



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ85101; WQ85102; WQ85103;
WQ85014; WQ85105

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23 May 2022

Dear Darren,

Thank you for the questions you tabled on 4 May regarding Welsh Government support for educational psychology in Wales. The Welsh Government is channelling over £2.6m over the next 3 years to train and retain educational psychologists in Wales. This will boost the Welsh educational psychology workforce and increase provision for children and young people. From September 2022, those who benefit from fully funded training will be required to stay in Wales, as a result of new tie in agreements.

Students commencing at Cardiff University in September 2022, will be required to work in the public sector in Wales for two years after qualification. This will ensure more appropriately qualified educational psychologists enter the Welsh education system each year, with a steady pipeline to aid workforce planning.

Educational psychologists are essential to the new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system since they play an important role in ensuring learners with ALN receive the right support. It is essential that there are enough educational psychologists working in Wales to fulfil this role and to meet demand for the services across all corners of Wales, and bilingually. As part of ALN implementation we continue to work with local authorities to review provision and get an understanding of workforce gaps.

The Welsh Government continues to fund 30 students per year, with 10 new places per year, on the three year Doctorate in Educational Psychology (DEdPsy) professional training programme at Cardiff University.

An annual bursary is available to each student in the funded cohort. To increase the numbers of Welsh candidates, at least one bursary each year must be for a fluent Welsh speaker or a student with the aptitude and commitment to reach a standard allowing them to work through the medium of Welsh by the time they graduate. The university must also support their Welsh speaking students, for instance in terms of using Welsh in their studies and Welsh language classes.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Cardiff University is one of 13 universities in the UK, and the only university in Wales, to be recognised by the HCPC as a provider of the DEdPsy. Cardiff's DEdPsy is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) and as part of their course students undertake work placements in local authorities across Wales, and provision is tailored to the Welsh education system.

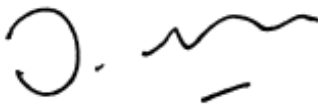
We recognise the workforce issues in North Wales, as attracting trainees and graduates to Gwynedd and Conwy is particularly difficult, plus it can be difficult for trainees to get adequate experience. In addition, the Welsh language requirements are difficult to meet due to the small number of Welsh speaking graduates in proportion to the number of service users.

Attracting North Wales' candidates to study in Cardiff is a challenge, and officials are investigating routes to improve access for students in the region and address this important issue.

The University works closely with local authorities in Wales to identify forthcoming vacancies and help secure employment for all students. They will continue to encourage those students who commenced their course prior to the introduction of a tie-in to take up work in Wales immediately after qualification.

The new tie in agreements will look to address the difficulties in retaining educational psychologists in Wales and mitigate the challenging workforce demographic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language