

## University of Wales recent merger developments

### Student FAQs

Following the announcement made by the University of Wales in relation to progress with its merger, we have consistently made the statement that we will honour our commitments to all students currently enrolled on University of Wales awards.

We recognise there are still a number of concerns that students have, and the following questions are examples from University of Wales students. We understand that students want to be kept informed of the continuing process and more information will be available as the merger continues.

1. Why is the merger happening?

Recent developments in Welsh Higher Education policy have been driven by a desire for there to be fewer universities in Wales. The Welsh Government is putting policies in place to have only six or seven universities (there are currently eleven). Our merger is in response to this challenge from the Government.
2. How will the merger affect the value of my degree?

The University of Wales degree and the name University of Wales have a strong history and are widely recognised and highly regarded by employers worldwide. There are many University of Wales alumni who graduated from universities which no longer award University of Wales degrees. They have suffered no detrimental effect as a result of that change and include many senior members of Welsh Government, people in public life and academic staff at universities across the UK.
3. Will this affect my employability in the future?

As stated in the answer to question two there are many successful members of the University of Wales alumni and we anticipate that there will be many more.
4. How will this change impact professional courses?

All of our professional courses meet UK standards and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case.
5. Do I need to consider changing Universities?

No. We do not believe that any of the recent developments should concern students to the point where they wish to change universities.
6. What role have students had in this process?

Students have been involved in the process, and the Vice-Chancellor has held meetings with the President of the NUS in Wales and also other Student Presidents from Universities in Wales.
7. What shape will the new Student Union take?

We anticipate the transformed University will have a single Student Union body representing the views of students. It is for the students to determine what shape that Student Union takes.
8. I'm a prospective student, where do I stand?

If you have been offered a place on a University of Wales course you will be treated in the same way as all past students and if successful you will exit with a University of Wales award.

9. I have graduated with a University of Wales award and am applying for a Masters, will these recent changes have any effect on this?  
No. Students can have full confidence in the quality and standards of University of Wales awards. The Institutional Review of the University of Wales undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) in 2010 noted the highest possible outcome of confidence.
10. What will the new university do in relation to the quality of its courses moving forward?  
The University of Wales will continue to apply rigorous quality assurance processes to all of its awards.
11. Who is awarding my degree now?  
The University of Wales will continue to be the degree awarding body to all current students for the duration of their course.
12. Will my degree certificate have "University of Wales" on it as the degree awarding body?  
Yes. If you are currently studying for a University of Wales degree, on successful completion of it you will be awarded a degree certificate which will bear "University of Wales" as the degree awarding body.
13. What impact will this have on my tuition fees / sponsorship?  
Tuition fees are determined by the Collaborative Centre or University at which you are studying. All existing sponsorship arrangements should be honoured as you will remain on a University of Wales course.
14. Will the University of Wales continue to offer bursaries?  
The University is endowed with a number of scholarships and bursaries, with specific conditions attached to them. These will continue to be awarded. The current round of Validation bursaries will be honoured with the awards expected to be made in the coming months.
15. What will the ranking position of the transformed university be?  
The University of Wales has never featured in any ranking system due to its Federal nature. The transformed University of Wales: Trinity Saint David will appear in the ranking systems but it will take time to establish its position.
16. Am I going to be able to visit the transformed University of Wales: Trinity Saint David?  
The university will encompass a number of campuses and facilities and students will be welcome to visit all facilities.
17. Who can I contact for more information?  
We are providing detailed information packs to academics throughout the University of Wales and we would anticipate within the next few weeks that most questions will be able to be answered within your own departments or colleges. In addition to this we will be establishing a student forum on our website in order to address any remaining concerns. In the meantime, please contact Kim Lloyd Elliott by email - [klloydelliott@wales.ac.uk](mailto:klloydelliott@wales.ac.uk)