



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ81771

Helen Mary Jones MS  
Member of the Senedd for Mid and West Wales

[helenmary.jones@senedd.wales](mailto:helenmary.jones@senedd.wales)

4 January 2021

Dear Helen Mary

I write in response to your written question WQ81771. I apologise for the delay in replying to this question.

In November 2020, we published a series of action plans to deliver the ambitions of the *International Strategy*. Providing and enabling education, along with the strengthening of international educational links, is a key strand across each of the plans.

The Education Minister has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on co-operation in Higher Education (HE) with the government of the State of Telengana, in India. This adds to our existing MoU on education with the Vietnamese Government.

Through our membership of the Atlantic Rim Collaboratory, we are engaged with other education systems on a global level and are able to build on our own strengths and strategies through collaboration and best practice.

The Welsh Government's Global Wales partnership with Universities Wales, the British Council Wales and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) aims to support investment in Wales by building collaborative ventures through market research, intelligence gathering, targeted inward visits and outward missions and increased promotional activities such as the delivery of the Study in Wales brand in key markets. Through Global Wales we also fund a number of scholarships, including some prestigious awards in partnership with the Chevening, Gilman and Fulbright Scholarships.

The two-year British Council-run pilot, Global Wales Discover, has been reaching out to HE students from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure that they can take advantage of opportunities to study overseas for a short time.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[YP.PrifWeinidog@llyw.cymru](mailto:YP.PrifWeinidog@llyw.cymru) • [ps.firstminister@gov.wales](mailto:ps.firstminister@gov.wales)

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.

Through the Seren programme, links have been with the Sutton Trust and the Fulbright Commission, to ensure it is as impactful as possible. It is a groundbreaking Welsh Government initiative that supports the brightest state-educated learners in Wales to fulfill their academic potential and progress to top universities and professions. It has been successful at raising the aspirations of young people in Wales to apply to the best universities in Wales, the UK and further afield. It has developed links with Yale, Harvard, Chicago and MIT in the US.

Our involvement in the MIT Global Teaching Labs programme has been a tremendous success since the pilot programme was first delivered by Equal Education in January 2019. In January 2020, the expanded MIT Global Teaching Labs programme saw 12 instructors from MIT spend three weeks teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) workshops to students at 16 schools and colleges across South and West Wales. This initiative, reached over 25,000 learners.

Given the success of the 2019 pilot and the programme's expansion in 2020, the MIT Global Teaching Labs in Wales programme will be delivered once again and expanded further in 2021.

In many cases, these activities are the first time Wales has taken forward such partnerships, agreements and programmes and are direct outcomes from the progressive agreement.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**MARK DRAKEFORD**