
Below provides a snapshot the main parties' Manifesto higher education policies:

Conservative Party

- Abolish the cap on higher education student numbers and “removing an arbitrary ceiling on ambition”
- Ensure students do not pay anything towards tuition while studying, and only start repaying when earning over £21,000 per year
- Introduce a national postgraduate loan system for taught masters and PhD courses
- Introduce a framework to recognise universities offering the highest teaching quality
- Encourage universities to offer more two-year courses and require that more data to be openly available to potential students so that they can make decisions informed on the career paths of past graduates
- Ensure UK universities remain “world leading” and through the Nurse Review of research councils, seek to ensure that the UK continues to support world leading science
- Encourage the development of online education as a tool for students, whether studying independently or in universities
- Clamp down on number of “so-called satellite campuses” opened in London by universities located elsewhere in the UK

Green Party

- End undergraduate tuition fees
- Cancel student debt issued by the Student Loans Company and held by the government
- Reintroduce student grants costing £2.2 billion over the course of Parliament
- Restoring access to lifelong learning by supporting mature students and their families
- Reintroduce the block grant to universities
- Support the 10:1 ‘fair pay campus’ campaign

Labour Party

- Through the Seren programme set up a system of hubs across Wales to give the most academically gifted learners access to advice, guidance and mentoring to help them get into some of the UK’s most prestigious universities
- Maintain low tuition fees in Wales while reducing fees to £6,000 in England
- Support model of high-tech knowledge clusters by forming strong links between universities and industry across the country
- Overhaul the ‘Prevent’ programme to involve communities in countering extremist propaganda, stopping young people being groomed, and building resilient institutions for social integration
- Include block registration by universities and care homes on to the electoral register

Liberal Democrats

- Introduce a Student Living Support Grant for all Welsh-domiciled students registered for a first undergraduate degree at a UK university, including part-time students, payable on top of the existing means-tested Assembly Learning Grant. This will be funded by withdrawing the Tuition Fee Grant
- Support access to higher education by introducing a programme to encourage prospective students from backgrounds with a traditionally low participation in higher education, paying the full tuition fees of care-leavers, and requiring universities to adopt a 'Fair Access Agreement' outlining measures to broaden access and improve student retention
- Introduce an Employability Enhancement Bursary to support students on postgraduate courses at universities in Wales that emphasize employability skills and include an appropriate work placement
- Seek to expand the income-contingent loans scheme for graduate degrees

Plaid Cymru

- Provide a subsidy to students resident in Wales who wish to study in Wales. Target groups and those studying subjects vital to the Welsh economy and public goals will pay no tuition fees in Wales, including those taking up key healthcare posts, studying science, engineering and technology subjects and students from particularly challenging backgrounds
- A new manufacturing strategy for Wales will be developed, taking advantage of the existing skills in communities and universities to create skilled and high-value jobs through research, development and manufacturing
- Work with universities to increase research capacity and funding, particularly ensuring that Welsh universities get a fair share of UK-based research funding and to get the best investment from the European Union's Horizon 2020 funding
- Use Horizon 2020 funding to enable universities to work more closely with industry, promoting research and development related to universities, such as at the Menai Science Park
- Provide long-term sustainable funding for the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, ensuring greater availability of higher education in Welsh, subject to successful evaluation
- Re-introduce a post-study work visa for two years for students who have qualified from Welsh universities so that they can use their skills to contribute to the Welsh economy and create further jobs in Wales

UKIP

- Drop the “arbitrary” 50 per cent target for school leavers going to university and not increase the current level of undergraduate courses until there are sufficient vacancies in the economy to provide at least two-thirds of students with skilled graduate jobs
- Encourage students to choose careers that will help fill the current skills’ gap, to both benefit Britain and set them on the path to a “solid, prosperous career.”
- UK students taking approved degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM), mainly at universities funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, will not have to repay their tuition fees. This is on condition that they work in their discipline and pay tax in the UK for at least five years, after they complete their degrees