

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

27 May 2022

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ85130

Peter Fox MS
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Dear Peter,

Thank you for your question about the number of placements which have been offered to Ukrainian refugees to study at higher and further education providers in Wales.

We will ensure any young person who comes to Wales seeking sanctuary has access to support to continue their education. For learners who are of school age, this will be provided in collaboration with local authorities and schools and for post-16 learners in collaboration with FE colleges and Universities.

The Ukraine Ministry of Science and Education (MoSE), have communicated they are keen for those individuals who have been displaced from Ukraine to continue to engage with the Ukraine education system and where possible our education providers will support learners to do so.

As the Home Office has introduced new visa schemes for those seeking sanctuary from the conflict in Ukraine, our current eligibility criteria were not clear that those arriving in Wales under the new Ukraine visa schemes would be eligible for post-16 college funding. To support those seeking sanctuary, I have asked my officials to write to colleges to confirm any person with a right to remain in the UK under the Ukraine schemes is eligible for post-16 education. This will enable colleges to enrol learners and start to support learners as soon as possible. In addition, officials are updating guidance to make it clear those arriving under the Ukraine Visa Schemes, will be immediately eligible for post-16 college funding.

Colleges are ready to support learners who want to enrol but have not yet received any applications to enrol on a course for the next academic year, though several individuals have been enrolled on courses to improve their English language skills following initial assessments.

With respect to higher education placements, universities are autonomous bodies and are responsible for their own admissions, employment and offers of financial and academic support. We are working collaboratively with the sector to take a coordinated approach, to understand what offers of support are available from each institution and how we can enable them to respond accordingly.

Our universities in Wales continue to be extremely responsive to the humanitarian crisis, pledging to offer a range of support packages such as fellowships and individual

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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.

sponsorships to students and academics as well as working with the Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA) and Universities of Sanctuary to ensure any support packages can be accessed through the right channels.

In terms of universities offering places for the next academic year, we have announced [support for higher education students seeking sanctuary from the war in Ukraine](#) and that subject to the appropriate legislation being made and laid, people who come to the UK via the UK Government's Ukraine schemes, will be eligible for undergraduate and postgraduate student support, home fee status, and, in connection with an undergraduate course, the tuition fee cap.

Until these legislative changes are made, universities are unable to formally offer home fee status to students who would be currently classed as international students. However, we are aware that many of our universities are preparing to offer a range of placements including fully funded scholarships and would advise any person wishing to start a course of higher education to contact their chosen university's admissions office to discuss how to apply for a place.

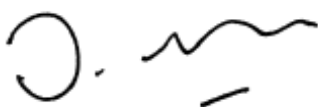
In addition, Universities UK in partnership with Universities Wales, is advocating a university twinning exercise. This is designed to facilitate support and longer-term collaboration between the UK and Ukrainian academic institutions and support academics and students to return to or remain in Ukraine. Universities and academic institutions in Ukraine are keen to continue to support their students with their studies and universities do not want to support or encourage a 'brain drain'. We understand all universities in Wales are looking at the twinning arrangements with some institutions further advanced in the matching process than others. We also understand the twinning support will be individual to each institution, with examples including access to online learning spaces, support for displaced academics to continue to deliver education remotely to displaced students and IT equipment.

It should be noted that Welsh Government officials have been working collaboratively with our key delivery partners through a wide range of programmes to support the local authorities in assessing the language needs of those arriving in Wales and to provide a clear and consistent pathway approach. For some this has been to enrol on to ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language) courses which meet their individual needs delivered across Wales both in person and online.

We are also working with Universities and Colleges and the voluntary sector to ensure English language tuition is made available as broadly as possible and to secure informal opportunities to speak English or Welsh over the summer with institutions offering classrooms, tutors and equipment in support.

We are determined to do everything we can to give people seeking sanctuary from Ukraine the warmest welcome possible and we want to ensure students arriving here have the support they need to start or continue their higher and further education.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Miles', with a stylized flourish underneath.

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