

The Welsh Language in Higher Education: An Overview



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- The status of Welsh in Wales.
- Implications for Higher Education.
- The role of the *Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol*.
- Challenges and Opportunities.



Language Revitalisation and Devolution

- Campaigning from grassroots pressure groups throughout the 20th Century (e.g. *Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg*).
- Increase in Welsh provision in law, civil life, and media.
- Creation of ‘new speakers’ through Welsh-medium and bilingual schools.
- ‘Language revitalisation measures and the devolution process have opened up new spaces and created new resources with which to construct a bilingual society’ (Williams 2008: 279).

Welsh Sociolinguistics

- Decrease in Welsh speakers from 20.8% (2001) to 19% (2011), i.e. from 582,000 in 2001 to 562,000 in 2011.
- The sharpest decreases have been in traditionally Welsh-speaking areas, where Welsh is/has been a 'community' language.
- Daily use of Welsh, particularly after leaving education (around 11%, Welsh Government 2012, see also Jones 2012).

Current Language Policy

- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
 - Official status
 - Welsh Language Commissioner
 - Welsh Language Standards
- Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers (2017)
 - Number of speakers
 - Use of Welsh
 - Infrastructure

Welsh Language Standards



Comisiynydd y
Gymraeg
Welsh Language
Commissioner

WELSH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2015 No. 996 (W. 68)

WELSH LANGUAGE

**The Welsh Language Standards
(No. 1) Regulations 2015**

What are standards?

Standards explain how organisations are expected to use the Welsh language in different situations.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 establishes a legal framework to impose a duty on some organisations to comply with standards of conduct on the Welsh Language. The Measure notes that Welsh Ministers may, by regulations, specify standards in the following areas:

- service delivery
- policy making
- operational
- promotion
- record keeping

The duties which come from the standards mean that organisations should not treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language, together with promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language (making it easier for people to use in their day-to-day-life).

Standards aim to:

- make it clear to organisations what their duties are in relation to the Welsh language
- make it clearer to Welsh speakers about the services they can expect to receive in Welsh
- make Welsh language services more consistent and improve their quality.

There is a statutory process to follow to impose standards on organisations. Further information about that process can be found by clicking [here](http://www.comisiynyddygymraeg.cymru/English/Language%20duties/Pages/What-are-standards.aspx).

<http://www.comisiynyddygymraeg.cymru/English/Language%20duties/Pages/What-are-standards.aspx>

- Standard 55:** You must ensure that —
- (a) the text of each page of your website is available in Welsh,
 - (b) every Welsh language page on your website is fully functional, and
 - (c) the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than the English language on your website.

Standard 61: All apps that you publish must function fully in Welsh, and the Welsh language must be treated no less favourably than the English language in relation to that app.

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/90/pdfs/wsi_20170090_mi.pdf

Standard 58: If you have a Welsh language web page that corresponds to an English language web page, you must state clearly on the English language web page that the page is also available in Welsh, and you must provide a direct link to the Welsh page on the corresponding English page.

Standard 59: You must provide the interface and menus on every page of your website in Welsh.

Standard 60: You must provide computer software for checking spelling and grammar in Welsh on your student intranet, your virtual learning sites and your learning portal sites.

Standard 62: When you use social media you must not treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language.

Standard 63: If a person contacts you by social media in Welsh, you must reply in Welsh (if an answer is required).

Standards and the University

Welsh Language Standards

Updated 9 months ago (09/09/2020)

On 1 April 2018, the Welsh Language Standards secured legal rights to use Welsh in universities throughout Wales.

The University is committed to meeting these Standards and continue our positive contribution to the development of the Welsh language.

Standards for students

Students will be able to access many services and experience many aspects of University life through the medium of Welsh, in particular:

- Letters
- Applying for financial support
- Welcome booklet
- Prospectus
- Welsh speaking personal tutor
- Counselling services
- Meetings
- Certificates
- Submitting written work in Welsh
- Forms in Welsh



Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

- Development of Welsh-medium and bilingual training in the post-compulsory sector.

WHAT IS THE COLEG CYMRAEG CENEDLAETHOL?

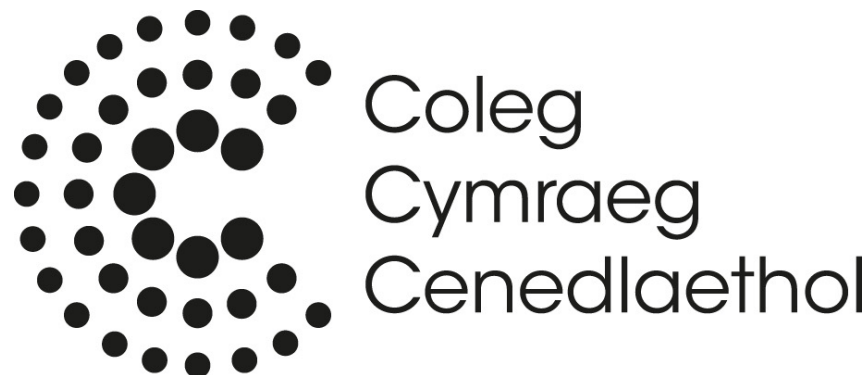
- Ensure more study opportunities for Welsh medium students - in partnership with the universities
- Train, develop and fund new Welsh medium lecturers for the future
- Fund undergraduate and post-graduate scholarships
- Support students studying course through the medium of Welsh
- Increase the number of students choosing to study their whole course or part of their course through the medium of Welsh
- Develop quality modules, courses and resources for Welsh medium students.

The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol works through branches located across seven universities in Wales. The aim of the branches is to support the work of the Coleg and act as a local point of contact for students.

The choice of Welsh medium courses has expanded significantly in recent years. There are currently approximately 1,000 courses for Welsh medium students, along with over 150 undergraduate scholarships awarded to students annually.

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

- Around 1000 courses available in Welsh across 26 subjects.
- 635 staff members teaching in Welsh.
- Around 7,700 students studying in Welsh (from 5 credits to 120 credits).



Challenges and Opportunities

- Funding and numbers.
- Take-up of Welsh e-services (cf. Evas & Cunliffe 2016).
- Recruiting a Welsh-speaking workforce.
- Challenging negative ideologies.
- Creating inclusive learning spaces for all speakers of Welsh.
- Encouraging engagement among those who do not (yet) speak Welsh.

Challenges & Opportunities

- Presenting an 'Active Offer' with innovative content.
- Normalising the use of Welsh in Higher Education.
- Promoting 'flexible bilingualism'.
- Developing bilinguals' skills regardless of linguistic background.
- Using Welsh as a tool for inclusive learning.

Diolch yn fawr!



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Welsh speakers in Higher Education

		All				All
		Fluent Welsh speaker	Welsh speaker not fluent	Not a Welsh speaker	Unknown	
All Welsh HEIs		9945	9925	44935	4895	69700
All Welsh HEIs	Bangor University	1540	400	1960	*	3905
	Glyndwr University	360	755	2655	75	3845
	Aberystwyth University	685	475	1440	115	2715
	University of Wales Trinity Saint David (1)	1030	1185	4770	290	7275
	Swansea University	1605	1510	6180	*	9300
	University of South Wales (2)	1390	1960	11810	170	15330
	Cardiff University (3)	1675	1630	7565	75	10945
	Cardiff Metropolitan University (4)	825	815	4275	155	6065
	Open University	455	815	3370	3990	8625
	Grwp Llandrillo Menai	355	335	680	20	1395
	NPTC Group	15	30	115	*	160
	Gower College Swansea	10	10	110	*	130