

Medr's investment for academic year 2026/27

Date: 13 May 2026

Reference: Medr/2026/16

To: Heads of higher education institutions
Principals of further education colleges
Directors of Education
Heads of school sixth forms
Local authority adult community learning leads
Apprenticeship contract holders

Respond by: 15 September 2026 for intention to redistribute part-time undergraduate funded credits (paragraph 122)

More information:

Name: Dr Gareth Lanagan
Email: InvestmentAndMonitoring@medr.cymru

Name: Hannah Falvey
Email: hestats@medr.cymru

Summary:

This publication sets out Medr's overall investment for the academic year 2026/27 including individual provider allocations for all tertiary education core investment.

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Introduction

1. Medr was established by the [Tertiary Education and Research \(Wales\) Act](#), which received Royal Assent in September 2022 and became operational on 1 August 2024. The Act provides Medr with a range of powers including its ability to fund and regulate tertiary education, research and innovation in Wales.
2. We published our first [Strategic Plan](#) in March 2025, setting out our aims for tertiary education, research and innovation. These ambitions are cast in founding commitments which have a two-year horizon for delivery, and growth commitments with a five-year horizon for delivery. As part of our founding commitments, we published our new regulatory framework on 1 April 2026, which is applicable to providers across the tertiary education sector in Wales. Investment set out in this publication is set in the context of our strategic aims and our new regulatory framework.
3. The [Regulatory Framework](#) brings together the main elements Medr uses to oversee the sector. These include:
 - what providers must meet to join the Register of higher education providers
 - the conditions that apply to providers we regulate or fund
 - arrangements for areas such as Fee and Access Plans and Specific Course Designation.

Together, these elements help us understand whether providers are meeting the requirements of the framework.

4. This publication sets out our overall investment for Medr-funded tertiary education providers for the academic year (AY) 2026/27. This document also includes individual provider allocations for all core investment and some targeted budgets, where available.
5. This publication includes all formula-driven core grants. Where possible, grants allocated via targeted budgets, which may be subject to the provision of a specific expenditure plan or strategy, are also included. Further publications will provide details of allocations and guidance, where required, for specific investment streams.
6. Medr allocations which fall outside this financial year are always subject to Welsh Government budgets, but we are keen to provide as firm a commitment as possible to providers beyond this financial year wherever possible. We have allocated with this commitment in mind for FY 2027-28.
7. The powers that enable us to fund tertiary education and research will change as the legislation that established Medr is gradually enacted. The investment decisions contained within this paper are therefore made on the basis of multiple pieces of legislation. Medr is empowered to fund higher education provision, and research and innovation activities through powers contained in Section 65 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992.
8. Until now, Medr has exercised some functions on behalf of Welsh Ministers through the section 83 arrangement we have in place – specifically sections 34-36 of the Learning and Skills Act, 2000, and sections 14 and 16 of the Education Act 2002. However, as of 1 April 2026, Medr will be funding further education and training,

school sixth forms and apprenticeships through powers set out in sections 97 and 101 of the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022. One of these duties require Medr to consult on an investment policy statement, and publish it thereafter, and setting out principles for investing in tertiary education, research and innovation. This is scheduled for July 2026.

9. Separately, we regulate institutions that have approved Fee and Access Plans under powers set out in the Higher Education (Wales) Act 2015. As a result of becoming regulated, institutions will have their full-time undergraduate courses automatically designated for student support. Part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses are designated for Welsh Funded institutions. For courses that are not automatically designated for student support, we administer a specific designation process that allows providers to have courses designated on a case-by-case basis. These two processes that lead to course designation by the Welsh Government **do not** relate to our functions to administer funding to institutions. As such, being regulated or having course designation does not in itself result in providers receiving the funds that we administer and have set out the allocations for in this publication. Our regulatory arrangements will change from 1 August 2026, with designation of courses for higher education (HE) student support purposes linked to registration with Medr. HE providers will need to comply with the Conditions of Registration set out in the Regulatory Framework. The Framework also includes Conditions of Funding that will apply across the tertiary education and training sector.
10. For higher education (HE) providers in Wales that receive core HE investment, Medr investment does not include payments for tuition fee loans and grants or other student support payments. These are administered by the Welsh Government through the Student Loans Company. Apprenticeship providers, colleges and local authority maintained school sixth forms do not receive tuition fees other than for HE provision; the core investment by Medr represents the majority of their income.
11. The Welsh Government allocates funding to Medr annually on a financial year (FY) basis from 1 April to 31 March. Medr invests to the majority of eligible institutions and providers on an academic year (AY) basis from 1 August to 31 July. Within this document, **Financial Years are denoted with a '-' and Academic Years with a '/'** e.g. 2026-27 is the financial year and 2026/27 the academic year.
12. Where brackets are used within financial tables, these indicate negative values.
13. Our confirmed [funding letter](#) highlights that our revenue budget for FY 2026-27 is set at **£1,005.008m**. This is an increase of £29.6589m (3.04%) compared to the final budget, including in-year allocations received in FY 2025-26 that have been baselined, of **£975.349m**. Including capital, Medr's total budget for FY 2026-27 is £1,018,508,000.
14. The allocations in this paper do not take account of any potential in-year funding adjustments for FY 2026-27 that may be applied by the Welsh Government. Any such funding adjustments will result in a revision to the individual allocations.

Overall budget distribution

Financial year (FY) 2026-27 budget

15. The Welsh Government FY 2026-27 budget was finalised in March 2026. A full financial year comparison is provided below.
16. Academic year comparisons have been provided in later tables.

Budget area	Net resource budget FY 2025-26 £ million	Net resource budget FY 2026-27 £ million	Variation £ million
Education	804.081	848.687	44.606
Ring-fenced items included in education budget above:			
14-16 junior apprenticeships	0.600	1.000	0.400
Enterprise and Entrepreneurship	0.360	0.360	0
Estyn	0	2.056	2.056
REACH	0	0.400	0.400
Ring-fenced apprenticeships budget	143.277	150.535	7.258
Culture - Performance-based music and drama conservatoire provision	1.970	1.970	0
In year allocations from Welsh Government	27.031	0	(27.031)
Net revenue budget:	975.349	1,005.008	29.659

Derivation of AY 2026/27 budget

17. In deploying the FY 2026-27 budget it should be noted that allocations to tertiary education and research providers are predominantly allocated on an academic year basis. Therefore, the FY 2026-27 budget must first take account of the known cash requirement to meet the remaining AY 2025/26 (from 1 April to 31 July 2026).

Deployment of ring-fenced budgets

18. Medr operating costs are not detailed separately in the Welsh Government budget. Before the academic year allocations to providers are derived, Medr's operating costs of £16.394m, are taken into account.
19. Some investment lines have been ring-fenced by the Welsh Government to directly support specific activity. In FY 2026-27 this ring-fence relates to apprenticeships provision of £150.535m, junior apprenticeship provision of £1.000m, REACH hubs of £400k, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship in FE of £360k and performance-based music and drama conservatoire provision of £1.970m. There are further budgets which will not be ring-fenced but come with ministerial steers such as additional funding to maintain pay parity, an increase for additional learning support (ALS) in

FE, an increase for Financial Contingency Funds (FCF), and support to HE in providing Initial Teacher Education (ITE) provision.

Junior apprenticeships

20. Ring-fenced funding has been provided to increase junior apprenticeship investment from £600k to £1.0m. The additional investment is provided to expand the programme across Wales.
21. Junior apprenticeships are not a legal apprenticeship. They are a 14-16 pathway delivered by FE colleges in collaboration with local authorities. It takes disengaged school learners and introduces them to vocational pathways two years earlier than they would otherwise enter college or employment.
22. Junior apprenticeships will be paid in arrears in three instalments in September 2026, January 2027 and December 2027 with full allocations identified to providers via a separate publication.

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

23. Ring-fenced investment has again been provided to support the Enterprise and Entrepreneurship element of the Employment and Enterprise Bureaus (EEBs).
24. It is anticipated that Medr will be evaluating the outcomes of the EEBs during 2026/27. In the meantime, it is proposed this ring-fenced budget is allocated in the same way as 2025/26.

REACH Hubs

25. Ring-fenced funding has been provided to support the continued operation of REACH Hubs. The purpose of the funding is for the continued hosting of the Regional English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Assessment Central Hubs ('REACH') from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. The hubs aim to standardise assessment of ESOL learners, coordinate provision amongst partners and manage demand and supply of ESOL courses through an impartial service which meets the needs of each learner. The four REACH Hubs are based in Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Wrexham - previously the four dispersal areas in Wales.

Culture – performance-based music and drama conservatoire provision (Culture budget)

26. Ring-fenced funding has been provided to support performance-based music and drama conservatoire provision. A total of £1.97m was allocated for the first time in 2025/26 from the Welsh Government culture budget. £1.75m of this funding is included in the expensive subjects premium (see paragraphs 91-94) and £220k is included in the additional funding for performance element provision (see paragraph 117). See [Medr/2025/35: Additional 2025-26 in-year funding for performance-based music and drama conservatoire provision](#).

Estyn

27. There is also a £2.056m budget transfer from the Welsh Government to meet Medr's responsibilities to fund Estyn to deliver agreed activity set out in the funding letter and annual plan under section 68 of the Tertiary Education and Research Act 2022 including inspections of further education, apprenticeships and adult community learning.
28. Finally, the confirmed funding letter also includes capital allocations.

Financial year 2026-27	£ million
Higher education capital	10.000
Further education digital capital	3.000
Medr implementation capital	0.500
Capital budget	13.500

Allocation of the financial year budget

29. The allocation presents a budget including all the funding that we expect to receive from the Welsh Government at the time of publication.

	£ million
Cash requirement to meet the commitments of AY 2025/26 allocations as agreed by the Minister for Further and Higher Education	294.650
Operating budget	16.394
Ring-fenced budget for apprenticeships	150.535
Ring-fenced budget for junior apprenticeships	1.000
Ring-fenced budget for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship in further education	0.360
Ring-fenced budget for Estyn	2.056
Ring-fenced budget for REACH	0.400
Performance based music and drama conservatoire provision (Culture budget).	1.970
Core budgets	488.688
Targeted budgets	48.955
Capital budgets	13.500
Total	1018.508

Total investment for AY 2026/27

30. The table below summarises the overall academic year funding which are set out in more detail throughout the publication.

	AY 2025/26 £ million	AY 2026/27 £ million
Ring-fenced: apprenticeship budget	143.277	150.535
Ring-fenced: junior apprenticeships	0.600	1.000
Ring-fenced: Youth Entrepreneurship	0.360	0.360
Ring-fenced: REACH	0	0.400
Ring-fenced: Estyn	0	2.056
Core: local authority sixth form	119.221	121.682
Core: local authority adult community learning	6.479	6.479
Core: further education mainstream	434.894	466.424
Core: increased participation budget	21.126	6.250
Core: higher education research and innovation ¹	97.121	98.121
Core: higher education teaching funding ²	71.732	76.461
Core: degree apprenticeships ³	9.411	10.111
Core: part-time fee waiver	0.200	0.200
Targeted: learner wellbeing	49.020	49.840
Targeted: access and wellbeing	7.764	7.025
Targeted: employability and skills	3.005	3.005
Targeted: research and innovation	2.000	2.000
Targeted: student/learner and workforce	8.075	6.795
Targeted: data and technology	3.500	3.500
Targeted: central programme budget	0	3.000
Targeted: strategic developments	3.500	0.500
Capital: higher education	10.000	10.000
Capital: further education digital	3.000	3.000
Total	994.285	1028.744

¹ This includes Quality Research (QR), postgraduate research (PGR) and Research Wales Innovation Fund (RWIF).

² This includes full and part-time premiums, credit-based and per capita allocations.

³ This includes £5.111m from the economy budget and £5.000m from the education budget.

Core allocations: apprenticeship provision

31. As per the [funding letter from the Welsh Government](#), the apprenticeship budget (allocated via the Cabinet Secretary for Economy) is ring-fenced for a specified purpose.
32. It should be noted that the main apprenticeship programme for levels 2-5 operates differently to the majority of Medr's funding, in that it is a commercially procured contract, delivered through 10 prime contractors. A new programme will start on 1 August 2027, which will move to a grant funded model.
33. The apprenticeship budget covers provision ranging from foundation apprenticeships through to degree apprenticeships.
34. The Welsh Government apprenticeship budget for FY 2026-27 is **£150.535 million** which is a **£7.258m** increase from £143.277m in FY 2025-26.
35. This increase will be baselined into future year budgets, meaning any increase or decrease in budget will be calculated from a £150.535m starting point. This allows us to deploy this increase strategically with a long-term view, rather than as a one-off budget allocation.

Summary of deployment of ring-fenced apprenticeship budget

	£ million
FY 2026-27 budget	150.535
Expected remaining AY 2025/26 apprenticeship contract commitment to 31 July 2026	(51.342)
Contribution towards cost of continuing learners funded via £4m additional in-year AY 2025/26 allocation	(3.300)
Total commitments	(54.642)
Programme funded Medr staff costs for apprenticeships	(0.587)
Degree apprenticeships (Economy contribution)	(5.111)
Shared/Supported apprenticeships and Employer Incentive Scheme and ALS	(1.900)
Apprenticeship developments	(1.005)
Apprenticeships contract (August 2026 – March 2027)	(87.290)
Total expenditure proposals	(95.893)
Overall planned expenditure	(150.535)

Contribution towards cost of continuing learners

(funded via £4m additional in-year AY 2025/26 allocation supporting progress towards the 100,000 apprenticeships PFG target)

Provider	AY 2026/27 carry over of AY 2025/26 additional investment £
Associated Community Training Ltd	695,032
Cambrian Training Company	458,400
Cardiff and Vale College	482,500
Coleg Cambria	N/A
Educ8 Training Group Ltd	364,277
Gower College Swansea	N/A
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	241,441
ITEC Training Solutions Ltd	144,729
Skills Academy Wales at NPTC Group of Colleges	317,808
B-wbl Pembrokeshire College	562,520
Total	3,266,707

Programme funded staff

36. The apprenticeship budget contributes £587,000 to the operating budget for Medr.

Degree apprenticeships

37. The degree apprenticeship budget for FY 2026-27 is increased by £700k from the FY 2025-26 budget levels with £5.111 million as a contribution from the Welsh Government Economy budget. This reflects increased demand levels being flagged by providers and will also allow for new starts on two newly designed pathways in the construction and digital frameworks. A further £5m will be allocated from the Welsh Government Education budget, as in AY 2025/26, to make a total degree apprenticeships budget of £10.111m.

Shared and Supported Apprenticeships and Employer Incentive Scheme and ALS:

38. Shared apprenticeships allow apprentices to gain their qualifications across a number of employers rather than being employed at a sole employer. This is beneficial for micro businesses and SMEs who may not be able to employ an apprentice on a full-time basis or enable an apprentice to complete all aspects of a framework.
39. Supported apprenticeships provide additional support to disabled apprentices with intensive and wide-ranging employment and learning needs to access and complete an apprenticeship. Support provided may be through job coaching or other specialist resource.
40. From FY 2025-26 the Employer Incentive Scheme, and ALS investment have been brought together as a single budget line. The collated budget will allow providers flexibility to use this budget in accordance with learner needs.

41. For FY 2026-27 the Shared and Supported Apprenticeships, Employer Incentive Scheme and ALN support will have an investment of £1.900m.

Apprenticeship developments

42. Investment of £1.005m allocated under this heading supports the following activities which underpin the success of the apprenticeship programme.

Apprenticeship framework reviews and development

43. Apprenticeship Frameworks/Pathways are cyclically reviewed to ensure they continue to meet industry needs and standards. Reviews planned for FY 2026-27 include:
- a. Digital Technology
 - b. Food and Drink
 - c. Catering and Hospitality
 - d. Education and Information Services
 - e. Legal and Financial Services
 - f. Life Sciences
 - g. Property Services
 - h. Protective Services
 - i. Public Services
 - j. Retail

Activity will also include research, evaluation and system maintenance.

Preparation for the new apprenticeship programme

44. The new apprenticeship programme will start in AY 2027/28. This budget will also be used to support evaluation and development work related to the new programme.

AY 2026/27 apprenticeship contract commitment

45. The 2026/27 academic contract spans two financial years. As a result, there is a commitment on the FY 2027-28 budget relating to the remaining cost of provision for the current (AY 2026/27) contract year i.e. the cost of provision for the period from 1 April 2027 to 31 July 2027.
46. 63% of this AY 2026/27 contract value is profiled to be spent between 1 August 2026 and 31 March 2027, the required commitment on FY 2026-27 apprenticeships budget line is £87.290m. The remainder of the AY 2026/27 contract, 37%, will be delivered in FY 2027-28 and require a FY 2027-28 budget commitment of £51.266m.

Academic year (contract year) allocation of apprenticeship budget at provider level

Provider	AY 2025/26 allocation £	AY 2026/27 allocation £	Variation £	Variation%
Associated Community Training Ltd	24,629,864	25,368,760	738,896	3.00
Cambrian Training Company	7,551,016	7,777,546	226,530	3.00
Cardiff and Vale College	12,558,009	12,934,749	376,740	3.00
Coleg Cambria	11,881,174	12,237,609	356,435	3.00
Educ8 Training Group	11,569,808	11,916,902	347,094	3.00
Gower College Swansea	9,090,208	9,362,914	272,706	3.00
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	11,902,999	12,260,089	357,090	3.00
ITEC Training Solutions Ltd	7,125,746	7,339,518	213,772	3.00
Skills Academy Wales at NPTC Group of Colleges	17,141,365	17,655,606	514,241	3.00
B-Wbl Pembrokeshire College	21,069,812	21,701,906	632,094	3.00
Total	134,520,001	138,555,601	4,035,600	3.00

Core allocations: local authority sixth form provision

47. Core local authority sixth form investment supports the provision of full-time education across 133 school sixth forms in Wales. Provision is predominantly A-level provision (equivalent to level 3), with a small amount of vocational provision, delivered to around 21,000 16–19-year-olds.
48. The methodology for calculating the local authority sixth forms' allocations follows the methodology that has been used since FY 2015-16 and was the recommended approach of the Association of Directors of Education in Wales (ADEW).
49. As in previous years, the funding methodology uses a combination of historic learner numbers and predicted demographic learner numbers for each local authority, multiplying these by a calculated average programme value. Uplifts for deprivation, sparsity and Welsh-medium along with a 3% local authority centrally retained allowance and 3.91% TPS contribution are added to this to determine the final allocation.

Unit rate increase (local authority maintained sixth forms, community learning grant, and further education institutions)

50. A 5.4% increase has been implemented for the programmes directory unit rate. This includes a 3.2% rise in the unit rate for AY 2026/27, along with a 2.2% increase in National Insurance contributions. Although this adjustment is not explicitly intended to accommodate a pay award for AY 2026/27, any pay award for AY 2026/27, which is agreed upon by unions and the sector, must be managed within this allocation.

Proposed AY 2026/27 local authority

51. Information regarding the breakdown of the allocations at an individual college level can be found in **Annex D**.

Local authority	* Total AY 2025/26 allocation £	Total AY 2026/27 allocation £	Variation from AY 2025/26 £	Variation from 2025/26 %
Isle of Anglesey County Council	3,156,283	3,135,313	(20,970)	-0.66
Gwynedd Council	4,829,736	4,825,876	(3,860)	-0.08
Conwy County Borough Council	5,927,330	5,637,303	(290,027)	-4.89
Denbighshire County Council	4,272,606	4,578,634	306,028	7.16
Flintshire County Council	5,126,978	5,165,213	38,235	0.75
Wrexham County Borough Council	1,330,539	1,355,413	24,874	1.87
Powys County Council	5,649,039	5,642,599	(6,440)	-0.11
Ceredigion County Council	4,368,101	4,334,083	(34,018)	-0.78
Pembrokeshire County Council	3,583,094	3,682,230	99,136	2.77
Carmarthenshire County Council	7,916,671	7,958,148	41,477	0.52
Swansea City and County Council	7,371,497	7,796,093	424,596	5.76
Neath Port Talbot Council	2,489,761	2,400,387	(89,374)	-3.59
Bridgend County Borough Council	8,091,964	8,197,557	105,592	1.30
Vale of Glamorgan Council	8,562,841	9,063,043	500,202	5.84

Local authority	* Total AY 2025/26 allocation £	Total AY 2026/27 allocation £	Variation from AY 2025/26 £	Variation from 2025/26 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	10,333,414	10,807,002	473,588	4.58
Caerphilly County Borough Council	4,251,611	4,032,937	(218,674)	-5.14
Torfaen County Borough Council	546,397	674,871	128,474	23.51
Monmouthshire County Council	4,262,143	4,166,418	(95,725)	-2.25
Newport City Council	8,740,443	8,982,033	241,590	2.76
Cardiff Council	18,410,485	19,246,975	836,490	4.54
Total	119,220,933	121,682,128	2,461,195	2.06

*AY 2025/26 publication included a 16-month allocation for local authorities, allowing Medr to move all tertiary core provision investment to an academic year budget cycle. AY 2026/27 has reverted back to a 12-month allocation.

52. While there has been a 5.4% increase to the unit rate of funding for AY 2026/27, the average total investment increase for local authorities is 1.99%, though the investment change for each provider varies as shown above.
53. Core local authority sixth form provision funding will be paid in twelve equal instalments on a monthly basis.

Core allocations: local authority community learning grant (CLG)

54. Core local authority Community Learning Grant supports the delivery of adult community learning (ACL) provision across 21 local authorities and 1 further education institution. The grant covers for community-based learning for learners aged 19 and over, with a focus on basic skills, including literacy, numeracy and digital skills.
55. The funding methodology for CLG was reviewed in AY 2020/21. The budget was based on the numbers of learners within each local authority that do not hold a level 1 qualification as per the Nomis data from ONS⁴. In each subsequent year since, the budget has been maintained at the same level.
56. In time, a new duty will be transferred to Medr as set out in [Section 94](#) of the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022. With the new duty⁵ pending, the AY 2026/27 allocations are being maintained at the current levels to ensure continuity until future requirements of the new duty are confirmed.
57. CLG investment for Bridgend County Council will be allocated to Bridgend College, as was the case in AY 2025/26.

Local authority	Total allocation for FY 2025-26 and/or AY 2025/26 (Apr 25-Jul 26) £	AY 2025/26 allocation £	AY 2026/27 allocation £
Isle of Anglesey County Council	161,964	121,473	121,473
Gwynedd County Council	268,111	201,083	201,083
Conwy County Borough Council	283,264	212,448	212,448
Denbighshire County Council	228,676	171,507	171,507
Flintshire County Council	364,148	273,111	273,111
Wrexham County Borough Council	335,600	251,700	251,700
Powys County Council	314,356	235,767	235,767
Ceredigion County Council	150,285	112,714	112,714
Pembrokeshire County Council	584,292	438,219	438,219
Carmarthenshire County Council	456,924	342,693	342,693
Swansea Council	544,329	408,247	408,247
Neath Port Talbot Council	396,448	297,336	297,336
Bridgend College	273,654	273,654	273,654
Vale of Glamorgan Council	258,277	193,708	193,708
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	659,437	494,578	494,578
Caerphilly County Borough Council	503,035	377,276	377,276

⁴ [DC5107EWLA \(Highest level of qualification by sex by age\) - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

⁵ Once the new duty is defined, Medr must secure the provision of proper facilities for post-19 learners in Wales for relevant education and training for eligible persons that is suitable to their requirements. The definitions of eligible learners and relevant education are still being determined by the Welsh Government.

Local authority	Total allocation for FY 2025-26 and/or AY 2025/26 (Apr 25-Jul 26) £	AY 2025/26 allocation £	AY 2026/27 allocation £
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	175,709	131,782	131,782
Torfaen County Borough Council	243,085	182,314	182,314
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	357,465	268,099	268,099
Monmouthshire County Council	188,628	141,471	141,471
Newport City Council	420,000	315,000	315,000
Cardiff County Council	1,379,841	1,034,881	1,034,881
Total	8,547,530	6,479,061	6,479,061

58. The CLG investment applies the unit rate which has increased by 5.4% for 2026/27.
59. Local authorities are required to meet 97% of their CLG financial target. Any delivery below this level will be reclaimed in full.
60. CLG payments will be paid to providers in three instalments in the AY 2026/27 academic year: 33.33% in August 2026, 33.33% in December 2026, and 33.34% in April 2027.

Investment to support increased participation

61. In AY 2026/27, there will be further support to recognise increased participation. This is discussed in paragraphs 74-76.

Core allocations: Further education provision

Further education provision (full-time, part-time)

62. Core further education (FE) investment supports the provision of full-time and part-time education across 13 FE institutions in Wales.
63. Full-time provision includes A-level and vocational provision across all educational levels from entry level to level 4 to around 45,915 learners.

Full-time investment

64. The methodology for calculating the full-time allocations follows the methodology that has been used since AY 2015/16 and was developed and agreed with the further education sector.
65. As in previous years, the funding methodology uses a combination of historic learner numbers and predicted demographic learner numbers for each institution, multiplying these by a calculated average programme value. Uplifts for deprivation, sparsity and Welsh-medium along with a 3% centrally retained allowance, 2% estate maintenance allowance and 2.56% TPS contribution are added to this to determine the final full-time allocation.
66. A final year of transition has been applied to Coleg y Cymoedd to recognise the closure of two sixth forms in Rhondda Cynon Taf. As the funding model is based on historical data, an additional 218 learners have been manually added to the Coleg y Cymoedd allocation. This reflects the agreed transition in previous years whereby learners who would have attended now-closed sixth forms are instead enrolling at the college.

Part-time investment

67. Part-time provision includes Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Preparation for Life and Work (PREP), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), GCSE Resits (GCSE-R), Occupational Qualifications in the workplace (OccQs), Personal Learning Account (PLA), Work Experience Placements (WEP), and Other Local Priorities (OLP). This is delivered to around 62,000 learners predominantly aged 19 or older in AY 2024/25⁶.
68. The unit rate increase of 5.4% has been applied to the AY 2025/26 allocation.
69. Further education institutions are required to meet 97% of their part-time financial target. Any delivery below this level will be reclaimed in full.
70. The part-time allocation to Adult Learning Wales has been increased by £200k, before applying the unit rate adjustment and any uplifts to account for approved increased delivery in 2024/25.

⁶ Data from the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) for the 2024/25 academic year. Some of these learners will also have been funded out of the full-time pot (e.g. FT learners doing GCSE resits).

AY 2026/27 FE provision allocations

71. While there has been a 5.4% increase to the unit rate of funding for AY 2026/27, the average increase in investment for further education institutions (FEIs) is higher at 7.25%. The amount by institution can vary, with any difference attributable to headcount predictions and/ or changes in programme delivery.
72. Information regarding the breakdown of the allocations at an individual college level can be found in **Annex E**.

	AY 2025/26 total allocation £	AY 2026/27 total allocation £	Variation from AY 2025/26 £	Variation %
Bridgend College	21,702,041	23,345,584	1,643,543	7.04
Coleg Sir Gâr	29,530,758	31,027,142	1,496,384	4.82
Coleg Gwent	60,517,392	64,860,346	4,342,954	6.70
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	51,637,537	55,681,812	4,044,275	7.26
The College Merthyr Tydfil	13,682,269	15,180,834	1,498,565	9.87
Pembrokeshire College	17,207,636	18,232,822	1,025,186	5.62
St David's Catholic Sixth Form College	9,824,743	10,608,619	783,876	7.39
Gower College Swansea	37,080,774	39,632,978	2,552,204	6.44
Cardiff and Vale College	52,783,833	55,903,029	3,119,196	5.58
Coleg Cambria	52,934,826	57,929,859	4,995,033	8.62
Coleg y Cymoedd	44,977,993	48,322,922	3,344,929	6.92
NPTC Group of Colleges	34,783,838	36,928,477	2,144,639	5.81
Adult Learning Wales	8,230,114	8,769,923	539,809	6.16
Total	434,893,753	466,424,347	31,530,594	6.76

73. Payments will be made on a monthly basis on the basis of a 63/37% split.

Investment to support increased participation

74. In FY 2025-26 Medr was able to withhold £21.126m for in-year allocation once increased participation had been evidenced. The allocation of this funding can be found in the following publications: [Medr/2026/02: Additional funding to support increased participation in further education institutions and local authorities 2025/26](#) and [Medr/2026/12: Additional funding to support increased participation in further education institutions and local authorities 2025/26](#).
75. Medr is allocating an additional investment of £6.25m, in the FY 2026-27 budget to recognise increased participation numbers in tertiary education within FE. This is to reflect that anticipated recruitment of 16-19 provision will exceed the funding derived using the approved funding methodology.
76. Once evidence has been collated any additional allocations made with this budget will be communicated via a separate publication. In the meantime, the Medr Board has agreed to guarantee the first 1.46% of any evidenced growth to give each 16-19 provider a clear planning assumption.

Core allocations: higher education provision

77. Core investment for higher education is provided to recognise where the costs of delivery are greater than the level of the tuition fee, and to sustain high quality research and innovation activity. Allocations are derived by formulae which have been developed through consultation with higher education providers.
78. We do not require higher education providers to directly replicate our approach when making their own internal allocations. We expect that decisions on detailed resource allocations to departments and courses will be made strategically to reflect local circumstances and priorities and with due regard to the potential impact of allocations in terms of providers' statutory responsibilities, including those for equality and diversity, as well as other Welsh Government priorities.
79. Core investment for higher education, including research and innovation, will continue to be provided as a block grant, with providers able to determine their own priorities in how this is distributed internally.

Investment for research and innovation

Quality Research (QR)

80. The QR component of the recurrent grant rewards sustainable research excellence, using the quality and volume of research as demonstrated by the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 results. For AY 2026/27, the investment set aside for QR is £77.1 million. This is the same as that allocated for AY 2025/26. QR investment is allocated using the method published in the circular [W22/24HE](#) from one of our predecessor bodies, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW).
81. The AY 2026/27 QR allocations are set out by provider in Table 1. A breakdown for each provider by unit of assessment is provided in **Annex A**.

Postgraduate research (PGR) training

82. We operate a separate investment stream to support the training of PGR students. PGR investment is allocated using the method published in HEFCW circular [W22/24HE](#).
83. Investment is within an overall maximum amount agreed by Medr's Board each year and is based on the full-time equivalent (FTE) of the most recent confirmed number of actual enrolments. These are the assumed eligible fundable enrolments in Units of Assessment that qualify for QR investment in AY 2026/27. The FTE enrolment data is taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record returns for AY 2024/25.
84. For AY 2026/27, the Board has set the total investment for PGR at £6.0 million. This is an increase of 2.6% on AY 2025/26. The PGR allocations are set out in Table 1.

Research Wales Innovation Fund (RWIF)

85. The RWIF has been designed to support the range of knowledge exchange activities that result in economic and social impact, including the wider civic mission role of providers. The investment provides support for working with businesses, public and third sector organisations, community bodies and the wider public.
86. RWIF allocations comprise two elements: (i) a capacity grant to support growth and best practice, enable more collaborations and ensure stability across the sector; and (ii) a formula allocation which rewards performance against national measures for innovation set by HEFCW.
87. For AY 2026/27, the Board has set the total investment for RWIF at £15.0 million. This is an increase of 6.0% on AY 2025/26 and represents a return to the RWIF funding level pre-AY 2024/25. Based on the total budget of £15.0 million, the capacity grant is set at £250k per institution, an increase from £236k in AY 2025/26. The maximum allocation which any institution can receive (combined capacity grant and formula) is £4 million per year. The minimum has been set at £400k per institution.
88. Following consultation with the higher education sector, the RWIF formula investment methodology was updated (HEFCW circular [W22/41HE](#)) to more appropriately account for spin-offs and graduate start-ups. The updated method has been used from AY 2023/24 as RWIF moved to a more mature five year cycle (HEFCW circular [W23/12HE](#)). The formula element of the investment calculation is updated annually, using three years of data submitted to the HESA Higher Education Business and Community Interaction (HE-BCI) survey. The AY 2026/27 calculations are based on HE-BCI data returned for AY 2022/23 to AY 2024/25. The years are weighted 2:3:5. Each year providers can see the formula elements of their allocation increase by up to 30% or fall by up to -10%. The fall protection was increased to -5% in AY 2023/24 to ensure stability during the changes to the funding methodology. This has been reviewed annually and has reverted to -10% for AY 2026/27.
89. Allocations are provided in Table 1.

Teaching investment

90. All investment rates used in the calculation of teaching investment for AY 2026/27 are equivalent to those used in AY 2025/26. Changes in recruitment and therefore data included in the calculation of the allocations mean that year on year comparisons of investment allocated for each investment stream can show increases or decreases.

Premium investment – full-time undergraduate (FT UG) provision

91. For AY 2026/27, the expensive subjects premium (ESP) and the higher cost subjects premium are being allocated for FT UG provision. The ESP is allocated in respect of clinical medicine/dentistry and conservatoire performance element provision while the higher cost subjects premium is allocated in respect of non-clinical medicine/dentistry, science, engineering and technology, and mathematical sciences, IT and computing.

92. The ESP allocations are outlined in Table 3 and are based on the two premium rates below, awarded per completed credit value:

Expensive subjects premium:

- Rate 1 - £81.39, applied to clinical medical/dentistry subjects (equivalent to academic subject category (ASC) 1b and 1d)
- Rate 2 - £74.99, applied to conservatoire performance element (performance element provision in ASC 10).

93. These rates of investment are the same as those used in AY 2025/26 investment including the increase to the rate for the conservatoire performance element applied in-year (see Medr publication [Medr/2025/35: Additional 2025-26 in-year funding for performance-based music and drama conservatoire provision](#)).
94. In addition, as has been the case since AY 2019/20, investment for ESP will be capped by limiting the number of credit values that can be used in the calculation. For clinical medicine and dentistry, this is the credit values equivalent to the number of quota clinical places. For conservatoire provision, this is the credit values equivalent to the funded student numbers agreed as part of the special investment arrangement in place, prior to the introduction of the revised tuition fee regime in AY 2012/13. In AY 2022/23, the cap was raised to include additional student numbers at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for musical theatre provision.
95. The allocations for the higher cost subjects premium are outlined in Table 3 and are based on the premium rates below, awarded per completed credit value.
- Higher cost subjects premium:
- Non-clinical medicine/dentistry - £10.79
 - Science, engineering and technology - £6.20
 - Mathematical sciences, IT and computing - £2.90
96. The subjects included in the higher cost subjects premium are those where the cost of provision is estimated to be higher than the average tuition fee assumed received by providers in Wales, according to work done in AY 2019/20. Details of the method used to calculate the original rates of investment are included in HEFCW circular [W18/24HE](#), although it should be noted that the data used in the calculations was updated for implementation in AY 2019/20, and that any rounding of figures was done at the end of the calculation process. No changes have been made to the method for AY 2026/27 investment. Allocations for providers are calculated by multiplying the rate of investment by completed credit values from end of year monitoring data for AY 2024/25 taken from the HESA AY 2024/25 student record, for full-time and sandwich undergraduate provision, with sandwich year out credit values counted at 0.5.
97. FT UG premium and per capita investment for additional medical places is shown separately in Table 5 and not included in Table 3. Paragraphs 123 to 128 below provide further information on the additional medical places.
98. In AY 2023/24, a Welsh-medium premium was introduced in respect of FT UG provision. The premium adds a weighting of 0.5 to the unit of investment used in the expensive and higher cost subjects premiums for FT UG modules undertaken through the medium of Welsh that meet the eligibility criteria for these premiums (see

HEFCW circular [W23/08HE](#)). The allocations to each provider, based on the average of AY 2023/24 and AY 2024/25 HESA credit value data, are set out in Table 3.

Credit-based teaching investment – part-time undergraduate (PT UG) provision

99. We continue to fund PT UG provision in AY 2026/27 through the credit-based teaching investment method, as in AY 2025/26.
100. Credit-based investment for PT UG teaching has been determined using the existing teaching funding method. This was established in 1999 and amended in AY 2011/12 with the removal of the recovery element of the method.
101. Investment allocations are based on funding cells. A funding cell refers to:
 - Level: undergraduate (not franchised-out); undergraduate franchised out;
 - Mode: part-time; and
 - Academic subject category (ASC): ASCs 1a to 11b and ASC 11a, initial teacher education (ITE) leading to qualified teacher status (QTS), split into primary and secondary.
102. The funding allocation in each cell is established by multiplying the number of credit values funded in that cell by our standard unit of investment for the ASC.
103. The units of investment per credit value for each ASC for PT UG in AY 2026/27 are set out in **Annex B**.
104. Total PT UG investment and funded credit value allocations in each cell for each provider are shown in **Annex C**.
105. The PT UG core numbers are determined by the investment model. They are calculated by using funded credits from AY 2025/26 and allocating them to investment cells using both the distribution of funded credits for AY 2025/26 and recruited credit values for AY 2024/25. Recruitment data is taken from the end of year monitoring of higher education enrolments (EYM) survey AY 2024/25 (Medr publication [Medr/2025/07](#)).
106. As in AY 2019/20 to AY 2025/26, growth is included in the credit-based model by converting all fees-only credits into funded credits. Fees-only credits are where providers have recruited credits over those funded in the previous year. This allows for growth in funded credits for some providers and this is included in **Annex C**. Table 2 shows the breakdown between core investment and growth investment.

Premium investment – part-time undergraduate provision

107. The access and retention and the Welsh-medium premium are allocated for part-time undergraduate (PT UG) provision and are set out in Table 2.
 - Welsh-medium premium
 - The Welsh-medium premium adds a weighting of 0.5 to the AY 2026/27 unit of funding for modules undertaken through the medium of Welsh. The allocations to each provider, based on the average of AY 2023/24 and AY 2024/25 HESA credit value data, are set out in Table 2.

- Access and retention premium
 - There are two elements to the access and retention premium allocation for PT UG provision. In terms of access, a premium is awarded in respect of students from areas of low participation in higher education, as defined by the bottom two quintiles of the UK adult higher education measure calculated from 2021 census data; and students from areas of deprivation, as defined by the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (WIMD19). Individual students may attract more than one premium.
 - The second element aims to reward retention. We have allocated a higher rate of investment with respect to continuing students than to students in their first year. The higher rate is also allocated with respect to students on one year courses who complete or partially complete.
 - To recognise that the proportion of widening access students within a provider impacts on the demand for support required, providers have been separated into two bands depending on their recruitment in AY 2024/25 from the bottom two quintiles of WIMD19. Providers where students from deprived areas represent more than 35 per cent of Welsh-domiciled students are in band 1 and receive a higher premium, and those where students from deprived areas represent 35 per cent or less are in band 2 and receive a lower premium.
 - The methodology for the access and retention premium was reviewed as part of stage one of HEFCW's teaching funding review. The review led to changes outlined in HEFCW circular [W22/10HE](#), which were first implemented for AY 2022/23. Individual institutional allocations for AY 2026/27 are detailed in Table 2.

Premium investment – all modes and levels

108. For AY 2026/27, the disability premium is allocated for all modes and levels of study. This is a continuation of the additional investment in order to include all modes and levels of study, implemented in AY 2020/21 (HEFCW circular [W19/33HE](#)).
109. A rate of investment is allocated per eligible student, which are those students recorded as being in receipt of the Disabled Students' Allowance on the HESA student record, and are subject to the minimum 10 credit value study requirement (or 8.3% FTE for PGR students). In AY 2026/27, the rate per student is £425. The allocations are set out in Table 2 for part-time and postgraduate provision and in Table 3 for FT UG provision.

Per capita investment – all taught modes and levels

110. The per capita amount for AY 2026/27 is allocated at a rate of £4.72 per student for all taught modes and levels of study. This ensures investment at some level for all taught students. Payments have been determined on the basis of fundable enrolments according to AY 2024/25 HESA student record data, subject to a minimum 10 credit value study requirement. The amount of per capita funding allocated to each provider is shown in Table 2 for part-time and postgraduate provision and in Table 3 for FT UG provision.

111. Per capita funding for additional medical places is shown separately in Table 5 and not included in Table 3. Paragraphs 123-128 below provide further information on the additional medical places.

Overall teaching investment

112. Tables 2 and 3 show the overall teaching investment. Table 2 shows investment for PT UG credit-based teaching investment along with per capita and premium investment for part-time and postgraduate provision. Table 3 shows per capita and premium investment for FT UG provision.

Part-time fee waiver

113. Our part-time undergraduate (PT UG) fee waiver scheme provides investment to providers that waive fees for PT UG students studying fewer than 30 credits (i.e. below 25% FTE), who meet the scheme eligibility criteria. The scheme publication for AY 2026/27 is expected to be published in summer 2026.
114. £200k is provided to encourage growth in part-time student numbers and allow part-time students to access and benefit from higher education where their intensity of study is less than that covered by student support arrangements.

Open University in Wales strategic investment

115. In AY 2026/27, as in the prior year, we have allocated strategic investment to the Open University in Wales to the value of £605k, the same amount as in AY 2025/26.
116. Table 4 includes the strategic investment for the Open University in Wales.

Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) performance element investment

117. Performance element investment for conservatoire provision is allocated to the University of South Wales for provision at the RWCMD, which is part of the University of South Wales Group. An allocation of £805k to support strategic developments at the RWCMD is provided in addition to the performance element investment provided through the ESP shown in Table 3. For AY 2025/26, the investment was increased in-year to £805k, to consider regional hubs, and so this strategic investment is the same amount as last year.

Overall research and teaching investment

118. Table 4 sets out the allocations to each provider for teaching, research and innovation investment and provides an overall comparison with the investment in AY 2025/26.
119. The change in overall investment year on year for universities ranges from a decrease of 6.7% to an increase of 6.4%, with all but one university having an increase in investment. The range of investment differences are primarily due to differing changes in recruitment of students eligible to be included in investment allocations, plus the increase in RWIF and PGR training investment for AY 2026/27.
120. The AY 2026/27 figures in Table 4 do not include details of the investment for additional medical places. These allocations are provided in Table 5.

121. These allocations do not take account of any potential in-year funding adjustments for FY 2026-27 that may be applied by the Welsh Government. Any such investment adjustments will result in a revision to the individual allocations. In addition, if the FY 2027-28 budget is different to the amount assumed for this allocation, there will be an impact on the resource available in AY 2026/27 and the associated allocations.
122. In order to facilitate some flexibility and collaboration, providers are offered the opportunity to redistribute part-time undergraduate funded credits between providers on a cost neutral basis. Should providers wish to exercise this option, they should jointly inform us of their intentions by 15 September 2026 by emailing hestats@medr.cymru.

Additional medical places

123. From AY 2018/19 additional medical places were funded in Wales, a total of 40 places per cohort - 20 at each of Cardiff University and Swansea University with further cohorts starting in subsequent years. AY 2026/27 is the last year that there are such funded places at Cardiff University as provision in North Wales is now with the North Wales Medical School at Bangor University.
124. As a result of Covid-19, on a non-recurrent basis, additional medical and dental places were allocated. These have all now worked their way through the system and so are no longer included in the places or investment figures.
125. Further places were allocated on a recurrent basis. There was an additional starting cohort of 25 places at Swansea University in AY 2021/22 and another in AY 2022/23, leading to 200 new starters and continuers in Swansea in AY 2026/27. There are no longer any additional recurrent places at Cardiff University in AY 2026/27.
126. The North Wales Medical School based in Bangor University had its first cohort starting in AY 2024/25, with 60 entrants on the five-year direct entry course and 20 entrants on the four year graduate entry course. As well as those students continuing into AY 2026/27 and the new cohort for AY 2026/27 starting, an additional 10 entrants started on the five year direct entry route in each of AY 2025/26 and AY 2026/27.
127. Investment for these places in AY 2026/27, consisting of expensive subject premium (ESP) investment for the clinical part of the course, higher cost subjects premium (HCSP) for the non-clinical part of the course and per capita investment, is shown in Table 5, and not included in Table 3, as the investment for FY 2026-27 for the additional medical places is subject to a separate Welsh Government funding letter allocation. The rates of investment remain at the AY 2023/24 levels. This means that the additional places are funded at higher rates of premium and per capita investment than the core allocations of ESP and HCSP in AY 2026/27.
128. This funding has been confirmed by Welsh Government.

Initial Teacher Education (ITE) leading to qualified teacher status (QTS) - placement investment

129. Additional investment for Initial Teacher Education (ITE) leading to qualified teacher status (QTS) - placements has been included for the first time in AY 2026/27. This is funding from the Welsh Government for universities with ITE (QTS) provision to be used towards the cost of placements. The allocations are based on the number of undergraduate and postgraduate certification in education (PGCE) ITE (QTS) students at secondary and primary level entering or continuing in AY 2024/25, taken from the AY 2024/25 HESA student record, capped at the intake targets for AY 2026/27 and previous years. More information about the intake targets can be found from the [Education Workforce Council](#). The investment is £2,500,000 in total and is shown in Table 6.

Targeted budgets

130. Targeted budgets cover investments that respond to specific policy priorities and Medr's commitments to UK-wide activity. The budget for each area has been set based on existing and anticipated new commitments.
131. In the AY 2025/26 a number of targeted budget lines were merged into a smaller number of strategic pots. In AY 2026/27 almost half of these targeted budget lines will remain. The rest will be incorporated into a central programme budget or merged into a Learner Wellbeing fund.
132. As per the AY 2025/26 each of the high-level strategic budgets have been calculated by adding together existing budget lines.

Further education (The Learner Support and Wellbeing fund)

133. The following budgets have been merged for the AY 2026/27 to a larger Learner Wellbeing fund:
- i) Learner Recovery and Progression
 - ii) Period Dignity
 - iii) Mental health and Wellbeing
 - iv) Financial Contingency Funds and
 - v) Additional Learning Support.
134. This budget will be £49.840m.
135. Providers will be allowed flexibility between each of those lines to ensure best use of the funding to support Learner Wellbeing. Further guidance on the Learner Wellbeing fund will be shared via a separate publication.

Additional Learning Support Investment

136. Additional Learning Support (ALS) investment enables further education providers in Wales to fulfil their responsibilities under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the ALN Code by ensuring learners receive the personalised assistance required within the unified ALN system. It supplements core allocations to help meet the extra costs of supporting individuals with additional learning needs or support needs, whether they are enrolled on mainstream or discrete programmes on a full or part-time basis.
137. Additional Learning Support investment distributes the total ALS budget in proportion to each college's share of mainstream funding. This recognises that where an FEI sees an increase/decrease in learners, it is likely that ALS needs will increase/decrease proportionally.
138. From the total ALS budget, £30,000 is held centrally to support the Independent Living Skills Network facilitated by Colegau Cymru, and a further £100,000 is retained to provide top up funding (Element 3) which provides additional, individually-assigned support for learners from Wales who are studying in an English FEI.

	ALS allocation for AY 2025/26*	Total allocation AY 2026/27 £	Difference from AY 2025/26 allocation £	Percentage difference %
Adult Learning Wales	378,592	391,732	13,140	3.47
Bridgend College	1,017,141	1,066,111	48,970	4.81
Cardiff and Vale College	2,486,295	2,558,705	72,410	2.91
Coleg Cambria	2,440,431	2,607,521	167,090	6.85
Coleg Gwent	2,848,105	2,957,320	109,215	3.83
Coleg Sir Gâr	1,306,494	1,341,108	34,614	2.65
Coleg Y Cymoedd	2,128,167	2,213,526	85,359	4.01
Gower College Swansea	1,735,405	1,808,793	73,388	4.23
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	2,195,553	2,331,423	135,870	6.19
NPTC Group of Colleges	1,508,718	1,571,257	62,539	4.15
Pembrokeshire College	786,316	814,036	27,720	3.53
St David's Catholic Sixth Form College	462,896	485,323	22,427	4.84
The College Merthyr Tydfil	646,887	694,145	47,258	7.31
	19,941,000	20,841,000	900,000	4.51

* Medr confirmed an additional £3.2m of Additional Learning Support (ALS) funding for FE institutions in 2025/26 to support delivery of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) reforms, increasing total ALS funding to £19.941m. The funding covered the period 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026 and was paid as a single instalment in December 2025, in line with existing ALS funding guidance.

139. The Additional Learning Support funding will be paid in two equal instalments of 63% in October 2026 and 37% April 2027.

Further education (Financial Contingency Funds)

140. The Financial Contingency Fund (FCF) provides targeted financial support for eligible learners who may otherwise struggle to access or continue their further education due to financial hardship. Its purpose is to reduce barriers by helping with essential costs such as equipment, childcare, transport, or other necessary expenses so that learners can remain engaged in their studies. The fund prioritises those facing significant financial limitations, including learners from low-income households, those experiencing unexpected financial difficulty, and individuals with additional challenges such as disability or caring responsibilities. Each application is assessed individually to ensure support is distributed fairly and in line with Welsh Government expectations.
141. The Financial Contingency Fund is allocated from an overall budget agreed by the Medr Board, with protected allocations set aside first, then the remaining funds split between learner numbers (25%) and deprivation indicators (75%). Allocations are calculated proportionally using the latest published learner data (full- and part-time) and the number of learners claiming EMA and WGLG, with final figures rounded to the nearest pound. Total allocation for AY 2026/27 is £7,280,000.00; the difference from AY 2025/26 is £400,000.

	Original allocations AY 2025/26 £	Protected allocations £	Total allocations AY 2026/27 £	Difference from 2025/26 £	Percentage difference %
Adult Learning Wales	62,184	62,184	62,184	0.00	0.00
Bridgend College	350,417	0.00	381,857	31,440	8.97
Cardiff and Vale College	945,188	0.00	970,363	25,175	2.66
Coleg Cambria	639,724	0.00	718,076	78,352	12.25
Coleg Gwent	1,010,068	0.00	1,056,786	46,718	4.63
Coleg Sir Gâr	491,172	0.00	486,576	(4,596)	-0.94
Coleg Y Cymoedd	726,839	0.00	770,607	43,768	6.02
Gower College Swansea	673,255	0.00	727,140	53,885	8.00
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	730,344	0.00	756,684	26,340	3.61
Grŵp NPTC Group	517,306	0.00	549,154	31,848	6.16
Pembrokeshire College	256,207	0.00	246,113	(10,094)	-3.94
St David's Catholic Sixth Form College	200,961	0.00	229,008	28,047	13.96
The College Merthyr Tydfil	231,700	0.00	280,817	49,117	21.20
The Open University	33,635	33,635	33,635	0.00	0.00
National Centre for Learning Welsh	11,000	11,000	11,000	0.00	0.00
	6,880,000	106,819	7,280,000	400,000	5.81

142. The Financial Contingency Fund will be paid 40% in August 2026, 30% in December 2026 and 30% in April 2027.

Period dignity

143. Period dignity investment supports further education institutions to provide free and dignified access to period products for learners and members of the college community, with priority given to individuals from low-income households. Investment is primarily intended for the purchase and distribution of period products, with defined limits for associated administration, training and awareness activity, and a requirement to prioritise environmentally sustainable options.
144. Allocations are calculated from the total budget agreed by Medr and distributed to institutions in line with their mainstream investment for the forthcoming academic year. Expenditure is subject to monitoring and end-of-year reporting through the Financial Contingency Fund arrangements.

	Final AY 2025/26 £	Final AY 2026/27 £	Variation from AY 2025/26 £	Percentage difference %
Adult Learning Wales	11,550	11,834	284	2.40
Bridgend College	25,716	25,785	69	0.27
Cardiff and Vale College	61,583	60,727	(856)	-1.41
Coleg Cambria	61,458	62,642	1,184	1.89
Coleg Gwent	71,220	70,784	(436)	-0.62
Coleg Sir Gâr	33,680	33,109	(571)	-1.72
Coleg Y Cymoedd	51,579	51,302	(277)	-0.54
Gower College Swansea	42,560	42,354	(206)	-0.49
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	55,723	56,541	818	1.45
NPTC Group of Colleges	38,419	38,327	(92)	-0.24
Pembrokeshire College	20,193	19,981	(212)	-1.06
St David's Catholic Sixth Form College	10,806	10,758	(48)	-0.45
The College Merthyr Tydfil	15,513	15,856	343	2.16
	500,000	500,000	0	0.13

145. Period Dignity will all be paid in a one-off payment in August 2026.

Mental health and wellbeing

146. Mental health and wellbeing investment enables further and higher education institutions to provide activities and interventions that support staff and learner mental health and wellbeing.

147. Further and higher education institutions individual allocations and national project investment will be included in future guidance and subject to monitoring reporting.

148. The targeted budget incorporates the following existing allocations:

Activity	Description	Budget £ million	Institutional allocations
Wellbeing and health further education	Allocated to support wellbeing and health, including mental health in FE	4.050	Subject to a later publication
Wellbeing and health higher education	Allocated to support wellbeing and health, including mental health in HE.	4.350	Subject to a later publication
Wellbeing and mental health project/s (HE and FE)	Allocated to support national wellbeing and mental health projects	2.026	Subject to a later publication

149. For an AY 65% paid in March/April 2027 and 35% paid in July/August 2027, following subject to monitoring reporting.

Learner Recovery and Progression (LRP)

150. Learner Recovery and Progression is invested to enable local authority sixth forms and further education institutions to provide additional learning hours for learners. This additional investment recognises that learners will have experienced disruption as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, learners may require further support and guidance to help safeguard their wellbeing, develop their resilience and successfully achieve their qualifications.

151. Allocations remain the same as 2025/26 and are shown in the table below.

College	AY 2026/27 £
Bridgend College	419,586
Coleg Sir Gâr	516,455
Coleg Gwent	1,165,073
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	946,392
The College Merthyr Tydfil	275,700
Pembrokeshire College	316,061
St David's Catholic Sixth Form College	202,054
Gower College Swansea	661,731
Cardiff and Vale College	858,871
Coleg Cambria	1,023,827
Coleg y Cymoedd	776,159
NPTC Group of Colleges	598,439
Adult Learning Wales	0
Total	7,760,348

Local authority	AY 2026/27 £
Isle of Anglesey County Council	70,720
Gwynedd Council	95,093
Conwy County Borough Council	150,000
Denbighshire County Council	105,669
Flintshire County Council	128,971
Wrexham County Borough Council	34,816
Powys County Council	123,293
Ceredigion County Council	91,296
Pembrokeshire County Council	73,319
Carmarthenshire County Council	175,865
Swansea City and County Council	166,473
Neath Port Talbot Council	52,319
Bridgend County Borough Council	204,086
Vale of Glamorgan Council	200,394
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	286,917
Caerphilly County Borough Council	96,704

Torfaen County Borough Council	13,462
Monmouthshire County Council	107,137
Newport City Council	203,871
Cardiff Council	422,256
Total	2,802,661

Total LRP Investment	£10,563,009
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152. Learner Recovery and Progression will all be paid in two instalments - 63% in August 2026 and 37% in April 2027.

Access and wellbeing

153. The targeted budget incorporates the following existing allocations:

Activity	Description	Budget £ million	Institutional allocations
Reaching Wider (HE)	Allocated to three regional partnerships (consisting of universities, schools and colleges) for activity to increase HE participation from underrepresented and priority groups by raising educational aspirations and skills.	2.000	Subject to a later publication
Mentoring support (HE)	Allocated via Reaching Wider for a scheme which enables HE students to mentor learners in school sixth forms and colleges.	0.500	Subject to a later publication
Race equality (HE and FE)	Supports tertiary providers in activity intended to create an anti-racist Wales.	1.500	Subject to a later publication
Year 11 transition (FE and school sixth forms)	This investment is used to encourage collaboration between post-16 providers to increase awareness of all learner pathways available before 16 year olds make a decision about their next step in education.	3.000	Subject to a later publication
Enhancement fund	This investment supports collaboration across higher education institutions to share best practice in equality, diversity and inclusion	0.025	N/A
Total		7.025	

154. Previously, these projects have been funded at a total of £7.025 million. For AY 2026/27 we are maintaining investment levels in line with the cash flat budget provided.

Employability and skills

155. This targeted budget incorporates the following existing allocations:

Activity	Description	Budget £ million	Institutional allocations
Targeted Employability Support (HE)	Enables higher education providers to provide student-led employability support to students from under-represented groups and/or from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Activity is focused on students furthest from the labour market, to help equip them to effect a positive outcome when they graduate.	2.000	Subject to a later publication
Employment bureau (FE)	Supports learners by providing advice and guidance and developing employability and enterprise skills, with the aim of delivering positive employment outcomes for learners by working with employers in the region.	0.960	Subject to a later publication
Employability development fund (HE/FE)	Supports cross-sector activity to improve how providers ensure that learners are prepared to enter the workforce.	0.045	Subject to a separate grant award
Total		3.005	

156. Previously, these projects have been funded at a total of £3.005 million. For AY 2026/27 we are maintaining investment levels in line with the cash flat budget provided.

Research and innovation

157. For AY 2026/27 this targeted budget is £2,000,000. This will continue to fund the following existing activities. In addition, it will allow for the extension of activities to incorporate parts of the tertiary sector beyond universities and to build on successful pilot schemes.

Activity	Description	Budget £ million	Institutional allocations
Research Excellence Framework (REF) (HE)	Medr's contribution to the costs of developing and running the UK-wide periodic exercise to assess the quality of research.	0.302	Subject to a separate grant award
Learned Society of Wales (HE)	Investment to Wales's national academy for activity building and strengthening research capability, and development support at all career levels.	0.357	Subject to a separate grant award
Wales Innovation Network (WIN) (HE)	WIN supports collaboration and capacity building, focused on increasing Wales's competitiveness in research and innovation.	0.364	Subject to a separate grant award

Activity	Description	Budget £ million	Institutional allocations
UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Concordat Co-ordination (HE)	Medr's contribution to the costs of supporting the UK-wide research and innovation concordats	0.003	Subject to a separate grant award
National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) (HE)	Medr's contribution to the costs of UK-wide activity promoting and improving public engagement with research.	0.017	Subject to a separate grant award
Welsh Higher Education Brussels (WHEB) (HE)	Co-funded with the universities, WHEB raises the profile of Wales and supports network building for European research funding programmes.	0.060	Subject to a separate grant award
Universities UK International (UUKi) (HE)	Medr's contribution to the costs of UK-wide activity to promote UK higher education and research globally.	0.028	Subject to a separate grant award
Welsh Crucible (HE)	Co-funded with partner universities, a development programme for future research leaders.	0.021	Subject to a separate grant award
The Conversation (HE)	Investment for a Welsh editorial team within the UK wide initiative to raise the global visibility and impact of Welsh research.	0.050	Subject to a separate grant award
University of Wales Press (HE)	Investment supports publications related to the culturally important field of Wales Studies, with an emphasis on making these open access so they can be available to all.	0.200	Subject to a separate grant award
Wales Graduate School for Social Sciences (HE)	Enables training and development activity offered through the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership to be offered on a Wales-wide basis.	0.060	Subject to a separate grant award
Lles Welsh Hub for Doctoral Focal Awards in the Arts and Humanities (HE)	Enables training and development activity for PhD students through the Arts and Humanities Research Council to be offered on a Wales-wide basis	0.060	Subject to a separate grant award
Civic Mission Networks (FE/HE)	Funds three regional partnerships (RCEPs) and pan Wales civic mission activities to improve coordinated civic partnership working across the tertiary education sector to meet the needs of local communities.	0.093	Subject to a separate grant award
Wales Research Environment and Culture (WREC) fund (HE)	Investment for universities and for collaborative activity to support building of positive research and innovation cultures.	0.250	Subject to a later publication
Additional tertiary activity	Other activity, including the broader tertiary sector	0.139	Subject to a later publication
Total		2.000	

Learner and workforce

158. This targeted budget incorporates the following existing allocations:

Activity	Description	Budget £ million	Institutional allocations
Professional learning	Investment for professional learning to support further education teaching and learning support staff; investment to explore and develop professional learning and leadership initiatives for the tertiary sector as a whole	5.140	Subject to a later publication
Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) incentives (FE)	Investment to incentivise uptake of the PGCE (FE) qualification to create a pipeline of talent entering the further education workforce.	0.360	Subject to separate grant awards
Digital learning revenue funding (HE, FE and apprenticeships)	Investment to support the development of digital capability and innovation, including use of artificial intelligence (AI).	0.845	Subject to a later publication and grant awards
Public information (HE)	Medr's contribution to the UK-wide costs of the National Student Survey (NSS) and the Discover Uni website.	0.200	Subject to separate grant award
Learning and Work Institute	Investment to develop and implement continuous improvement activities as they relate to learner experience, particularly in the areas of adult community learning (ACL) and English for Speakers of Other languages (ESOL).	0.250	Subject to separate grant award
Total		6.795	

159. For AY 2025/26 Medr is maintaining investment levels in line with the cash flat budget provided.

Data and technology

160. This targeted budget incorporates the following existing allocations:

Activity	Description	Budget £ million	Institutional allocations
Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) (HE)	Medr's contribution to costs of UK-wide data collection.	0.047	Subject to separate grant award
Transformation of HESA data collection (HE)	Medr's contribution to costs of UK-wide data collection.	0.100	Subject to separate grant award
Jisc	Investment for network connectivity and technology-related developments, and Medr's contribution to the costs of a UK-wide post which provides expertise to support the funding bodies in working with Jisc.	3.353	Subject to separate grant award
Total		3.500	

161. Previously, these projects have been funded at a total of £3,500,470. For AY 2026/27 we are maintaining investment levels in line with the cash flat budget provided.

Central Programme Budget

162. In scrutinising our targeted budgets it was identified that a number of the budgets allow Medr teams to pilot small scale activity, procure evaluation activity and initiate new activity. In order to ensure these budgets deliver against our strategic plan, but also to ensure any potential underspend is quickly repurposed into tertiary provision, they have been grouped into a separate Central Programme Budget line.

Medr strategic developments

163. The strategic development fund will continue again in AY 2026/27, however, the budget has been reduced to £500k, and funding has redistributed to support 16-19 participation and RWIF. We are currently working through how this will work in 2026/27 and a publication will be released in due course.

Terms and payment of grant and data sources

Terms of grant

Apprenticeships

164. The basis on which core investment is provided is set out in your AY 2025/26 contract.

Local authority provision (school sixth forms and adult community learning (ACL))

165. The basis on which core investment is provided is set out in your AY 2026/27 Terms and Conditions of Grant.

Further education provision

166. The basis on which core investment is provided is set out in Terms and Conditions of Grant Funding between Medr and individual providers, The Terms and Conditions of Grant Funding for AY 2026/27 will be issued no later than the end of July 2026.
167. Medr may adjust the funding awarded to institutions at the end of the AY 2026/27 to take account of under-recruitment against the part-time allocations and other strategic budgets as per any additional guidance. Any under-delivery will be reclaimed following the audit of Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) 2026/27 data as of the September 2027 freeze.
168. Similar monitoring and reclaim will apply to Additional Learner Support (ALS) funding and Financial Contingency Fund investment.

Higher education provision

169. The basis on which investment is being provided to HE providers is set out in Medr's Terms and Conditions of Grant. The Terms and Conditions of Grant for AY 2026/27 will be issued no later than the end of July 2026.
170. Medr may adjust the funding awarded to institutions at the end of AY 2026/27 to take account of under-recruitment against the part-time undergraduate (PT UG) funded numbers allocated through the PT UG credit based investment. Medr will monitor achievement of funded numbers using the actual credits completed at the end of the year.
171. There will be a leeway of 1% for under-recruitment on the total funded numbers for PT UG credit-based investment. As in prior years, investment adjustments for AY 2026/27 that are below a threshold of the lesser of £50,000 or 10% of the total teaching allocations (including per capita, premium and FT UG funding), or an alternative threshold as agreed by Medr, will not be applied. If the under-recruitment gives rise to an investment adjustment above the threshold, the threshold will be deducted from the total investment adjustment amount.

Data sources

Local authority sixth form:

172. Local authority sixth form allocations have been derived using data from the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) censuses to inform headcount predictions, alongside data from the Post-16 Data Collection (P16DC) for the academic year 2023/24 to calculate average programme values.

Local authority ACL:

173. Local authority ACL allocations have been derived using ONS data using Nomis Data DC5107EWLA from the 2011 census.

Further education college:

174. Individual college allocations have been derived using the data from the 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 PLASC censuses, alongside learner number data from LLWR for the academic years 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 to inform headcount predictions. LLWR programme data from 2024/25 is used to calculate average programme values.

Higher education:

175. The data used for investment allocations has been provided and checked by providers. Amendments have been allowed to data used in calculations given that a new HESA student record was introduced in AY 2022/23 and changes to the data collection are still being embedded.
176. The data for credit-based investment for teaching has been taken from end of year monitoring data extracted by Medr from the HESA student record for AY 2024/25.
177. Per capita allocations and premium allocations have been based on the HESA AY 2024/25 student record data.
178. Welsh-medium premium allocations have been based on the average of AY 2023/24 and AY 2024/25 HESA student record credit value data.
179. Calculations for PGR training investment have been based on AY 2024/25 HESA student record data.
180. The data for Quality Research has been taken from the returns to, and the outcomes of, REF 2021 and the AY 2019/20 to AY 2021/22 HESA finance record.
181. Calculations for the Research Wales Innovation Fund have been based on AY 2022/23 to 2024/25 HESA HE-BCI survey data, AY 2022/23 to AY 2024/25 HESA staff record data, and for the Open University in Wales, AY 2022/23 to AY 2024/25 HESA student record data.
182. Investment calculations for targeted employability support, race equality and wellbeing and health have been based on AY 2024/25 HESA student record data.

Payment of grant

183. In AY 2026/27, the majority of providers can expect payment to align with previous year profiles. For funding for higher education provision, payment profiles have been amended to a 60:40 split of investment for core recurrent allocations with 60% of investment paid in August 2026, and 40% paid in April 2027.
184. Should there be budget changes or cash management constraints (eg Medr's carry forward limit from one FY to the next), we may require a profile to be adjusted in-year. Prior written notification will be given to providers should this occur.

Assessing the impact of our policies

185. Medr's investment includes recurrent funding and strategic funding. The recurrent investment methods used for AY 2026/27 are based on historic methodology. As investment methods are reviewed, we carry out an impact assessment screening to help safeguard against discrimination and promote equality. We also consider the impact of policies on the Welsh language, and Welsh language provision within the higher education sector in Wales and potential impacts towards the goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 including our Well-being Objectives. Contact wa.inclusion@medr.cymru for more information about impact assessments. Providers should carry out their own impact assessments to inform decision making on internal distribution of their Medr investment.

Summary tables and annexes

The summary tables that follow are:

Table 1	Research and innovation investment AY 2026/27
Table 2	Teaching investment allocations for part-time and postgraduate taught provision AY 2026/27
Table 3	Teaching investment allocations for full-time undergraduate provision AY 2026/27
Table 4	Investment comparison AY 2025/26 and AY 2026/27
Table 5	Additional medical places investment AY 2025/26 and AY 2026/27
Table 6	Initial teacher education (ITE) leading to qualified teacher status (QTS) - placement investment AY 2026/27

Detailed breakdowns are given in:

Annex A	QR allocations AY 2026/27 by provider, by unit of assessment
Annex B	Units of investment AY 2026/27
Annex C	Part-time undergraduate credit based teaching investment and funded credit values AY 2026/27 by provider, by academic subject category (ASC)
Annex D	Local authority sixth form allocations
Annex E	Further education allocations

Table 1: Research and innovation investment AY 2026/27

Provider	Allocations AY 2026/27 (£)			
	QR	PGR	RWIF	Total ⁽¹⁾
University of South Wales	2,573,057	314,908	1,291,082	4,179,047
Aberystwyth University	5,885,270	532,143	1,435,149	7,852,562
Bangor University	7,222,947	962,788	2,096,368	10,282,103
Cardiff University	44,318,575	2,493,163	2,510,578	49,322,316
University of Wales Trinity Saint David ⁽²⁾	612,055	113,974	1,638,842	2,364,871
Swansea University	14,244,731	1,248,950	3,072,010	18,565,691
Cardiff Metropolitan University	2,083,933	328,921	1,249,886	3,662,740
Wrexham University	139,158	46,612	1,076,708	1,262,478
Open University in Wales			629,377	629,377
Total ⁽¹⁾	77,079,726	6,041,459	15,000,000	98,121,185

⁽¹⁾ Totals may not sum exactly due to rounding.

⁽²⁾ University of Wales Trinity Saint David includes University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies.

Table 2: Teaching investment allocations for part-time and postgraduate taught provision AY 2026/27

Provider	Allocations AY 2026/27 (£)							
	Credit based allocations for part-time UG			Per capita ⁽²⁾	Access and retention premium ⁽¹⁾	Welsh-medium premium ⁽¹⁾	Disability premium ⁽¹⁾	Total ⁽³⁾
	Core	Growth	Total					
University of South Wales	3,068,825		3,068,825	19,678	712,299	8,977	134,300	3,944,078
Aberystwyth University	370,226	126,741	496,967	8,180	110,366	3,500	49,725	668,737
Bangor University	168,353		168,353	5,593	21,669	1,764	68,850	266,230
Cardiff University	936,529	55,704	992,233	22,288	302,645	2,099	86,700	1,405,966
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	1,016,973		1,016,973	6,112	223,200	23,145	69,275	1,338,705
Swansea University	167,293	0	167,293	7,788	81,817	124	114,750	371,772
Cardiff Metropolitan University	298,915	25,119	324,035	6,863	155,723	902	46,750	534,272
Wrexham University	1,182,304	20,282	1,202,586	8,977	277,241	3,270	40,375	1,532,449
Open University in Wales	15,329,602	846,957	16,176,559	76,488	6,875,755	19,539	192,525	23,340,866
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	952,723	0	952,723	2,794	91,028	98,272	3,825	1,148,643
NPTC Group of Colleges	113,276		113,276	340	31,945			145,561
Gower College Swansea	11,340	1,134	12,474	146	6,047	0	0	18,667
Coleg Cambria		3,680	3,680	5	870			4,555
Total⁽³⁾	23,616,359	1,079,617	24,695,977	165,252	8,890,606	161,592	807,075	34,720,501

⁽¹⁾ The Access and retention premium and the Welsh-medium premium are allocated for PT UG only. The disability premium is allocated for PT UG, FT & PT PGT and FT & PT PGR.

⁽²⁾ Per capita includes PT UG, PT PGT and FT PGT.

⁽³⁾ Totals may not sum exactly due to rounding.

Table 3: Teaching investment allocations for full-time undergraduate provision AY 2026/27

Provider	Allocations AY 2026/27 (£)					
	Per capita	Expensive subjects premium	Higher cost subjects premium	Welsh-medium premium	Disability premium	Total ⁽¹⁾
University of South Wales	36,811	4,809,109	2,119,942	530	395,675	7,362,067
Aberystwyth University	24,591		1,652,549	13,784	297,075	1,987,999
Bangor University	20,409		1,920,244	20,354	243,525	2,204,533
Cardiff University	88,863	10,548,144	4,880,352	161,386	444,975	16,123,720
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	18,908		427,638	5,882	187,425	639,854
Swansea University	53,072	2,304,354	3,769,579	19,407	387,600	6,534,011
Cardiff Metropolitan University	36,740		2,187,073	15,283	268,175	2,507,272
Wrexham University	7,094		299,083	375	102,850	409,403
Open University in Wales						
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	1,090		20,398	1,096	7,225	29,809
NPTC Group of Colleges	132		10,548		850	11,530
Gower College Swansea	0				0	0
Coleg Cambria	184		20,016	0		20,200
Total ⁽¹⁾	287,896	17,661,607	17,307,422	238,096	2,335,375	37,830,397

⁽¹⁾ Totals may not sum exactly due to rounding.

Table 4: Investment comparison AY 2025/26 and AY 2026/27

HE institutions	Allocations AY 2025/26 (£)								Allocations AY 2026/27 (£)								Change AY 2025/26 to AY 2026/27 (£)	% difference AY 2025/26 to AY 2026/27 (£)
	PT UG credit based	PT and PGT per capita and premiums ⁽¹⁾	FT UG per capita and premiums ⁽²⁾ (£)	QR ⁽³⁾	PGR	RWIF	Strategic investment and additional performance element investment ⁽⁴⁾ (£)	Total AY 2025/26 ⁽³⁾	PT UG credit based	PT and PGT per capita and premiums ⁽¹⁾	FT UG per capita and premiums ⁽²⁾	QR ⁽³⁾	PGR	RWIF	Strategic investment and additional performance element investment ⁽⁴⁾ (£)	Total AY 2026/27 ⁽³⁾		
University of South Wales	3,259,089	803,861	7,079,609	2,573,057	451,392	1,180,524	805,240	16,152,773	3,068,825	875,253	7,362,067	2,573,057	314,908	1,291,082	805,240	16,290,432	137,659	0.9%
Aberystwyth University	370,216	126,935	1,821,753	5,885,270	509,726	1,405,551		10,119,452	496,967	171,770	1,987,999	5,885,270	532,143	1,435,149		10,509,298	389,846	3.9%
Bangor University	224,744	107,202	2,189,366	7,222,947	900,284	1,955,457		12,599,999	168,353	97,877	2,204,533	7,222,947	962,788	2,096,368		12,752,866	152,867	1.2%
Cardiff University	936,505	392,956	15,547,251	44,318,575	2,232,625	2,241,255		65,669,167	992,233	413,732	16,123,720	44,318,575	2,493,163	2,510,578		66,852,002	1,182,834	1.8%
University of Wales Trinity Saint David ⁽⁵⁾	1,185,902	317,335	652,142	612,055	110,436	1,779,085		4,656,955	1,016,973	321,733	639,854	612,055	113,974	1,638,842		4,343,430	-313,525	-6.7%
Swansea University	235,813	173,070	6,460,001	14,244,731	1,395,663	2,891,286		25,400,565	167,293	204,479	6,534,011	14,244,731	1,248,950	3,072,010		25,471,475	70,910	0.3%
Cardiff Metropolitan University	298,910	158,104	2,404,305	2,083,933	238,870	1,118,823		6,302,946	324,035	210,238	2,507,272	2,083,933	328,921	1,249,886		6,704,284	401,338	6.4%
Wrexham University	1,182,304	279,235	405,543	139,158	46,811	1,055,912		3,108,964	1,202,586	329,863	409,403	139,158	46,612	1,076,708		3,204,330	95,367	3.1%
Open University in Wales	15,329,568	6,969,243				527,756	605,128	23,431,695	16,176,559	7,164,307				629,377	605,128	24,575,371	1,143,676	4.9%
Total ⁽³⁾	23,023,051	9,327,941	36,559,971	77,079,726	5,885,809	14,155,650	1,410,368	167,442,515	23,613,824	9,789,252	37,768,858	77,079,726	6,041,459	15,000,000	1,410,368	170,703,486	3,260,971	1.9%

FE Institutions	Allocations AY 2025/26 (£)								Allocations AY 2026/27 (£)								Change AY 2025/26 to AY 2026/27 (£)	% difference AY 2025/26 to AY 2026/27 (£)
	PT UG credit based	PT and PGT per capita and premiums ⁽¹⁾	FT UG per capita and premiums ⁽²⁾ (£)	QR ⁽³⁾	PGR	RWIF	Strategic investment and additional performance element investment ⁽⁴⁾ (£)	Total AY 2025/26 ⁽³⁾	PT UG credit based	PT and PGT per capita and premiums ⁽¹⁾	FT UG per capita and premiums ⁽²⁾	QR ⁽³⁾	PGR	RWIF	Strategic investment and additional performance element investment ⁽⁴⁾ (£)	Total AY 2026/27 ⁽³⁾		
Gŵp Llandrillo Menai	956,995	199,295	32,980					1,189,270	952,723	195,920	29,809					1,178,452	-10,819	-0.9%
NPTC Group of Colleges	132,124	37,226	16,845					186,194	113,276	32,285	11,530					157,091	-29,104	-15.6%
Gower College Swansea	11,340	7,208						18,548	12,474	6,193						18,667	119	0.6%
Coleg Cambria ⁽⁷⁾		217	16,800					17,017	3,680	875	20,200					24,755	7,738	45.5%
Total ⁽³⁾	1,100,459	243,946	66,625	0	0	0	0	1,411,030	1,082,153	235,273	61,539	0	0	0	0	1,378,965	-32,065	-2.3%

Total HEIs and FEIs ⁽³⁾	24,123,510	9,571,887	36,626,596	77,079,726	5,885,809	14,155,650	1,410,368	168,853,545	24,695,977	10,024,525	37,830,397	77,079,726	6,041,459	15,000,000	1,410,368	172,082,451	3,228,906	1.9%
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⁽¹⁾ Premiums consist of the access and retention premium (PT UG), the Welsh-medium premium (PT UG) and the disability premium (PT UG, FT & PT PGT and FT & PT PGR).

⁽²⁾ FT UG premium allocations are the expensive subjects premium, the higher cost subjects premium, the Welsh-medium premium and the disability premium.

⁽³⁾ Totals may not sum exactly due to rounding.

⁽⁴⁾ We have allocated strategic investment to the Open University in Wales for a further year for AY 2026/27. Additional performance element investment is allocated to the University of South Wales in respect of the performance element provision at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

⁽⁵⁾ University of Wales Trinity Saint David includes University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies.

⁽⁶⁾ Investment for performance element provision allocated through the expensive subject premium, and additional performance element investment, allocated for the University of South Wales, increased in AY 2025/26 after the allocations were published. The updated figures are presented here. Further details are available in Medr publication [Medr/2025/35: Additional 2025-26 in-year funding for performance-based music and drama conservatoire provision](#).

⁽⁷⁾ Coleg Cambria is allocated investment for HE provision from AY 2025/26 as the college now has a fee and access plan. Further details can be found in Medr publication: [Medr/2026/05 Core higher education teaching funding allocations for Coleg Cambria 2025/26](#).

Table 5: Additional medical places investment AY 2025/26 and AY 2026/27

Provider	Allocations AY 2025/26 (£)				Allocations AY 2026/27 (£)				% difference AY 2025/26 to AY 2026/27
	Expensive subjects premium	Higher cost subjects premium	Per capita	Total ⁽²⁾	Expensive subjects premium	Higher cost subjects premium	Per capita	Total ⁽²⁾	
Cardiff University ⁽¹⁾	358,110	30,724	285	389,119	130,410	11,521	105	142,036	-63%
Swansea University	2,716,875	120,015	1,400	2,838,290	2,716,875	120,015	1,400	2,838,290	0%
Bangor University	1,097,100	87,782	850	1,185,732	1,738,800	139,903	1,350	1,880,053	59%
Total ⁽²⁾	4,172,085	238,521	2,535	4,413,141	4,586,085	271,440	2,855	4,860,380	10%

Notes: Included for Cardiff University and Swansea University is investment for the additional medical places that have been allocated each year since AY 2018/19 and the additional recurrent medical places allocated in AY 2021/22 and AY 2022/23. Unless otherwise stated, places for Cardiff University are for 5-year courses and places for Swansea University are for 4-year courses. For Bangor University, recurrent investment allocations started in AY 2024/25 for the North Wales Medical School, with additional places allocated for AY 2025/26 and AY 2026/27. These consist of:

Medical Recurrent:

AY 2018/19 start – 20 places at Swansea University

AY 2021/22 start – 25 places at Swansea University; 22 places at Cardiff University (penultimate cohort of AY 2018/19 additional numbers)

AY 2022/23 start – 25 places at Swansea University; 21 places at Cardiff University (final cohort of AY 2018/19 additional numbers)

AY 2024/25 start – 60 places (5-year course) and 20 places (4-year course) at Bangor University (North Wales Medical School)

AY 2025/26 start – 10 places (5-year course) at Bangor University (North Wales Medical School)

AY 2026/27 start – 10 places (5-year course) at Bangor University (North Wales Medical School)

⁽¹⁾ Funded places for Cardiff University for AY 2025/26 have been revised down since the publication of allocations for AY 2025/26 and therefore the investment allocation shown here for AY 2025/26 is lower than that previously published.

⁽²⁾ Totals may not sum due to rounding

Table 6: Initial Teacher Education (ITE) leading to qualified teacher status (QTS) - placement investment AY 2026/27

Provider	Allocations AY 2026/27 (£)
University of South Wales	180,199
Bangor University	433,927
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	500,207
Swansea University	159,486
Cardiff Metropolitan University	950,704
Open University in Wales	275,476
Total ⁽¹⁾	2,500,000

⁽¹⁾ Totals may not sum due to rounding

Annex A: QR allocations AY 2026/27 by provider, by Unit of Assessment

Unit of Assessment		Provider (£)								Total ⁽¹⁾ (£)
		University of South Wales	Aberystwyth University	Bangor University	Cardiff University	University of Wales Trinity Saint David ⁽²⁾	Swansea University	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Wrexham University	
1	Clinical Medicine				5,552,632					5,552,632
2	Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care						197,082			197,082
3	Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy	353,953		885,939	5,009,487		2,572,190	360,421		9,181,990
4	Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience		126,940	782,484	5,203,808		495,177			6,608,408
5	Biological Sciences				3,905,519					3,905,519
6	Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science		2,258,620							2,258,620
7	Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences	129,655		3,022,549	1,478,960		1,078,862			5,710,027
8	Chemistry				1,390,964		466,046			1,857,010
9	Physics		219,132		1,889,239		660,676			2,769,048
10	Mathematical Sciences	128,448	151,900		1,162,981		627,083			2,070,412
11	Computer Science and Informatics	144,701	689,130		1,489,987		875,813			3,199,632
12	Engineering	447,746		587,488	3,407,284		3,227,307		79,639	7,749,463
13	Architecture, Built Environment and Planning				1,023,114					1,023,114
14	Geography and Environmental Studies		765,872		1,008,572		716,418			2,490,862
15	Archaeology				449,117					449,117
16	Economics and Econometrics									0
17	Business and Management Studies	65,274	149,540	246,486	3,409,155		723,748	157,483		4,751,686
18	Law		227,528		1,089,862		243,818			1,561,208
19	Politics and International Studies		343,120		616,132		222,584			1,181,837
20	Social Work and Social Policy	239,523					376,223		59,520	675,266
21	Sociology			347,565	1,110,664					1,458,229

Unit of Assessment		Provider (£)								Total ⁽¹⁾ (£)
		University of South Wales	Aberystwyth University	Bangor University	Cardiff University	University of Wales Trinity Saint David ⁽²⁾	Swansea University	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Wrexham University	
22	Anthropology and Development Studies									0
23	Education				873,804	55,434		101,668		1,030,906
24	Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism	200,435		567,081			426,896	845,210		2,039,621
25	Area Studies									0
26	Modern Languages and Linguistics		211,557	490,468	702,475	168,219	254,188			1,826,907
27	English Language and Literature	106,361	94,991	292,888	1,542,087		513,058			2,549,385
28	History	75,752	169,408		748,129		567,562			1,560,850
29	Classics									0
30	Philosophy									0
31	Theology and Religious Studies					215,556				215,556
32	Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory		131,358			172,848		619,151		923,357
33	Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies	A 575,895 B 105,315	346,174		407,780					1,435,163
34	Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management				846,823					846,823
	Total ⁽¹⁾	2,133,099	5,885,270	7,222,947	44,318,575	612,055	14,244,731	2,083,933	139,158	77,079,726

⁽¹⁾ Totals may not sum exactly due to rounding

⁽²⁾ University of Wales Trinity Saint David includes University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies.

Multiple submissions: **University of South Wales** UoA 32 A – Faculty of Creative Industries, University of South Wales, B – Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

Annex B: Units of Investment AY 2026/27

Part-time undergraduate credit based teaching

Academic Subject Category		Unit of investment £ per credit value
1	Medicine and Dentistry	38.94
2	Subjects and Professions Allied to Medicine	26.98
3	Science	30.67
4	Engineering and Technology	34.52
5	Built Environment	27.35
6	Mathematical Sciences, IT & Computing	24.20
7	Business and Management	15.12
8	Social Sciences	13.41
9	Humanities	19.03
10	Art, Design and Performing Arts	23.78
11a	Education: Initial Teacher Training (QTS)	27.41
11b	Education: Non-QTS	23.22

Note: The units of investment shown here have been used in the calculation of the credit based investment allocations for part-time undergraduate provision and in the calculation of the Welsh-medium premium, in Table 2 and Annex C.

Full-time undergraduate expensive subjects premium

Academic Subject Category		Unit of investment £ per credit value
1b, 1d	Clinical Medicine and Dentistry	81.39
10 (performance element)	Art, Design and Performing Arts	74.99

Note: The units of investment shown here have been used in the calculation of the expensive subjects premium and in the calculation of the Welsh-medium premium, in Table 3.

Full-time undergraduate higher cost subjects premium

Academic Subject Category		Unit of investment £ per credit value
1a, 1c	Non-clinical Medicine and Dentistry	10.79
3, 4	Science & Engineering and Technology	6.20
6	Mathematical Sciences, IT and Computing	2.90

Note: The units of investment shown here have been used in the calculation of the higher cost subjects premium and in the calculation of the Welsh-medium premium, in Table 3.

Additional medical places

Academic Subject Category		Unit of investment £ per credit value
Expensive subjects premium	1b, 1d Clinical Medicine and Dentistry	86.25
Higher cost subjects premium	1a, 1c Non-clinical Medicine and Dentistry	11.43

Note: The units of investment shown here have been used in the calculation of the expensive subjects premium and higher cost subjects premium, in Table 5.

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2 Cwr y Ddinas
Stryd Tyndall
Caerdydd
CF10 4BZ

2 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ



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