



Eich cyf/Your ref: WQ89688  
Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ89688

**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

21 December 2023

Dear Adam

I promised to write with a substantive reply to the question you recently tabled:

What assessment has the Minister made of staff to student ratios in each Welsh university and what are the trends since 2018, by university? (WQ89688)

Caution should be exercised in examining this data at an institutional level because staff-student ratios will vary for many legitimate reasons, including the nature and subject mix of provision. For example, ratios may be impacted by distance learning/online provision or franchised provision, where a student is enrolled at an HEI but the staff work for an FEI partner. It should be noted that student: staff ratios are only one aspect which contributes to the quality of the student experience and should not be considered in isolation. HEFCW has in place a quality assessment framework to ensure that the quality of higher education provision in Wales meets the reasonable needs of learners. This takes into account a range of data and information, as well as regular cyclical external peer review, to provide assurance on quality.

The following table shows the student: staff ratio in Welsh universities:

<b>Provider name</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
Aberystwyth University	16.8	16	15.6	14.9
Bangor University	15.7	15.9	15.1	17.1
Cardiff Metropolitan University	18.1	18.5	18.1	18.9
Cardiff University	14.3	13.7	14.5	13.9
Glyndŵr University	19.4	21.9	24.9	22.4
Swansea University	15	14.8	16.2	15.9
University of South Wales	15.1	15.5	16.1	16.6
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	16.3	18.8	21.1	20.3

Source: HEFCW analysis via Heidi Plus. Silver data source entitled "HESA Student Staff Ratios by provider (SSRs) v1"

<https://www.hefcw.ac.uk/en/regulation/quality/>

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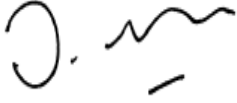
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Extract from HESA definition of Student Staff ratio: "The student: staff ratio (SSR) is designed to show the total number of students per member of academic teaching staff. The SSR is calculated using the student and staff full-time equivalent (FTE).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line at the end.

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