

Part Two: Fee and Access Plan (required for publication)

Fee and Access Plan	
Name of institution	Cardiff University
Duration of the fee and access plan	1 August 2025 to 31 July 2027
Section 1 - Fee levels	
Section 1.1 – Fee levels or the determination of a fee level at each location (Guidance paragraphs 85-92)	
Fee level	Location of course
<p>For students who started their course in 2024/25, or are starting in 2025/26: maximum regulated fee from 2025/26.</p> <p>For continuing students who started in 2021/22 or earlier: £9000 per annum for the remainder of their course.</p> <p>For continuing students who started their course in 2022/23 or later: Maximum regulated fee.</p> <p>For students who started their course in 2022/23 or 2023/24 who have had an Interruption of Study (IOS): £9000 for the remainder of their course.</p> <p>If a student who started in 2024/25 has an Interruption of Study (IOS) in their first year, we would not increase their tuition fee to repeat that year. (i.e. their tuition fee would remain at £9000 to repeat that year only. If a student who started in 2024/25 needs</p>	<p>Cardiff University – On campus Home Undergraduate</p>

<p>to repeat their second or subsequent years of study due to an IOS: maximum regulated fee).</p>	
<p>20% of the maximum regulated fee</p> <p>For students who started their course in 2022/23 or 2023/24 who have had an IOS: £1800</p>	<p>Home Undergraduate students who are completing the professional placement year or the year in industry.</p>
<p>15% of the maximum regulated fee</p> <p>For students who started their course in 2022/23 or 2023/24 who have had an IOS: £1350</p>	<p>Home Undergraduate students who are completing the year of study abroad or the placement year abroad.</p>
<p>Up to the maximum regulated fee</p> <p>For MArch students who started their course in 2022/23 or 2023/24 who have had an IOS: £4500</p>	<p>Work-based learning year with higher attendance requirement.</p> <p>Some of our courses have an element of learning in the workplace. Where the fee for the year of work-based learning is less than the maximum regulated fee, the fee may be subject to annual review.</p> <p>Up to date information about fee levels is provided on the University's tuition fee page and course fee pages.</p>
<p>As set out in the fee level information above, for all new entrants in 2025/26 or 2026/27, Cardiff University will charge the maximum regulated tuition fee level for Full-time Home Undergraduate (UG) and Integrated Masters students covered by this plan. The maximum fee is set by Welsh Government, and at the time of writing this FAP, the maximum fee set by Welsh Government is £9,250 from 2024/25.</p> <p>The University reserves the right to increase tuition fees in the second and subsequent years of a course as permitted by law or by Welsh Government policy. Where applicable we will notify students of any change in tuition fee by the end of June in the academic year before the one in which the fee will increase.</p> <p>Any increase in the Full-time Home UG and Integrated Masters fee for 2025/26 or 2026/27 (or for future years of a course which are not covered by this FAP) will be tied to any increase to the maximum fee as determined by Welsh Government. This could include increases linked to inflation, as permitted by law or by Welsh Government policy.</p>	

As set out in the fee level information above, for students who started their course before 2025/26 or 2026/27, fee levels will depend on the on the year that a student started their course. It will also depend on whether and when a student had an interruption of study requiring them to repeat a year of the course.

Section 1.2 - Aggregate fee levels (Guidance paragraphs 98-101)

Aggregate fee levels

Aggregate fees for the whole duration of the course will depend on the length of the programme, and whether or not the programme includes any of the following: a Professional Placement Year or a Year in Industry (currently 20% of the maximum regulated fee); a Year of Study Abroad or a Placement Year Abroad (currently 15% of the maximum regulated fee); a Work based learning year with higher attendance requirement.

As set out in the fee level information above, total aggregate fees for the whole duration of the course will also depend on the year a student started their course, and on whether and when a student had an IOS requiring them to repeat a year of the course.

Aggregate fees for the whole duration of the course could also be affected by, for example, whether a student needs to repeat a year of study for reasons other than an IOS.

The University reserves the right to increase tuition fees in the second and subsequent years of a course as permitted by law or by Welsh Government policy. Where applicable we will notify students of any change in tuition fee by the end of June in the academic year before the one in which the fee will increase.

This potential for fee increases is communicated to applicants in the offer letter, and in the terms and conditions which are brought to the attention of students in the offer letter. It is also made clear on the tuition fee (<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/tuition-fees>) and course pages of our website (see example below).

Where fee variations apply to courses due to a period of placement or overseas study while registered at Cardiff University, these are clearly communicated at the time of application, and on the tuition fee page of our website.

How Cardiff University communicates fee information to students

Cardiff University's communications are aimed at potential applicants to the University, current students, parents and carers, staff in secondary schools and colleges including teachers and careers advisors, and University staff in order to ensure that all stakeholders receive accurate, timely and consistent information. We ensure that the information provided meets the requirements set out in the UK Quality Code for Higher Education with specific reference to course design and development. We endeavour to comply with the letter and the spirit of the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and are committed to incorporating all higher education consumer law advice and guidance into our internal processes.

Website

- Dedicated web pages contain information on tuition fees, funding opportunities including scholarships and bursaries, and student support. The pages include links to other related websites including Student Finance Wales/England/Scotland/Northern Ireland, States of Jersey/Guernsey and the Isle of Man, as well as signposting applicants to useful University contacts. <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/tuition-fees>.
- Course webpages include information about why to study the course, entry requirements, tuition fees, course structure, learning and assessment, careers and where relevant, fieldwork. Subject specific information is provided to help prospective students make the best possible decisions. Examples: [Environmental Geography \(BSc\) - Study - Cardiff University](#) and [History \(BA\) - Study - Cardiff University](#).
- In addition, it's possible for prospective students to chat online to current students to find out more about the course they are interested in, and there is also a chat bot to provide a further source of information.

Marketing materials/open days/outreach activity

- The University communicates information on fees and support available to prospective students at physical open days, visit days, webinars and other virtual events, HE fairs and schools and colleges liaison activity. It is also available in prospectuses, brochures, a student finance guide and advice from University staff. Information is included in presentations for teachers and careers advisers as well as in the student finance talks for applicants and their parents.
- We use social media including Facebook, Instagram, blogs and YouTube to communicate with prospective and current students.

- Relevant information is also communicated to those taking part in our various Widening Participation programmes.

Email

- Fees are outlined in the formal offer letter sent by email to applicants. Our offer letter details the tuition fees payable for the first year of the programme and explains that the University reserves the right to increase tuition fees in the second and subsequent years of a course as permitted by law or by Welsh Government policy. Any change in fee would be communicated to students for the following academic year by the end of June.
- We communicate with all offer holders in the form of a newsletter which details bursary provision.

Section 2 - Student Partnership (Guidance paragraphs 102-105)

Strategy

The University has recently engaged stakeholders in 'Y Sgwrs Fawr – The Big Conversation', to co-create our vision for the future of Cardiff University. This has led to the development of a new strategy, Our Future Together: Cardiff University's Strategy to 2035.

One of our key stakeholders is our students. A panel of over 50 students that reflect and are representative of the student population at the University, were recruited to support and develop Cardiff University's vision for the future. Through regular workshops between December 2023 and April 2024, students were trained in future skills, they interpreted and provided feedback on the survey results, and developed and narrowed down the archetypes of a potential future University. In workshops held from April 2024 to July 2024, students considered the vision, mission and direction of travel for the University for the next 10 years. This has helped shape the final strategy approved by the University Council in July 2024.

Our [Widening Participation Strategy 2020-25](#) has four main aims:

- To engage and inspire people of all generations to consider higher education as a realistic and achievable option.
- To attract and recruit students with academic potential, regardless of background or personal experience.
- To enable successful transition to University and foster an excellent and supportive student experience.
- To nurture and encourage confident and successful futures for all.

The Strategy was developed in partnership with our students, led by our student member of the Strategy group, the Vice-President Heath Park who engaged with students who would benefit from the Strategy's objectives.

Student representatives continue to form part of the membership of the University's Widening Participation Strategy Delivery Board and students are part of many of the interventions we are undertaking to deliver the objectives in the Strategy.

Working with the Students' Union

The [Student Charter](#) outlines what students can expect from the University and the Students' Union, and our students' responsibilities in making the most of their university experience. It includes expectations of openness, honesty, equality, diversity and celebration of Welsh language and culture. It is reviewed annually by the Students' Union and University to ensure its continued relevance. The University supports the Students' Union to achieve its goals, including: engaging all students, providing developmental/volunteering opportunities, creating sector-leading facilities and providing sporting activities, societies and independent advice services. Participation in recognised activities is included in the University's enhanced transcripts for students.

[Students' Union elected officers](#) participate as full members of major University committees and strategic groups including:

- Senate – our chief academic authority, responsible for academic priorities.
- Council - the governing body of the University. It is responsible for the executive management and conduct of the affairs of the University, including finances and estates.
- Governance Committee – advises Council on the level of compliance by the University with the mandatory requirements of legislation and other regulations.
- Finance and Resources Committee – responsible for scrutiny of capital funding for initiatives and evaluating impact.
- Education & Student Experience Committee - responsible for providing strategic direction and advising the University on all matters relating to education and the student experience across the full range of its provision for students.
- Academic Standards and Quality Committee – responsible for oversight of student progression and attainment.
- Welsh Medium Education Strategy Group – responsible for oversight of the University's Welsh medium strategy and development of further Welsh medium provision.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee – shall be responsible for advising the Council through the Governance Committee on the development and implementation of strategies for ensuring legal compliance and best practice in all matters relating to equal opportunities and diversity.

Student officers also serve on the steering boards for all our student-facing projects. They have direct and regular access to senior decision-makers, including the Vice-Chancellor and other members of the University Executive Board (UEB). As part of our quality assurance processes students are formal members of the standing panel that considers all significant programme changes and developments, our

Annual Review and Enhancement Committees and all Periodic Review Panels. Students' Union officers also serve on our Student Conduct and Fitness to Practise appeal panels.

The University is a supportive partner in the Students' Union annual '[Speak Week](#)', which is a highlight of the student voice calendar. Students are asked 'If you ran the University, what would you keep and what would you change?'; a question which consistently generates a wide range of constructive feedback. From the student feedback gathered during Speak Week, the Students' Union produces an annual [Student View](#) for our University Council. A University response to The Student View and an action plan are agreed by University Executive Board and received by University Council for scrutiny. Activities and actions are monitored and evaluated by the Student View Strategy Group which meets at least three times a year and is co-chaired by the Students' Union President and the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student Experience & Academic Standards.

We have established a Student Voice and Partnership Committee that's Co-Chaired by a Students' Union elected Officer and a Senior Academic. The Committee provide strategic oversight of all matters relating to student voice and the enhancement of the University's partnership with the Students' Union and to provide insight into the student experience. By identifying and recommending new and innovative methods for gathering feedback on the student experience, both quantitative and qualitative data are used to ensure appropriate methods are used to make enhancements and communicate with students on actions taken in response to feedback.

Student Voice

We value our students' views and opinions, and our many student voice activities, working in partnership with the Students' Union, provide opportunities throughout the year for students to share their views about what the University is doing well and what it can do better. We also have mechanisms in place to communicate to students and to staff how student feedback has brought about change across the University.

Managed in partnership with the Students' Union, our [student academic representation system](#) enables student representatives to play an important role in decision-making at course level, drawing on feedback from the wider student body. There is an annual cycle of training for our student representatives led by the Students' Union and delivered in partnership with School Student Rep Coordinators, and an annual training conference. Student reps engage with their programme cohorts and speak on their behalf in a range of well-established School and College fora. These include student-staff panels and regular College meetings of student panel chairs. This involvement ensures the student voice is heard and considered in decision-making.

Students are encouraged to provide feedback through a number of mechanisms either directly via feedback tools or via their peers of student representatives or the Student Champions team (see below). These include:

- **Student-staff panels (SSPs)** enable all student academic reps to meet with staff in their schools and share their student experiences on a regular basis. These meetings are chaired by a nominated student rep and minutes are taken by a student rep. SSP minutes

are shared with the Students' Union who create a termly 'impact report', which outlines the key issues students are facing as well as areas of particular strength. Student-staff panel chairs are also invited to Boards of Study to discuss the feedback from students.

- **College Forums** are an opportunity for student chairs of School student-staff panels to come together and raise issues which have arisen in student-staff panels with the Students' Union officers, College Deans and other members of staff by invitation.
- **Student Champions** are current students engaged in paid positions by the University as change agents to help us to develop a deeper understanding of student views on specific issues, and ensure students are engaged with us as partners. They are supported through the Learning & Teaching Academy. These students have been involved in a variety of projects, including the design of user-experience (UX) methodology for the Digital Learning Environment Review as well as providing valuable input into the development of our new system for Module Evaluation, increasing engagement with the National Student Survey and facilitating partnership projects and workshops for various initiatives relating to student experience.
- **Module evaluation**, now called Module Enhancement, has been redeveloped and built on a new system Blue, by Explorance. It provides students the opportunity to give feedback on all their modules via an easy-to-use, mobile-friendly online tool. These data provide a deeper understanding of trends in student satisfaction across the University and help to highlight priorities for responsive and appropriate action at school and University levels. Module convenors report back to students on module enhancement data and actions taken as a result of student feedback.
- **National Student Survey (NSS)** responses and feedback are received via the annual NSS of undergraduate final year students. The results of the NSS are scrutinised at school, college and university levels, with priorities for action and improvement identified and monitored via the Education & Student Experience Committee.
- **Survey Management Group** – This group co-ordinate and effectively manage University-wide surveys and administrate the Survey Management Framework which ensures that the student voice be heard and acted upon, with closure of feedback loops at all levels. The framework provides a streamlined cycle of design, analysis, reporting and publication for all student surveys as well as clarity on the governance, responsibility, data ownership and engagement with key stakeholders.
- **Student Voice Framework and Enhancement Model** – The Framework sets out Student Voice expectations and responsibilities for all university staff and students, ensuring we align to external best practices and sector agencies. Multiple sources of Student Voice data are part of one ecosystem at Cardiff and the Enhancement Model that will be launched in 2024-25 will act as an interactive toolkit, enabling colleagues to identify and reflect on where their current student voice practice sits. The model will support future action planning, reporting and developments through navigating the in-built resources.

Development of the FAP is also influenced through consideration of the participant feedback that is routinely collected and analysed as part of our student experience programmes including:

- Step-Up
- Student mentoring
- Wellbeing champions

- Employability initiatives, and
- Global opportunities.

Our students also help to deliver several programmes and activities set out in the Plan. For instance:

- **On-campus internships for developing Learning, Teaching and Research at Cardiff** where undergraduate students have the opportunity to work collaboratively with staff on projects to enhance learning, teaching and research.
- **HE roadshows** delivered in partnership with Cardiff Metropolitan University, raises awareness of higher education and provides advice at an early stage about careers and subject choices. Our students contribute to the design of session content and deliver interactive presentations to pupils in years 9-11. It aims to raise awareness of higher education and its benefits and to motivate pupils. It provides careers advice relevant to HE at an early stage so that pupils make an informed choice about GCSEs and FE.

Student and staff feedback on these schemes is very positive, with academic colleagues noting the important impact of having student involvement on projects, giving it currency; students noting the scheme gives them an opportunity to be a co-partner with academics on projects as well as providing valuable employability experience.

Section 3 - Under-represented groups (Guidance paragraphs 106-116)

Our [Widening Participation Strategy 2020-2025](#), sets out the students we seek to prioritise through our fee and access plan investment.

Identified by HEFCW as under-represented in higher education:

- Students of all ages from the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019
- Students of all ages from the bottom quintile of the WIMD 2019
- People of all ages from UK low participation in HE areas
- Students of all ages that would benefit from studying part-time Higher Education
- Students of all ages studying through the medium of Welsh.

Identified by the Reaching Wider programme:

- within the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation:
 - post-16 young people
 - adults without level 4 qualifications, to provide progression to level 4 provision.
- and Wales-wide:
 - children looked after

- care leavers
- carers in all age groups

Identified by Cardiff University as under-represented, student who are/have:

- disability (including autism)
- refugees and asylum seekers
- forces veterans
- estranged from families
- parents not educated to HE level
- DWP household gross annual earnings (currently <£35k)
- age – mature
- home BAME

Section 4 – Objectives as they relate to supporting equality of opportunity and the promotion of HE
(Guidance paragraphs 117-135)

Section 4.1 - Equality of Opportunity

Objective 1	Raise aspirations and increase access to HE amongst under-represented groups.
Objective 2	Ensure that continuation rates for under-represented groups are in line with the rest of the student population.
Objective 3	Increase the number of students studying through the medium of Welsh through the enhancement of the University's Welsh Language community, culture and provision.
Objective 4	Improve the employability of under-represented students

Section 4.2 - Promotion of higher education

Objective 1	Continue to focus on global, community and civic engagement that is impactful and of high quality.
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Objective 2	Provide a high-quality learning and teaching environment.
Objective 3	Focus on enhancement that improves the student experience.
Objective 4	Continue to provide curricula and wider opportunities to enhance student employability

Part 3 – Evidence to HEFCW in support of fee and access plan application (not required for publication)

Evidence to support fee and access plan application

Evidence and data to support the plan’s objectives, targets and activities (Guidance paragraphs 137-138)

As set out in the fee level information above, for all new entrants in 2025/26 or 2026/27, Cardiff University will charge the maximum regulated tuition fee level for Full-time Home Undergraduate (UG) and Integrated Masters students covered by this plan. The maximum fee is set by Welsh Government, and at the time of writing this FAP, the maximum fee set by Welsh Government is £9,250 from 2024/25.

The University reserves the right to increase tuition fees in the second and subsequent years of a course as permitted by law or by Welsh Government policy. Where applicable we will notify students of any change in tuition fee by the end of June in the academic year before the one in which the fee will increase.

Any increase in the Full-time Home UG and Integrated Masters fee for 2025/26 or 2026/27 (or for future years of a course which are not covered by this FAP) will be tied to any increase to the maximum fee as determined by Welsh Government. This could include increases linked to inflation, as permitted by law or by Welsh Government policy.

As set out in the fee level information above, for students who started their course before 2025/26 or 2026/27, fee levels will depend on the on the year that a student started their course. It will also depend on whether and when a student had an interruption of study requiring them to repeat a year of the course.

Evidence and data to support the plan’s focus on under-represented groups (Guidance paragraphs 139-144)


N/A

Authorisation of the fee and access plan application to HEFCW (required for publication)

In authorising fee and access plan applications, the governing body:

- i. confirms that it continues to be an institution that provides higher education in Wales and is a charity;
- ii. has seen and considered appropriate evidence to support the declarations being made in this application;
- iii. confirms that there has been appropriate consultation with its students, both those studying at the institution and at other providers where education is delivered on its behalf;
- iv. confirms that the information provided in this fee and access plan application is accurate and current, at the time of writing, and is based on verifiable data;
- v. confirms that: **[delete one or more statements, as appropriate]**
 - a. it is acceptable for HEFCW to use financial, quality and/or other information/data that it holds about a currently regulated institution, regardless of whether the information/data was originally provided for purposes of regulation under the 2015 Act;
 - ~~b. it is not acceptable for HEFCW to use financial, quality and/or other information/data that it holds about a currently regulated institution for purposes of regulation under the 2015 Act; and~~
 - ~~c. it is submitting new, up-to-date, more recent information/data to inform HEFCW's assessment;~~
- vi. understands that HEFCW reserves the right to undertake a visit to the institution to better understand eligibility related to the organisation and management of financial affairs, the data submitted on fee and access plans and/or the quality of education provided on, or on behalf of, the institution;
- vii. understands that it must provide HEFCW and/or HEFCW's agent, with information, assistance and access to its facilities and the facilities of other bodies providing higher education on its behalf;
- viii. understands that HEFCW may carry out, or arrange for an agent to carry out, a review relating to the quality of education provided by, or on behalf of the institution, and its governing body must take into account any advice given to it by HEFCW or the body appointed by HEFCW for this purpose;
- ix. confirms that all education provided by, or on its behalf, regardless of the level or location of the provision has been taken into account in this fee and access plan application;

- x. confirms that the institution is at a low risk of failure on financial grounds over the medium-to long- term;
- xi. confirms that the accounts are audited each year by a registered auditor and that the registered auditor is not the same firm and/or individual that prepared the accounts;
- xii. confirms that the institution complies with Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) guidelines for higher education;
- xiii. understands that any financial commitments to students made in the fee and access plan, as approved by HEFCW, must be honoured;
- xiv. confirms that it will continue to invest the same proportion of full-time undergraduate fee income to promote equality of opportunity and promote higher education and not reduce invest to promote equality of opportunity which is intended to support only under-represented in higher education;
- xv. confirms that it will continue to invest its institutional contribution to the Reaching Wider Programme aligned to its agreed Reaching Wider Strategy and Implementation Plan;
- xvi. confirms that it will maintain student support levels;
- xvii. confirms that the institution will ensure that a copy of the fee and access plan can be made accessible to its students in any format;
- xviii. confirms that the institution will clearly signpost its students to HEFCW's complaints processes;
- xix. take all reasonable steps to supporting under-represented groups that are studying for postgraduate courses;
- xx. considers how investment can best support students most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic where they are not already identified as under-represented groups; and
- xxi. gives due consideration to any guidance published by the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research as it discharges its duties in relation to the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022, particularly in relation to learner protection, learner engagement, equality of opportunity, and the support and promotion of the welfare of its students and staff.

Fee and access plan application submission to HEFCW¹	
Date of Governing Body approval:	29 August 2024 (Finance and Resources Committee, under delegated authority from Council)
Governing Body authorised signature:	
Date:	29 August 2024
Final fee and access plan submission once HEFCW has confirmed it has no further issues (where applicable)	
Date of Governing Body approval:	
Governing Body authorised signature:	
Date:	

¹ Fee and access plans published on the institution’s websites must only include versions approved by HEFCW.