

Medr statistics

Welsh Language in Higher Education, 2023/24

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Summary: Statistics on the number of enrolments where some studying is done in the Welsh language and the Welsh speaking ability of students at higher education providers in Wales.

Statistics on the number of teaching staff who are able to teach in Welsh, and are contracted to teach in Welsh at universities in Wales.

Theme: Higher Education, Welsh language, Welsh medium

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student and Staff Records

Introduction

This report summarises some of the key trends about studying in the Welsh language and the Welsh language ability of students at higher education providers in Wales, and for staff at universities in Wales. Throughout the report when we refer to studying in Welsh, we mean studying through the medium of the Welsh language rather than studying Welsh as a subject.

The sources of the data are the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student and Staff records.

The data are available in an accompanying spreadsheet on the Medr [website](#). Further breakdowns of the data are also available on [StatsWales](#).

Main points

- In 2023/24, 13% of enrolments by students from Wales were known to be fluent Welsh speakers. A further 15% were non-fluent Welsh speakers or Welsh speakers of unknown ability.
- In 2023/24, 30% of enrolments by students from Wales who are known to be fluent Welsh speakers studied at least 1 credit in Welsh, and 21% studied at least 40 credits in Welsh. These proportions have been at about the same levels since 2017/18.
- 4% of enrolments by all students, including those who are not from Wales and are not known Welsh speakers, involved studying at least 1 credit in Welsh in 2023/24.
- The number of enrolments by all students with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh in 2023/24 fell by 19% compared to 2022/23, and was the lowest number in recent years. However, a significant factor in this decrease is related to a change in how the amount of studying in Welsh is calculated at some providers rather than a real change in what was delivered.
- There were more than twice as many enrolments from female students where at least 1 credit was studied in Welsh compared to enrolments from male students. Of enrolments with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh, female students were also more likely to study a higher number of credits in Welsh than male students.
- Education and training was the module subject with the highest number and proportion of enrolments with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh.
- There were 565 academic teaching staff contracted to teach in Welsh in 2023/24, the same number as in 2022/23.

Contents

Introduction	1
Main points	1
Section A: Students studying in Welsh.....	3
Section B: Studying in Welsh by module subject	9
Section C: Welsh speaking ability of students.....	11
Section D: Staff	17
Quality and methodology information	20
Statement of compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics.....	20
Change in accredited statistics status.....	20
Related statistics	21
Contact information	21

Section A: Enrolments studying in the Welsh language

This section looks at the number of credits studied in the Welsh language by each enrolment at Welsh higher education providers.

The number of credits studied in Welsh for each enrolment is calculated on a module-by-module basis. For example, a 20 credit module which involves half of it being studied in Welsh, that would be counted as studying 10 credits in Welsh. The total number of credits studied in Welsh for each enrolment is the total across all modules. Modules are counted in the academic years that they are active, if a module starts in one academic year and finishes in the next one then they are counted in both academic years.

The categories used in this report for the number of credits studied in Welsh are: 'at least 1 credit', 'at least 5 credits', 'at least 40 credits', 'at least 80 credits' and 'at least 120 credits'. These categories overlap, for example someone who has studied at least 40 credits in Welsh is also included as having studied at least 5 credits in Welsh.

Table A.1: Number of enrolments by the number of credits studied in Welsh, 2018/19 to 2023/24

Enrolments	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
At least 1 credit in Welsh	6,165	5,800	7,170	7,010	6,825	5,535
At least 5 credits in Welsh	5,900	5,020	6,015	6,070	5,160	4,555
At least 40 credits in Welsh	2,720	2,670	2,825	2,765	2,445	2,390
At least 80 credits in Welsh	1,410	1,485	1,530	1,390	1,295	1,170
At least 120 credits in Welsh	740	815	895	835	695	700
Less than 1 credit in Welsh	126,035	130,555	137,995	142,040	147,560	145,140
All enrolments	132,205	136,355	145,170	149,045	154,385	150,680

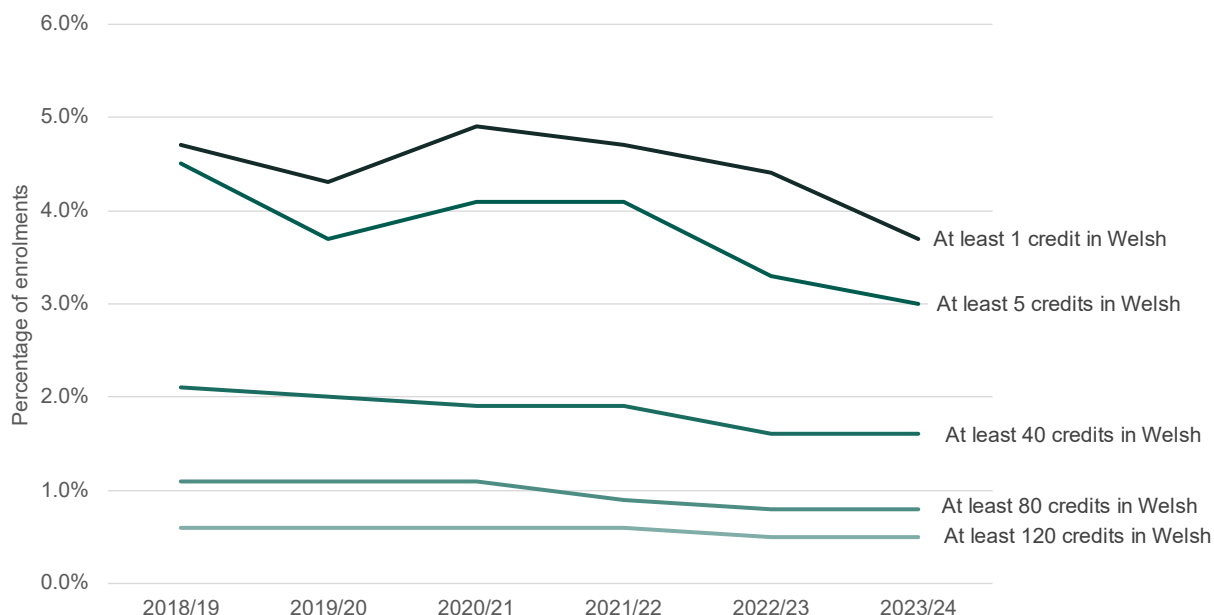
Description: The number of enrolments studying in Welsh fell in 2023/24 compared to previous years, particularly amongst those studying smaller numbers of credits in Welsh.

Data in Table 2a of the accompanying workbook and on [StatsWales](#)

- The number of enrolments with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh fell by 19% between 2022/23 and 2023/24. However, this decrease is likely to be more related to changes in how this data is recorded than real changes in the number of enrolments studying at least 1 credit in Welsh. The majority of this fall was at University of Wales Trinity Saint David where there have been changes in how the proportion studied through Welsh is calculated, which mainly affect modules where study materials were provided bilingually.
- There were also decreases in the number of enrolments with higher numbers of credits studied in Welsh in 2023/24, apart from those studying at least 120 credits in Welsh which was slightly higher in 2023/24 than 2022/23 but lower than in earlier years.
- As well as actual changes in the number of credits being studied in Welsh, these figures are also affected by how providers record their provision. It is known that there are inconsistencies between providers in how they return Welsh medium module data on the HESA Student record, both in how Welsh medium modules are identified and percentages taught through Welsh are calculated. Medr and the

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol have worked with providers to improve consistency of data in this respect which has reduced the number of enrolments being returned as studying lower numbers of credits in Welsh.

Figure A.1: Percentage of enrolments by the number of credits studied in Welsh, 2018/19 to 2023/24

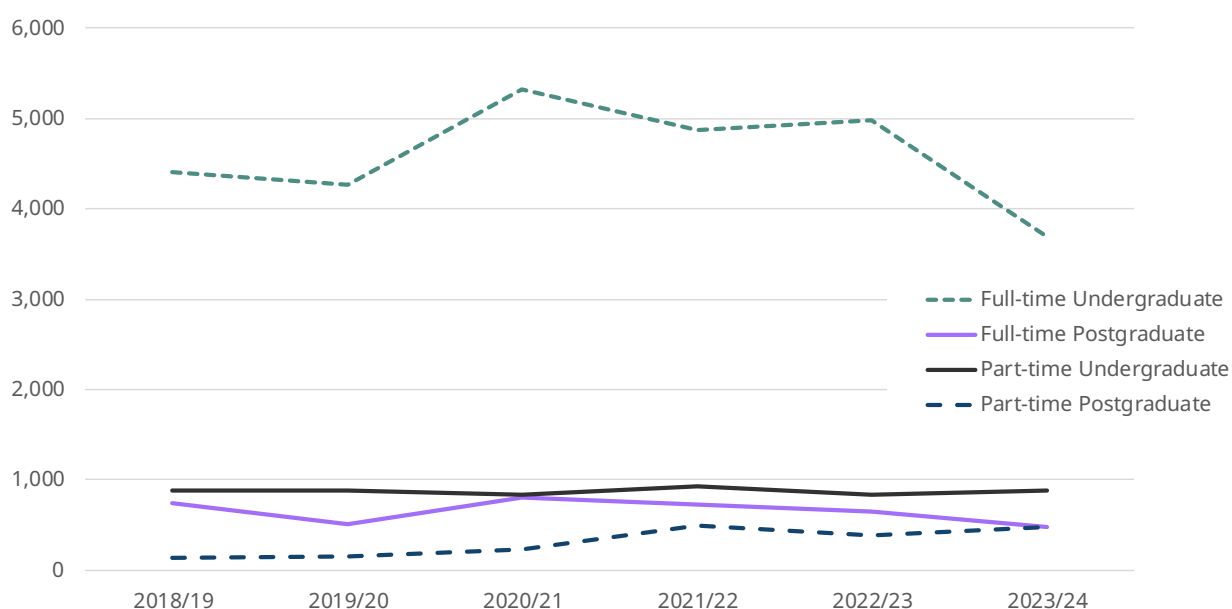


Description: The percentage of enrolments studying at least 1, or at least 5 credits, through Welsh has fallen in 2023/24. The percentages studying higher number of credits in Welsh have been more stable, although have fallen slightly in recent years.

Data in Table 2b of the accompanying workbook

- The proportion of enrolments where at least 1 credit was studied in Welsh fell below 4% in 2023/24. This was the lowest percentage in recent years, however, as mentioned in the previous page, changes in how providers estimate the proportion of a module being studied in Welsh have had a considerable impact on enrolments having a small number of credits in Welsh being recorded.
- The proportion studying at least 5 credits in Welsh has also fallen to its lowest percentage in recent years with 3% of enrolments studying at least 5 credits in Welsh.
- The percentage of enrolments studying at least 40 and at least 80 credits in Welsh in 2023/24 was similar to 2022/23 after slight decreases in comparison to earlier years.
- The proportion of enrolments with at least 120 credits studied in Welsh has been consistently at the same level from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

Figure A.2: Number of enrolments with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh by level and mode of study, 2018/19 to 2023/24



Description: The number of full-time undergraduate enrolments with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh fell sharply in 2023/24 compared to the previous year.

Data on Table 1 of the accompanying workbook and on [StatsWales](#)

- The number of full-time undergraduate enrolments studying at least 1 credit in Welsh in 2023/24 was 26% lower than 2022/23.
- The number of full-time postgraduate enrolments studying at least 1 credit in Welsh fell by 26% in 2023/24 from the previous year.
- There were increases in the number of part-time enrolments studying at least 1 credit in Welsh at both undergraduate (7%) and postgraduate (28%) levels in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23. The number of part-time postgraduate enrolments studying at least 1 Welsh medium credit has more than tripled compared to 2018/19.

Table A.2: Number of enrolments at each provider by the number of credits studied in Welsh, 2023/24

	At least 1 credit in Welsh	At least 5 credits in Welsh	At least 40 credits in Welsh	At least 80 credits in Welsh	At least 120 credits in Welsh	Total
Universities	5,160	4,180	2,100	1,060	640	148,605
Aberystwyth University	370	370	280	135	45	8,320
Bangor University	965	950	680	425	245	10,835
Cardiff Metropolitan University	300	300	275	180	150	11,445
Cardiff University	530	525	290	115	40	33,020
Open University	415	175	60	15	0	15,445
Swansea University	610	545	180	25	15	21,225
University of South Wales	125	125	30	10	10	23,670
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	1,750	1,100	300	160	130	15,660
Wrexham University	95	95	5	0	0	8,990
Further education colleges and alternative providers	375	375	290	110	60	2,070
Cardiff and Vale College	0	0	0	0	0	65
Centre for Alternative Technology	0	0	0	0	0	525
Coleg Cambria	0	0	0	0	0	25
Coleg Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	105
Gower College Swansea	0	0	0	0	0	30
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	375	375	290	110	60	830
Grŵp NPTC Group	0	0	0	0	0	185
St Padarn's Institute	0	0	0	0	0	210
Union School of Theology	0	0	0	0	0	95
All providers	5,535	4,555	2,390	1,170	700	150,680

Description: University of Wales Trinity Saint David had the highest number of enrolments with at least 1 credit being studied in Welsh in 2023/24. Bangor University had the highest number of enrolments with at least 40 credits being studied in Welsh.

Data in Table 3a of the accompanying workbook and on [StatsWales](#)

- With the exception of Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, there were no enrolments returned to the HESA Student record by the further education colleges and alternative providers as studying any credits in Welsh. However, this does not mean these providers do not have any HE provision in Welsh as only some of their courses are included in the HESA Student record with others that are franchised from universities being returned by the university partner.

Table A.3: Proportion of enrolments at each provider by the number of credits studied in Welsh, 2023/24

	At least 1 credit in Welsh	At least 5 credits in Welsh	At least 40 credits in Welsh	At least 80 credits in Welsh	At least 120 credits in Welsh
Universities	3%	3%	1%	1%	0%
Aberystwyth University	4%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Bangor University	9%	9%	6%	4%	2%
Cardiff Metropolitan University	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Cardiff University	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%
Open University	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Swansea University	3%	3%	1%	0%	0%
University of South Wales	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	11%	7%	2%	1%	1%
Wrexham University	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Further education colleges and alternative providers	18%	18%	14%	5%	3%
Cardiff and Vale College	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Centre for Alternative Technology	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Coleg Cambria	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Coleg Gwent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Gower College Swansea	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	45%	45%	35%	13%	7%
Grŵp NPTC Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
St Padarn's Institute	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Union School of Theology	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
All providers	4%	3%	2%	1%	0%

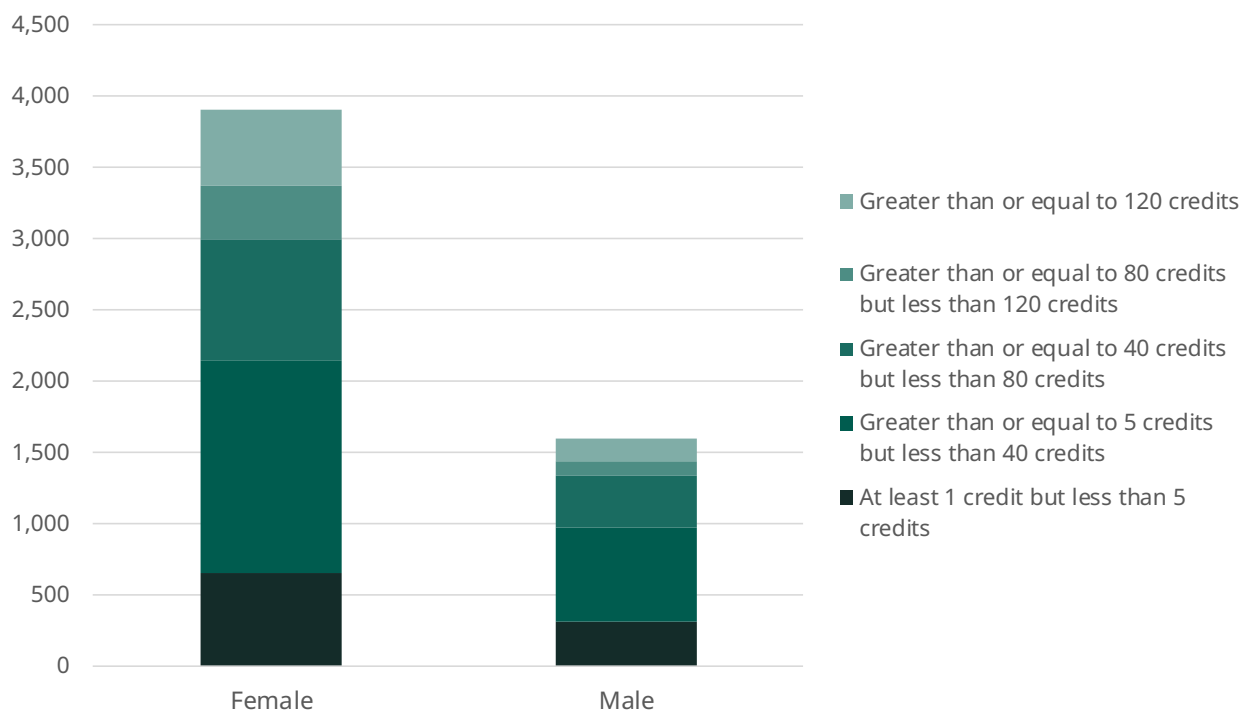
Description: Table showing that the majority of providers have a similar, or lower, proportion of enrolments with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh than the overall proportion.

Data in Table 3b of the accompanying workbook

- The providers with the highest proportions of enrolments studying at least 1 credit in Welsh were Grŵp Llandrillo Menai (45%), University of Wales Trinity Saint David (11%) and Bangor University (9%).
- Almost half (49%) of enrolments with at least 1 credit in Welsh across the sector were at University of Wales Trinity Saint David or Bangor University.
- For all other providers at most 4% of enrolments studied at least 1 credit in Welsh. The University of South Wales and Wrexham University had the lowest proportion, both had 1% of enrolments studying in Welsh, the lowest amongst the Welsh universities.

- Grŵp Llandrillo Menai had the greatest proportion of enrolments studying at least 5 credits in Welsh followed by Bangor University. This was also the case for the at least 40, 80 and 120 credit categories.

Figure A.3: Number of enrolments studying at least 1 credit in Welsh by sex, 2023/24



Description: In 2023/24 the number of enrolments from female students studying at least 1 credit in Welsh was more than double the number for male students.

Data in Table 4 of the accompanying workbook and on [StatsWales](#)

- Of enrolments with at least 1 credit in Welsh, female students were more likely to study a larger number of credits in Welsh. 23% of female students who studied any credits in Welsh did at least 80 credits in Welsh compared to 16% of male students.

Section B: Studying in Welsh by module subject

This section provides information on which subjects are being studied in Welsh. The subjects used are the subject groupings in the HESA [Common Aggregation Hierarchy](#) level 1.

The subjects studied have been calculated on a module-by-module basis as the data on studying in Welsh is collected by module rather than by course. However, this does mean that the number of enrolments in each subject does not match those that are published elsewhere such as the HESA Open Data which use overall course subject.

An enrolment can include modules in multiple subjects, and a single module could have multiple subjects. Any combination of subjects and modules may have some teaching in Welsh. The full-person equivalent (FPE) for each enrolment is split across the module subjects they study. This means it is not possible to report subject numbers so they are consistent with the totals elsewhere in this report while also providing accurate percentages of enrolments studying a subject in Welsh. We have chosen to make the percentages accurate here.

For example, if half an enrolment's modules were computing modules, and half were law modules, they would be counted as 0.5 FPE studying computing and 0.5 FPE studying law. If the enrolment included at least 1 credit of the Computing modules in Welsh, but less than one credit of the law modules in Welsh then the enrolment would appear in this section as:

Subject	Enrolments (FPE) studying at least 1 credit in Welsh	All Enrolments (FPE)
Computing	0.5	0.5
Law	0.0	0.5

However, in the previous section this enrolment would be counted as 1 FPE having at least 1 credit in Welsh meaning the number of enrolments with at least 1 credit in Welsh is lower in this section.

From 2022/23 onwards, module information was optional for postgraduate research enrolments. For these enrolments the subjects of their overall course have been used instead. This isn't a significant difference from how this was calculated in earlier years as the module information provided for postgraduate research enrolments in earlier years was often provided using dummy modules that were coded with the same subject as the course.

Table B.1: Number of enrolments with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh by module subject, 2023/24

Subject	Enrolments with at least 1 credit in Welsh	All Enrolments	Percentage with at least 1 credit in Welsh
Medicine and dentistry	275	4,355	6%
Subjects allied to medicine	615	16,190	4%
Biological and sport sciences	220	10,665	2%
Psychology	85	8,455	1%
Veterinary sciences	0	120	0%
Agriculture, food and related studies	60	980	6%
Physical sciences	25	3,520	1%
Mathematical sciences	40	2,780	1%
Engineering and technology	80	9,015	1%
Computing	30	9,045	0%
Architecture, building and planning	40	2,420	2%
Social sciences	755	15,460	5%
Law	170	8,860	2%
Business and management	110	23,750	0%
Language and area studies	385	6,130	6%
Historical, philosophical and religious studies	65	4,210	2%
Education and teaching	1,245	7,635	16%
Combined and general studies	125	2,780	4%
Media, journalism and communications	60	2,420	2%
Design, and creative and performing arts	815	6,340	13%
Geography, earth and environmental studies	40	3,640	1%
All	5,235	150,680	3%

Description: Education and teaching, and Design, and creative and performing arts were the subjects with highest numbers and proportions of enrolments with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh.

Data in Table 5 of the accompanying workbook and on [StatsWales](#)

- Education and teaching was the module subject with the highest number (1,245) and proportion (16%) of enrolments studying at least 1 credit in Welsh. The University of Wales Trinity Saint David (375 enrolments) and the Open University (295 enrolments) account for just over half of the 1,245 enrolments.
- Nearly a quarter (24%) of all enrolments with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh were from those studying education and teaching modules.
- Design, and creative and performing arts was the subject with the second largest number (815) and proportion (13%) of enrolments with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh. Of these 815 enrolments, 705 were at University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

Section C: Welsh speaking ability of students

This section provides information about the Welsh speaking ability of students who were ordinarily resident in Wales prior to their studies. This data only considers students ordinarily resident in Wales prior to their studies as Welsh language ability information is only required for these students in the HESA Student record.

The Welsh language ability data collection changed significantly in 2022/23. In previous years students were categorised as fluent Welsh speakers, non-fluent Welsh speakers, not a Welsh speaker or unknown. In 2022/23 additional categories were included to provide more detail about the non-fluent Welsh speakers by replacing that category with:

- Welsh speaker: can speak a fair amount
- Welsh speaker: can only speak a little
- Welsh speaker: can just say a few words
- Welsh speaker: unknown proficiency level

As a result of these changes the data is not exactly comparable with Welsh language ability collected in earlier years. For example someone returned as not a Welsh speaker in 2021/22 may be returned as 'Welsh speaker: can just say a few words' in 2022/23.

There were also some data quality issues with the 2022/23 data as a result of the new data collection structure. The data quality has improved in 2023/24, although there are a few remaining issues to note:

- The Open University has a high proportion of students with unknown Welsh language ability. This was also the case in previous years, although since the changes to the data collection it has not been possible to distinguish between students who are non-Welsh speakers and those whose Welsh language ability is unknown.
- In 2022/23, University of South Wales had a high percentage of students returned as Welsh speakers of unknown ability. This was no longer the case in 2023/24 meaning the percentage of students who are Welsh speakers is more similar to what was returned prior to 2022/23. However, there are now a considerable number of students with unknown Welsh language ability. This is related to a software issue meaning that in the HESA Student record there are some students with contradictory data that means we cannot be certain which category they fall into. This issue is expected to be improved in future data collections.
- For six providers, 2023/24 was the first year that they submitted data to the HESA Student record. These providers were:
 - Cardiff and Vale College
 - Centre for Alternative Technology
 - Coleg Cambria
 - Coleg Gwent
 - St Padarn's Institute
 - Union School of Theology

Nearly all students at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) were recorded as having unknown Welsh language ability. The reason for this was that CAT didn't have this information for all of their students as there wasn't a requirement to collect it previously. It is expected that this will improve in future years as CAT collects this data from its students.

The Union School of Theology also had limited information on Welsh speaking ability due to the small number of students who were known to be Welsh domiciled. However, 55 of the 95 students at this provider had unknown domicile. As this provider does not have any specifically designated courses in 2024/25 it will not appear in future publications.

Table C.1: Number of enrolments from Welsh domiciled students by Welsh speaking ability and provider, 2023/24

	Welsh speaker: fluent	Welsh speaker: non-fluent	Welsh speaker: unknown ability	Not a Welsh speaker	Unknown	Total
Universities	8,775	8,635	1,185	31,325	17,600	67,520
Aberystwyth University	860	795	185	980	10	2,830
Bangor University	1,265	505	0	1,910	20	3,705
Cardiff Metropolitan University	815	550	250	3,995	90	5,700
Cardiff University	1,655	1,760	0	6,850	215	10,480
Open University in Wales	775	1,580	0	0	13,090	15,440
Swansea University	1,155	925	0	6,235	45	8,360
University of South Wales	990	1,320	215	3,860	4,085	10,475
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	880	805	515	4,460	40	6,705
Wrexham University	380	390	15	3,030	10	3,825
Further education colleges and alternative providers	285	255	55	740	85	1,420
Cardiff and Vale College	0	5	0	55	0	65
Centre for Alternative Technology	0	0	0	0	70	75
Coleg Cambria	0	0	0	25	0	25
Coleg Gwent	5	25	0	80	0	105
Gower College Swansea	5	10	0	15	0	30
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	255	170	55	295	5	785
Grŵp NPTC Group	10	15	0	155	0	185
St Padarn's Institute	5	25	0	115	5	145
Union School of Theology	0	10	0	0	0	10
All providers	9,060	8,890	1,240	32,070	17,685	68,940

Description: There were a similar number of enrolments from known fluent and non-fluent Welsh speakers across the sector with around 9,000 enrolments each in 2023/24. There were a further 1,240 enrolments from Welsh speakers of unknown ability.

Data in Table 6a in the accompanying workbook and on [StatsWales](#)

- Cardiff University had the highest number of enrolments (1,655) from students known to be fluent Welsh speakers. Bangor University (1,265) and Swansea University (1,155) had the next highest numbers of enrolments from fluent Welsh speakers.
- Cardiff University also had the highest number of enrolments (3,415) from Welsh speaking students of any ability. Followed by University of South Wales (2,525) and the Open University in Wales (2,350).

Table C.2: Percentage of enrolments from Welsh domiciled students by Welsh speaking ability and provider, 2023/24

	Welsh speaker: fluent	Welsh speaker: non-fluent	Welsh speaker: unknown ability	Not a Welsh speaker	Unknown
Universities	13%	13%	2%	46%	26%
Aberystwyth University	30%	28%	6%	35%	0%
Bangor University	34%	14%	0%	52%	1%
Cardiff Metropolitan University	14%	10%	4%	70%	2%
Cardiff University	16%	17%	0%	65%	2%
Open University in Wales	5%	10%	0%	0%	85%
Swansea University	14%	11%	0%	75%	1%
University of South Wales	9%	13%	2%	37%	39%
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	13%	12%	8%	67%	1%
Wrexham University	10%	10%	0%	79%	0%
Further education colleges and alternative providers	20%	18%	4%	52%	6%
Cardiff and Vale College	2%	6%	0%	90%	2%
Centre for Alternative Technology	0%	0%	0%	1%	99%
Coleg Cambria	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Coleg Gwent	3%	22%	0%	75%	0%
Gower College Swansea	19%	29%	0%	52%	0%
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	33%	22%	7%	38%	1%
Grŵp NPTC Group	5%	9%	0%	86%	0%
St Padarn's Institute	3%	17%	0%	77%	3%
Union School of Theology	Suppressed as fewer than 22.5 enrolments in total.				
All providers	13%	13%	2%	47%	26%

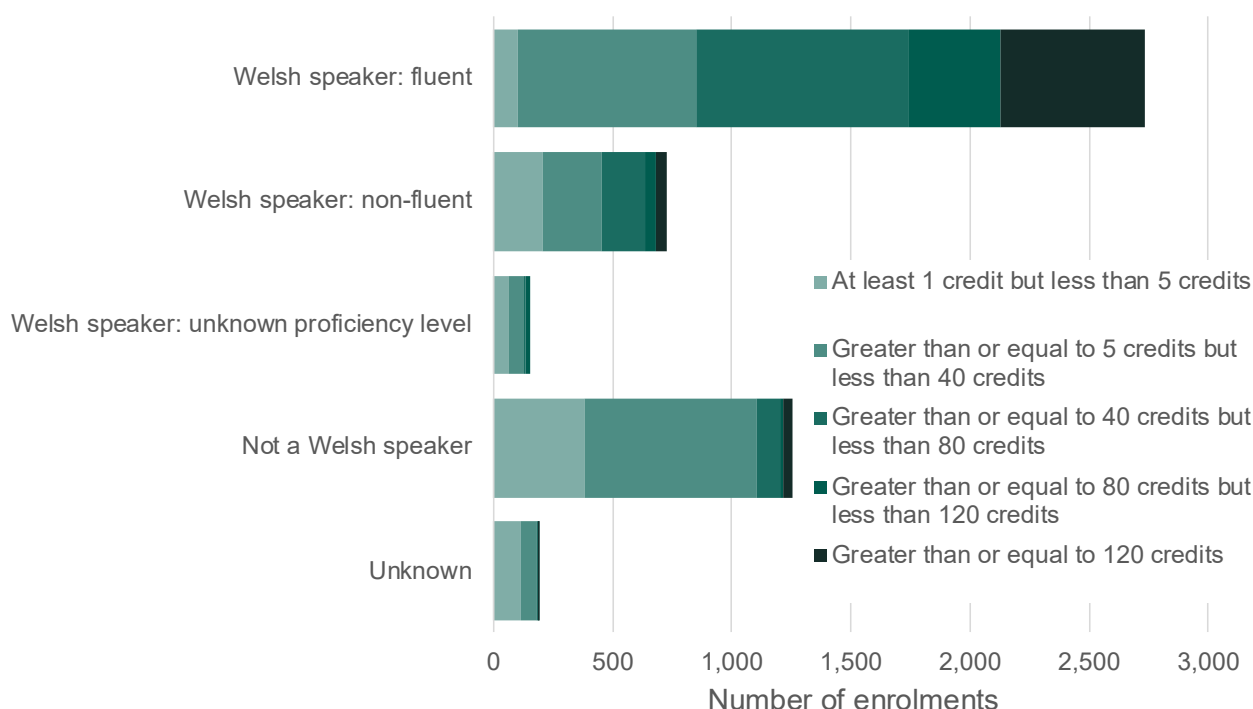
Description: 13% of students are known to be fluent Welsh speakers, with a further 13% known to be non-fluent Welsh speakers. An additional 2% of students were recorded as Welsh speakers but the level of their ability was unknown.

Data in Table 6b of the accompanying workbook and on [StatsWales](#)

- Bangor University (34%), Grŵp Llandrillo Menai (33%) and Aberystwyth University (30%) had the highest proportions of Welsh domiciled students known to be fluent Welsh speakers.
- Nearly two thirds (64%) of students at Aberystwyth University were Welsh speakers of any ability, the highest across the sector. Grŵp Llandrillo Menai (62%) was the only other provider where more than half of students were returned as Welsh speakers of any ability.

- The Welsh speaking ability of about a quarter (26%) of students was unknown. The majority of the unknowns were found at two providers, the Open University and University of South Wales.

Figure C.1: Number of enrolments from students from Wales with at least 1 credit studied in Welsh, by Welsh speaking ability, 2023/24

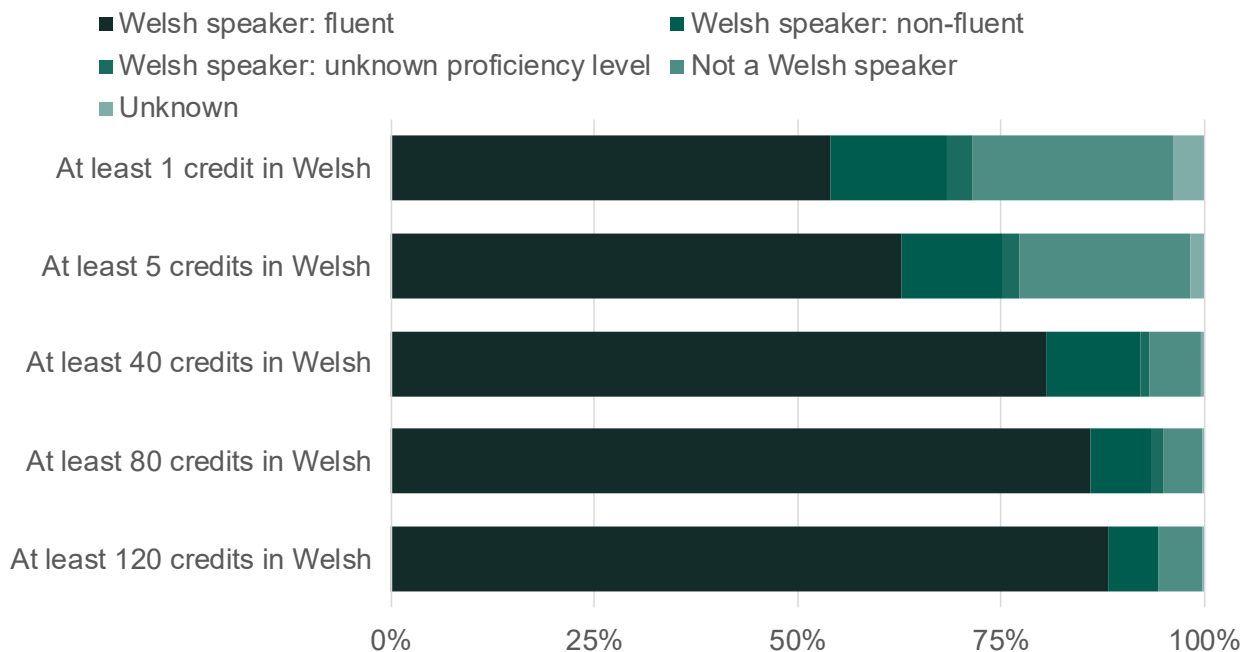


Description: A bar chart showing that fluent Welsh speakers are the most likely to study high numbers of credits in Welsh, but that students of other abilities, including those who have been recorded as not Welsh speakers, also study in Welsh.

Data in Table 7a on the accompanying workbook and on [StatsWales](#)

- 2,735 enrolments from known fluent Welsh speakers studied at least 1 credit in Welsh in 2023/24, this was 30% of enrolments from fluent Welsh speakers. Just over one in five (21%) studied at least 40 credits in Welsh, while 7% studied at least 120 credits in Welsh.
- 8% of enrolments from Welsh speakers known to be non-fluent involved at least 1 credit of studying through Welsh in 2023/24. While 12% of those who were Welsh speakers of unknown ability studied at least 1 credit through Welsh.
- 1,255 enrolments from students recorded as not being Welsh speakers were recorded as having studied at least 1 credit in Welsh. This was 4% of all enrolments for those who were not Welsh speakers. The vast majority of these enrolments studied less than 40 credits in Welsh. This is likely to be due to a combination of inaccurate recording of Welsh language ability data and how the Welsh medium aspect of some modules has been recorded. The numbers of students who are recorded as not being Welsh speakers but studying some credits in Welsh has decreased compared to recent years suggesting data quality is improving.

Figure C.2: Welsh speaking ability of students from Wales who studied at least 1 credit in Welsh, 2023/24



Description: Just over half of enrolments with at least 1 credit being studied in Welsh were from fluent Welsh speakers. This percentage increases as the number of credits in Welsh increased.

Data in Table 7a of the accompanying table and on [StatsWales](#)

- Of those who studied at least 1 credit in Welsh, there was a fairly even split between enrolments from fluent Welsh speakers (54%) and from students of other Welsh speaking abilities.
- 81% of enrolments with at least 40 credits studied in Welsh are from fluent Welsh speakers, with a further 12% being non-fluent Welsh speakers. The remaining 7% of enrolments are mostly from students recorded as not being Welsh speakers.
- For those enrolments with at least 120 credits studied through Welsh 88% are fluent Welsh speakers, and there are still 6% of enrolments from students recorded as not being Welsh speakers.

Section D: Staff

This section covers academic teaching staff and whether they are able to teach in Welsh and if they are contracted to teach in Welsh. The further education colleges and alternative providers do not submit data to the staff record so this section is limited to the Welsh universities. The Open University is also not included as it is not possible to separate the data into the different UK countries.

Staff on atypical contracts are not included. Atypical staff are those whose working arrangements are not permanent, involve complex employment relationships and/or involve work away from the supervision of the normal work provider.

All figures in this section are Full-Person Equivalents (FPE), unless stated otherwise. This means that a staff member with more than one contract or activity is divided between those activities in the data. If a staff member has an academic teaching contract and another contract, then only the FPE from their academic teaching contract(s) are counted. The FPE figures are calculated based on contracts that were active on 1 December in the relevant academic year, e.g. 1 December 2023 for the 2023/24 academic year.

Table D.1: Academic teaching staff by whether able and/or contracted to teach in Welsh, 2018/19 to 2023/24

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Able to teach in Welsh	1,110	1,085	1,025	1,035	1,015	845
Teaching in Welsh	590	580	570	540	550	540
Not teaching in Welsh	340	345	300	360	385	245
Information not sought	180	155	160	130	80	60
Unable to teach in Welsh	6,865	6,810	6,740	6,745	7,220	7,750
Teaching in Welsh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not teaching in Welsh	4,895	5,170	4,895	4,955	6,295	6,790
Information not sought	1,970	1,640	1,845	1,790	925	955
Information not sought	140	140	185	430	460	860
Teaching in Welsh	10	15	10	15	15	25
Not teaching in Welsh	55	40	50	170	205	460
Information not sought	75	85	125	245	240	375
All Welsh teaching abilities	8,110	8,035	7,955	8,210	8,695	9,455
Teaching in Welsh	600	595	575	555	565	565
Not teaching in Welsh	5,290	5,555	5,245	5,485	6,885	7,500
Information not sought	2,220	1,885	2,130	2,170	1,245	1,390

Description: The number of staff able to teach in Welsh has been on a downward trend in recent years. However there hasn't been as much change in the numbers of staff who are contracted to teach through Welsh, staying stable in the last few years after falling slightly from 2018/19.

Data in Table 9 on the accompanying workbook and on [StatsWales](#)

- The number of staff able to teach in Welsh in the 2023/24 data fell considerably compared to previous years. Although this is a continuation of a general trend, the size of the decrease in 2023/24 was largely concentrated at University of Wales Trinity Saint David where the number of staff able to teach in Welsh fell by 165 with a similarly sized increase in those in the 'Information not sought' category. This was related to a change in how the University collect this data and it is expected that the quality of this data will improve again in future years.
- The number of teaching staff contracted to teach in Welsh stayed at the same level in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 and there have only been small fluctuations since 2020/21.
- 64% of teaching staff who were known to be able to teach in Welsh were contracted to teach in Welsh in 2023/24. This is higher than in earlier years, although again this is affected by the change at University of Wales Trinity Saint David in how being able to teach in Welsh was recorded.
- Overall 6% of teaching staff are contracted to teach in Welsh.

Table D.2: Number of academic teaching staff contracted to teach in Welsh and the number able to teach in Welsh by provider, 2023/24

Provider	Number of staff teaching in Welsh	Percentage of staff teaching in Welsh	Number of staff able to teach in Welsh	Percentage of staff able to teach in Welsh	Total number of teaching staff
Aberystwyth University	120	20%	155	26%	585
Bangor University	165	22%	205	27%	745
Cardiff Metropolitan University	25	3%	50	6%	855
Cardiff University	130	4%	185	6%	3,065
Swansea University	60	4%	70	5%	1,320
University of South Wales	25	1%	75	4%	1,785
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	35	4%	95	11%	875
Wrexham University	0	1%	15	6%	225
All	565	6%	845	9%	9,455

Description: Bangor University had the highest number of staff contracted and able to teach in Welsh, followed by Cardiff University.

Data in Table 10 on the accompanying workbook and on [StatsWales](#)

- Bangor University also had the highest proportion of teaching staff known to be able to teach in Welsh at 27%. Aberystwyth University had the next highest proportion with 26% of staff able to teach in Welsh.
- Bangor University also had the highest proportion (22%) of academic teaching staff contracted to teach in Welsh, followed by Aberystwyth University (20%). No other provider had more than 4% of teaching staff contracted to teach in Welsh.

Table D.3: Cost centres of teaching staff teaching in Welsh, 2023/24

Cost centre	Teaching in Welsh	Not teaching in Welsh	Information not sought	All
Medicine, dentistry and health	85	1,780	215	2,080
Agriculture, forestry and veterinary science	10	80	5	95
Biological, mathematical and physical sciences	25	850	65	940
Engineering and technology	10	915	130	1,055
Architecture and planning	0	115	10	130
Administration and business studies	15	905	160	1,080
Social studies	65	1,025	110	1,205
Humanities, language based studies and archaeology	145	610	55	810
Design, creative and performing arts	30	410	495	930
Education	160	745	125	1,025
Academic services	15	45	15	80
Central administration and services, staff and student facilities	0	20	5	25
Premises	0	0	0	0
Residences and Catering	0	0	0	0
All	565	7,500	1,390	9,455

Description: the two cost centres with the highest numbers of staff known to be teaching in Welsh were Education and Humanities, language based studies and archaeology.

Data in Table 11 on the accompanying workbook and on [StatsWales](#)

- Just over half (54%) of staff known to be teaching in Welsh are in the Education, and Humanities, language based studies and archaeology cost centres.

Quality and methodology information

Please see the accompanying Quality and Methodology document for detailed information.

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](#) 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 and Staff records which collect 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.

The accompanying Quality and Methodology document provides some further information on quality issues.

Value

These statistics are produced to provide an insight into the level of Welsh medium provision in the higher education sector in Wales, and the Welsh language ability of students and staff.

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.

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.

Related statistics

Links to previous releases in this series can be found on gov.wales.

[Sta/Medr/06/2025: Further education, work-based learning and community learning, August 2023 to July 2024](#) contains information on the activities taught in Welsh and the Welsh language skills of learners in further education, apprenticeships and adult community learning.

[Sta/Medr/07/2025: Learner outcome measures for apprenticeships, August 2023 to July 2024](#) contains information on the outcomes of apprenticeships by the medium of study.

[Annual education workforce statistics in Wales](#) contains information on the Welsh languages skills of staff in schools, further education and the adult learning sector.

Contact information

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics.

Feedback, questions, and requests for further data can be directed by email to: hestats@medr.cymru

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