

Medr statistics

Quality and Methodology: Students in Higher Education, 2023/24

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Summary: **Quality and production information about the 'Students in Higher Education, 2023/24' publication**
Theme: Higher Education
Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

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Data source

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

The HESA Student record has been collected since 1994/95 from subscribing HE providers throughout the devolved administrations of the United Kingdom. The data collected as part of the Student record is used extensively by various stakeholders.

Jisc, which HESA is a part of, provide a summary of the [data collection process](#) on the HESA website, including all the quality rules used.

The 2023/24 data collection was the second year using a new data model. The implementation of this new model in 2022/23 produced considerable challenges that meant there were more data quality issues than usual. The 2023/24 data collection saw a reduction in these issues, although there were still some challenges for providers. Jisc have provide information on the quality of the student collection on the [HESA website](#).

Coverage and definitions

The data on student enrolments is based on the HESA standard registration population.

The data on qualifications awarded is based on the HESA qualifications obtained population.

More information on these populations can be found on the [student definitions](#) page of the HESA website.

Deprivation

Information on whether students are from deprived areas is based on the [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019](#) and the student's home postcode on entry to their course.

Domicile

Students domicile is based on their permanent home address on entry to their course.

Ethnicity

Students with an ethnic minority background are those where a student's ethnicity is not 'White' or 'Not applicable or not known' in the [Z_ETHNICGRP2](#) variable of the HESA student record. Therefore it includes all students where the ethnicity is one of the following categories:

- Asian
- Black
- Mixed or multiple ethnic backgrounds
- Any other ethnic background

Providers

The Welsh HE providers included in this report include providers in Wales that are funded directly for higher education provision by Medr and providers in Wales that return data to HESA about specifically designated higher education courses.

The 2023/24 data includes data for 6 providers that had not previously submitted data to the HESA student record. These were:

- Centre for Alternative Technology
- Cardiff and Vale College
- Coleg Cambria
- Coleg Gwent
- St Padarn's Institute
- Union School of Theology

Rounding

Figures are rounded to the nearest 5. Totals are calculated on unrounded figures and then rounded to the nearest 5 so may not equal the sum of the constituent parts.

Percentages are calculated using the unrounded figures and then rounded to the nearest whole percent. Again this may mean the percentages in this release may not match what you would get from the rounded figures. If a percentage is calculated where the denominator is less than 22.5 then the percentage is suppressed.

Key Quality Information

Relevance

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

- Officials and Board members in Medr
- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the Senedd
- Officials in the Welsh Government
- Other government departments
- Higher Education providers and representative bodies
- Students, researchers, and academics
- Individual citizens, private companies, and the media

Accuracy

There are a number of validation processes to ensure data submitted to the HESA student record is of good quality. These include the data being checked against quality rules and checks against data from previous years. Any issues found through these checks are raised with providers so they can either provide an explanation, or submit corrected data if there is an error. This is an iterative process where data goes through this process multiple times until it is ready to be signed off.

Medr also meet with providers throughout the year to gain an understanding of any data quality issues that may arise for individual providers.

Timeliness and punctuality

The HESA student record collects data after the end of the academic year (1 August to 31 July). Medr received the 2023/24 data for all providers in January 2025. Jisc published their Statistical Bulletin on Higher Education Statistics on 20 March 2025, and more detailed data in their Open Data release on 3 April 2025. This report has been produced and published as soon as possible after this.

Accessibility and clarity

This statistical release is pre-announced and then published on the [Medr.cymru](https://www.medr.cymru) website.

The data for students at Welsh providers in this report is available on [StatsWales](https://stats.wales.gov.uk). Additional data is available on the [HESA Open Data](https://www.hesa.gov.uk) website.

Comparability and coherence

The HESA Student record is a UK-wide data collection, and the HESA Open data website includes the equivalent data for higher education in the other countries of the UK.

Statement of compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](https://www.osr.gov.uk) that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

All of our statistics are produced and published in accordance with a number of statements and protocols to enhance trustworthiness, quality and value. These are set out in Medr's [Statement of Compliance](#) with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

These official statistics demonstrate the standards expected around trustworthiness, quality and value in the following ways.

Trustworthiness

These statistics have been published according to Medr's [Statement of Compliance](#) and [pre-release access to official statistics policy](#).

Quality

The data is sourced from the HESA Student record which collects data from higher education providers. When the data is submitted it must meet certain validation rules. When the statistics are being produced quality checks are undertaken by the statisticians.

Value

These statistics are produced to provide an insight into the numbers of people from Wales studying at HE providers across the UK and into the numbers of students studying at Welsh HE providers.

This provides easy access to data from the HESA student record that is specific to Wales, and also makes the information available in Welsh.

Change in accredited statistics status

These statistics were previously published by the Welsh Government as National Statistics (now known as Accredited Official Statistics). As the statistics are now published by a new organisation, the Accredited Official Statistics status has been temporarily removed.

Medr has continued the systems and processes for producing the statistics from Welsh Government, and the statisticians producing the statistics include statisticians who produced further education, work-based learning and community learning statistics at Welsh Government.

The OSR will assess the processes in place at Medr as an official statistics producer. The OSR will assess whether the statistics meet the requirements for Accredited Official Statistics.

Medr

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