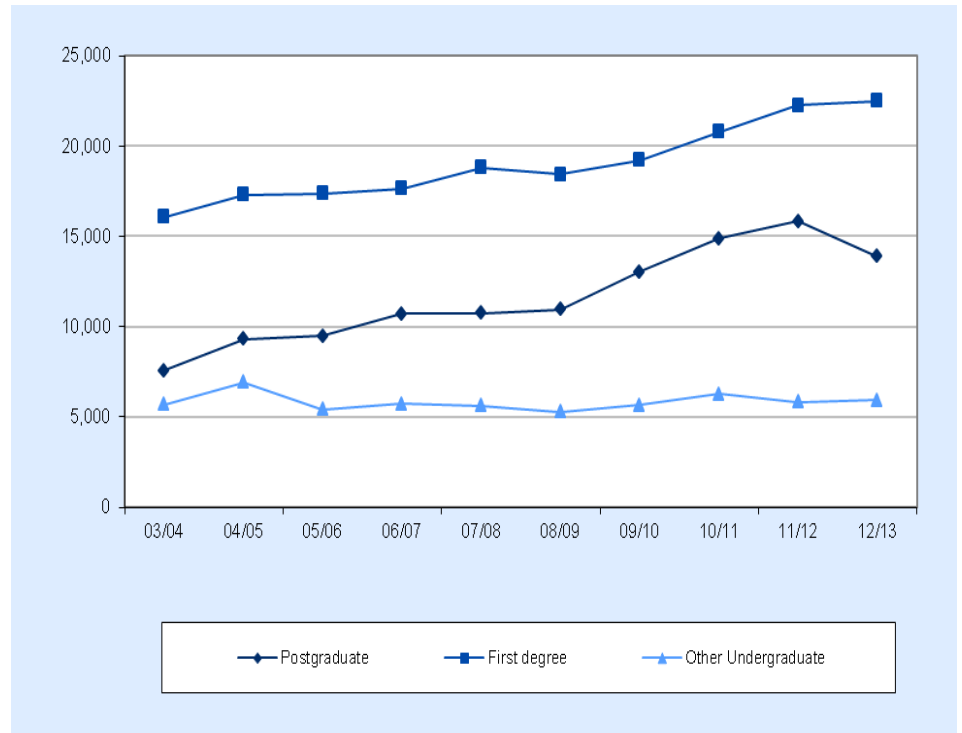
## Qualifications obtained

Chart A.4: HE qualifications obtained at Welsh HEIs



- 42,300 higher education qualifications were obtained at Welsh HEIs in 2012/13; of these 13,890 were at postgraduate level, and 5,915 at other undergraduate level.
- 22,490 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 decreased by 12 per cent in 2012/13 and there was a decrease of four per cent in all qualifications.
- 44 per cent more qualifications were obtained in 2012/13 than 2003/04.

*First Degree qualifications continued to increase but postgraduate qualifications decreased.*



- There were one per cent more first degree qualifiers in 2012/13 than in 2011/12.
- First degrees accounted for 53 per cent of qualifications obtained in 2012/13.
- 55 per cent of first degree graduates in 2012/13 were women, one percentage point lower than in 2011/12.
- The number of qualifications obtained by students following part-time courses rose by four per cent whilst full-time courses resulted in one per cent more qualifications than in 2011/12.

**Table A.1: Enrolments at Welsh HEIs by institution, level and mode (2012/13)**



	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	475	1,330	1,805	3,805	4,165	7,975	4,280	5,500	9,780
Glyndwr University	805	580	1,385	3,915	3,220	7,135	4,720	3,800	8,520
Cardiff Metropolitan University	2,585	1,285	3,870	7,845	725	8,570	10,430	2,010	12,440
University of Glamorgan	2,000	1,815	3,815	12,030	4,500	16,530	14,030	6,315	20,345
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	1,140	960	2,100	6,690	3,035	9,725	7,835	3,990	11,825
Aberystwyth University	1,090	685	1,775	8,035	1,805	9,840	9,125	2,490	11,615
Bangor University	1,940	960	2,900	7,315	1,145	8,460	9,255	2,105	11,360
Cardiff University	4,090	3,430	7,520	17,335	3,685	21,020	21,425	7,115	28,540
Swansea University	1,735	715	2,450	10,075	1,830	11,910	11,810	2,545	14,360
<b>All Welsh HEIs excluding OU</b>	15,860	11,755	27,620	77,055	24,110	101,165	92,915	35,865	128,780
The Open University in Wales	*	400	400	*	8,325	8,325	*	8,725	8,725
<b>All Welsh HEIs including OU</b>	15,860	12,160	28,020	77,055	32,435	109,490	92,915	44,590	137,510

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 2012/13 there were 101,270 Welsh domiciled higher education enrolments at UK HEIs, showing a one per cent decrease from 2011/12.
- Undergraduate enrolments fell by one per cent compared with 2011/12. Undergraduate enrolments peaked at 89,700 in 2004/05, since then they have fallen by five per cent to 84,925.
- There were 16,345 postgraduate enrolments in 2012/13, up three per cent from 2011/12.

*Undergraduate enrolments of Welsh domiciled students fell slightly but postgraduate enrolments increased.*

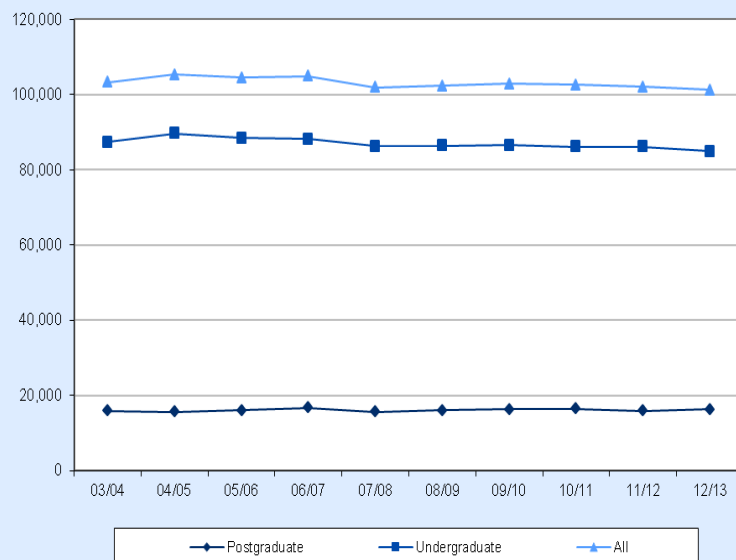
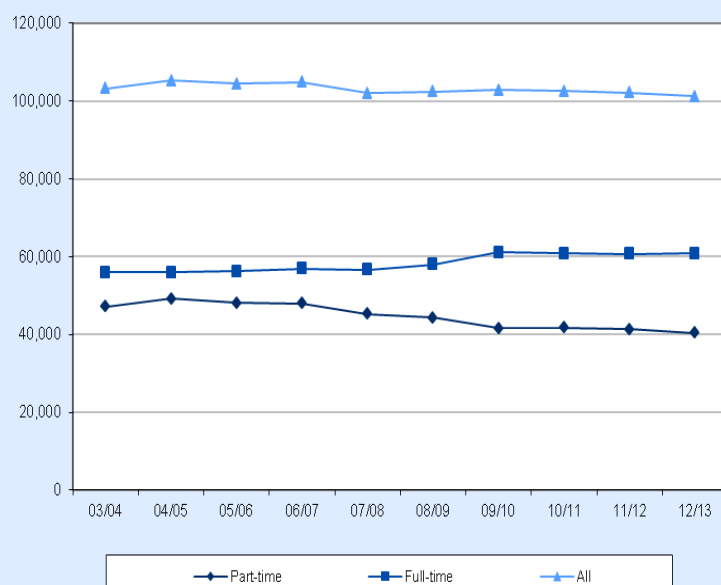


Chart B.2: Welsh domiciled HE enrolments at UK HEIs, by mode



- Part time enrolments of Welsh domiciled students at UK HEIs decreased by two per cent in 2012/13 to 40,455. This is 18 per cent below the peak of 49,260 in 2004/05, however the falls have been smaller in the last four years.
- In 2004/05, part-time enrolments accounted for 47 per cent of Welsh domiciled enrolments compared to 40 per cent in 2012/13.
- Full-time enrolments showed no change between 2011/12 and 2012/13.

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

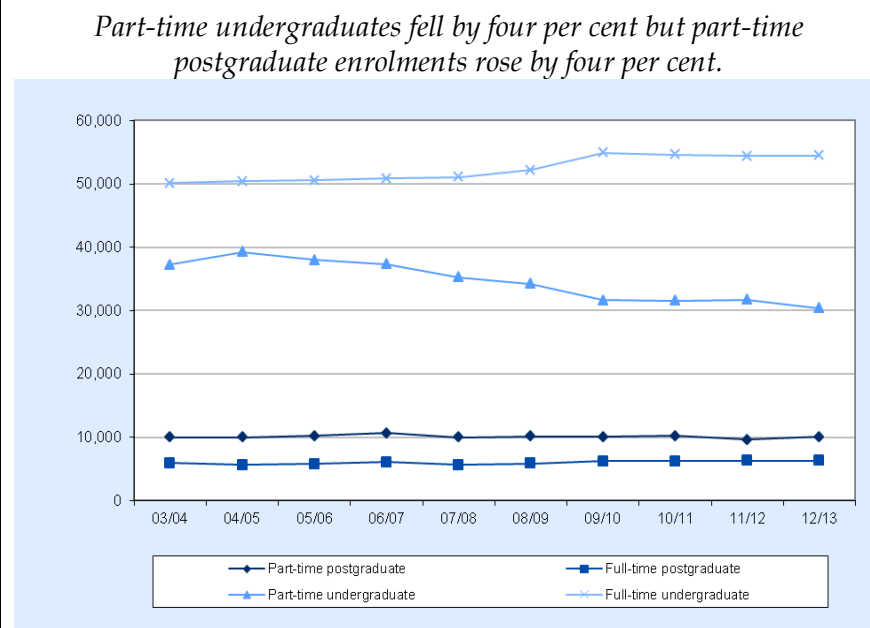




**Chart B.3: Welsh domiciled HE enrolments at UK HEIs by level and mode**



- Part-time undergraduate enrolments fell by four per cent in 2012/13 and are now 23 per cent below the peak in 2004/05.
- Full-time undergraduate enrolments are eight per cent higher than in 2004/05.
- Part-time postgraduate enrolments rose by four per cent compared with 2011/12 but full-time postgraduate enrolments remained at the same level.



Welsh domiciled enrolments at UK HEIs showed a different pattern to total enrolments at Welsh HEIs. Both undergraduate and postgraduate numbers decreased by two per cent at Welsh HEIs, and although Welsh domiciled undergraduates also decreased, there was a three per cent increase in Welsh domiciled postgraduates at UK HEIs.

### First year HE numbers



- Welsh domiciled first year undergraduate entrants to UK HEIs showed no percentage change in numbers between 2011/12 and 2012/13.
- Full-time first year postgraduate enrolments fell by two per cent, however a 14 per cent rise in part-time numbers meant that overall postgraduate enrolment rose by five per cent between 2011/12 and 2012/13.

### Welsh domiciled Further Education enrolments

- There were 23,400 further education Welsh domiciled enrolments reported by UK HEIs in 2012/13; a 30 per cent decrease on the figure for 2011/12, following a 17 per cent increase from 2010/11 to 2011/12.

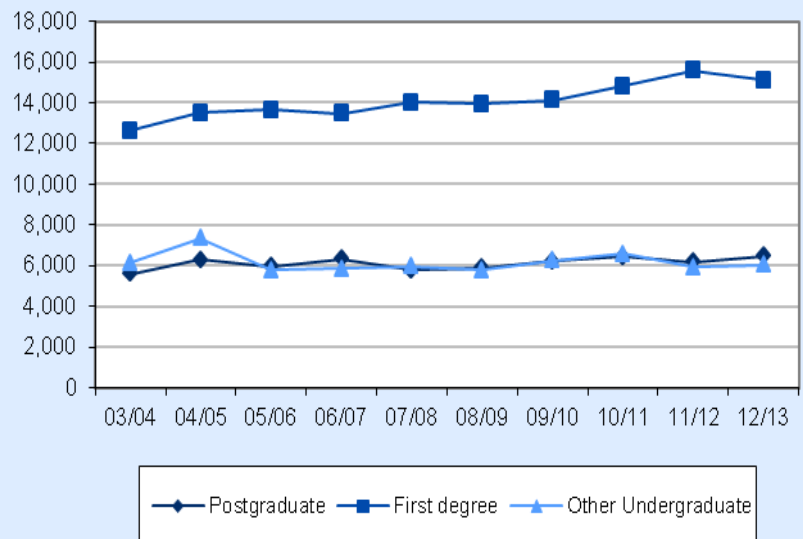
## Qualifications obtained

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



- There were 27,610 higher education qualifications obtained by Welsh domiciled students in 2012/13, a similar level to last year.
- Of the 27,610 qualifications, 15,100 were at first degree level with 15 per cent of these obtaining a first class honours degree and 47 per cent obtaining an upper second class honours degree.
- First degree qualifications fell by 3 per cent in 2012/13, although postgraduate qualifications rose by 5 per cent.
- The total number of qualifications obtained has risen by 13 per cent since 2003/04.

*First degree qualifications fell but postgraduate qualifications rose.*



- First degrees accounted for 55 per cent of qualifications obtained by Welsh domiciled students in 2012/13.
- 55 per cent of first degree graduates in 2012/13 were women, slightly lower than in 2011/12.
- Taught postgraduate level qualifications decreased by 14 per cent compared to the previous year, however postgraduate research qualifications increased by eight per cent.
- The number of qualifications obtained by students following part-time courses fell by 12 per cent whilst full-time courses fell by 2 per cent, compared with 2011/12.

## Section C- Cross border flows

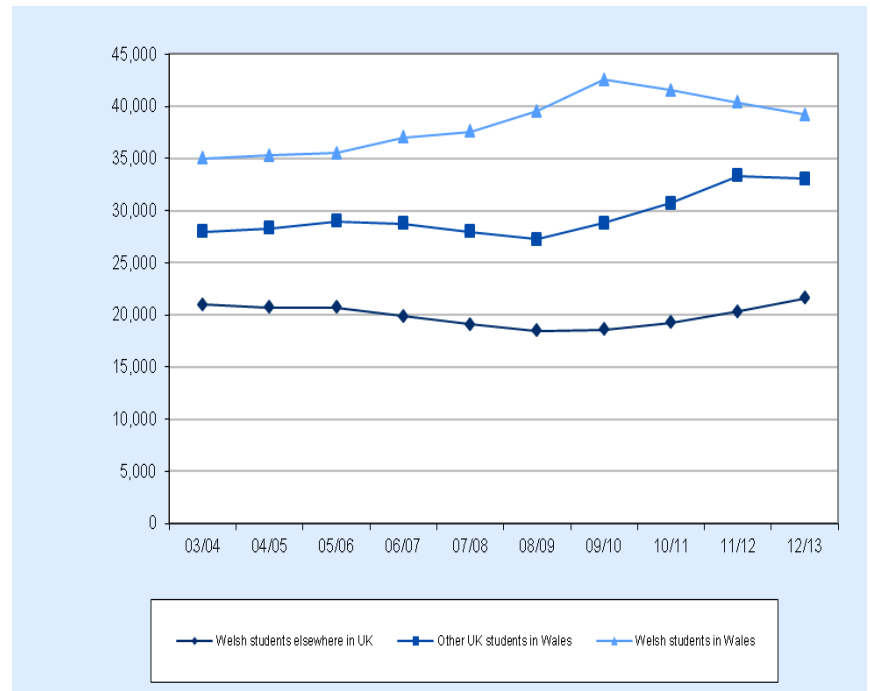
### Cross border flows of UK domiciled full-time HE students

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 2012/13, there were 21,610 Welsh domiciled enrolments at UK HEIs outside of Wales and 33,080 enrolments at Welsh HEIs from students normally resident elsewhere in the UK.
- Between 2011/12 and 2012/13 the number of Welsh domiciled students studying elsewhere in the UK increased by 6 per cent. The number of other UK students studying in Wales decreased by one per cent, having risen by nine per cent in the previous year.
- 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 39,200; an eight per cent decrease over the last three years.

*Wales remained a net importer of students, although the net flow into Wales fell by 12 per cent in 2012/13.*



- Of those full-time, UK domiciled students at Welsh HEIs in 2012/13, 53 per cent (54 per cent in 2011/12) of undergraduates and 67 per cent (65 per cent in 2011/12) of postgraduates were Welsh domiciled.
- 64 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.
- 70 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 85 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, 'HEFCW's Funding Allocations, 2012/13' published in March 2012 available via the following link:

[http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/about\\_he\\_in\\_wales/funding\\_he\\_in\\_wales/annual\\_grant\\_he\\_insts.aspx](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](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.

Welsh Government is carrying out a consultation on official statistics (launched during the week commencing 9 December 2013). The consultation covers a range of proposals relating to official statistics products, including Higher Education statistics.

In particular, the consultation proposes that statistical releases and bulletins published in relation to HESA data will be stopped (with the exception of Welsh in Higher Education and Initial Teacher Training releases). The HESA information will continue to be collected and published, via HESA (and StatsWales where applicable), but the associated publication of the Statistical Releases/Bulletins will be stopped. This proposed approach will allow users to continue to access all the HESA collected information on the same schedule as now.

#### **1.2 Related Publications**

This bulletin has been preceded by the following outputs also covering the 2012/13 academic year:

The HESA statistical release covering HE enrolments and qualifications for 2012/13 was published in January 2014. <http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/3103/209/>

Final UCAS data on accepted applicants for the 2012/13 academic year was published in December 2012, and the Welsh Government published a statistical bulletin relating to Welsh HEIs and Welsh domiciled applicants in March 2013.

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/universities-colleges-admission-service-statistics/?lang=en>

Data for 2013/14 and early information on applications for entry in 2014/15 are also accessible from the UCAS website via the following link:

[http://www.ucas.ac.uk/about\\_us/media\\_enquiries/media\\_releases/](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 [2013/14](#) ( [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 2012/13 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=12051](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_studrec&Itemid=232&mnl=12051)

## 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.

Additionally, in light of mergers of higher education institutions with further education institutions in Wales, HEFCW issued a protocol which outlines the expected reporting practice for merged institutions from 2013/14 data collection onwards. Welsh HEIs are asked to follow the protocol for all returns they make to HESA.

Student data relating to all students belonging to the pre-merger HEI and higher education students belonging to the pre-merger FEI should be returned to HESA only. Further education student data relating to the pre-merger FEI should be returned to Welsh Government on the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) only. All other data relating to the merged institution should be returned to HESA only.

### 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 further event was held in July 2013, details of which are shown here. <http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/about/user-engagement/events/education-skills-user-engagement-10-july-2013/?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>	<u>2011/12</u>	<u>2012/13</u>
<b>UA unknown:</b>										
Welsh domiciles	2.3%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.9%	1.2%	1.2%	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%
<b>Ethnicity unknown:</b>										
Welsh domiciles	7.2%	6.1%	4.7%	4.3%	3.6%	3.3%	2.8%	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%
Welsh HEIs (b)	6.0%	5.0%	3.6%	3.2%	2.8%	2.6%	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%	2.2%
<b>Disability unknown:</b>										
Welsh domiciles	1.5%	7.7%	6.6%	6.4%	6.5%	6.9%	5.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Welsh HEIs (b)	1.4%	2.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%	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 2012/13 academic year between August and October 2013. They produced their first statistical release in January 2014, WG produced this bulletin in February 2014, 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 2012/13 academic year) can be found via the following link: <http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/3103/209/>

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 2012/13 year was released on 13 February 2014.

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 2011/12 'Enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions: Northern Ireland Analysis' can be found via <http://www.delni.gov.uk/higher-education-enrolments.htm>.

The 2013 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/edu/eag.htm>

## 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. The new protocol affecting 2012/13 data meant that the number of these enrolments fell again to 1,850 in 2012/13.

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 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](http://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.