

A guide to higher  
education in Wales

# International



## Wales attracts around 22,000 international students annually and is a destination of choice for researchers from across the globe.

International students and staff enrich the student experience, enhance learning and teaching, and help to make Welsh graduates more prepared for work.

International students contribute significantly to Wales' economic as well as cultural prosperity.

Universities generate around £661 million of export earnings per year, which is equivalent to 11.8% of all Welsh service sector exports, creating around 12,000 jobs and supporting tourism. This helps drive local economies across Wales, with all parts of Wales benefitting from the expenditure of international students, staff and visitors.

Wales' universities work hard to support international students throughout their studies. As a result of the social and cultural links they make at university, international students maintain close ties with Wales after they have graduated, strengthening Wales' soft power on the global stage. Wales' networks of international alumni act as positive overseas ambassadors developing important links between Wales and a wide range of global businesses and contacts.



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In turn, this is creating around 12,000 jobs

## Taith

This ambitious £65m international learning exchange programme will fund the inward and outward mobility of students and staff from across universities, further education and vocational education and training, adult education, youth work settings and schools. The scheme, which will be global in reach, will commence in academic year 2022-2023 and is being hosted at Cardiff University.



## Global Wales

Global Wales is a partnership between Universities Wales, Welsh Government, British Council Wales and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales that provides strategic support to the Welsh higher education sector as a key export industry and builds networks for Wales internationally.

From 2022-2026, Global Wales will form a strategic part of the new international learning exchange programme, Taith, launched in February 2022.

**134,760**

students attended Welsh universities in 2019/20

**52%**

came from Wales

**32%**

came from the rest of the UK

**4%**

came from the EU

**12%**

came from outside the EU



## Global Wales' objectives are to:



Increase student recruitment



Maintain and grow research and educational partnerships



Generate export earnings



Increase the awareness and reputation of Welsh institutions internationally

The programme has established four priority markets: the USA, India and Vietnam, and most recently added the European Union as its fourth priority area.

Unique to Global Wales is its ability to engage in 'system to system' development, leveraging all elements of the Welsh HE system (government, regulator, sector) to respond quickly and innovatively to the requirements of partner countries. This is supported by market development activities ranging from recruitment and marketing to capacity building projects, diplomatic delegations and visits as well as a range of prestigious scholarships, including the flagship Global Wales Scholarship.