

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1163
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11355/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

20 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 7th October regarding extending the postgraduate STEM bursary to all MSc students in Wales.

I understand the Committee's disappointment that the legislative framework does not allow for all students to access the STEM bursary. This policy reflects the eligibility criteria as set out in the Education (Student Support) (Postgraduate Master's Degrees) (Wales) Regulations 2019 (the PM Regulations 2019), as amended. There are no plans to amend the policy position on this.

From 1 August 2017, the automatic designation of full-time higher education courses applies only to courses provided by 'recognised educational institutions'. A 'recognised educational institution' is defined as any of the following:

- a Welsh regulated institution, meaning an institution which has a fee and access plan approved by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) under Section 7 of the Higher Education (Wales) Act 2015 while that plan remains in force
- an English regulated institution, that is an institution maintained or assisted by recurrent grants from OfS
- an institution in Scotland or Northern Ireland that is maintained or assisted by recurrent grants out of public funds.

The institutions that do not fall under this category are classed as alternative providers and have to apply for specific designation in order for students to apply for student support. This option is available to all alternative providers as long as they meet the criteria.

I appreciate this may not be the response the Petitions Committee was hoping for. However, the Welsh Government has a duty to safeguard taxpayer's money. We must be able to confirm that all providers and courses can demonstrate that they meet specific criteria

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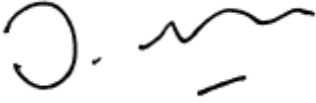
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

including financial viability, quality of provision and contributing to the public good. It is also in the interests of students that the Welsh Government assures itself that providers are able to meet these criteria.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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