

The Wales Open Education Declaration of Intent

As a group of Vice-Chancellors representing universities in Wales, we believe that open access to learning and teaching materials has the potential to benefit the learner and the community within which the learner operates. We believe that sharing knowledge and resources is key to providing students with the skills and understanding required to become active participants in their communities, their countries and society globally. We believe that we have a responsibility to the next generation of scholars, whether they are based within our own universities or further afield, because they are the innovators of tomorrow.

We consider that offering learners the opportunity to access the very best material that higher education in Wales has to offer will enhance skill and knowledge development across the world. We also believe that increasing access to higher education, whatever the economic, geographic or environmental situation experienced by students, is a responsibility that we must embrace. We believe that embedding Open Educational Practice (OEP) across the Welsh higher education community will facilitate an improved, quality educational experience for students through Open Education Resources (OER).

As Vice-Chancellors representing universities in Wales, we are committed to:

- Promoting and using OER to widen access to higher education for non-traditional learners, to contribute to social inclusion and engage the rich diversity of the learner in Wales and across the world
- Providing flexible virtual pathways for learners across the globe to access learning and teaching materials
- Improving the quality of teaching and learning outcomes and enhancing the partnership between Welsh universities and students as co-creators of OER materials in an OEP environment
- Working with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to support the publication and distribution of learning and teaching materials through the medium of Welsh in order to increase access to quality material in the Welsh language, regardless of geographic location
- Ensuring that any designated teaching and learning material released under open licence can be adapted and redistributed without cost or restriction
- Encouraging the introduction of open educational practice into every part of the university to promote the creation, use and re-purposing of OER becoming embedded and that the development of specific policies for the production and use of OER will enable further enhancement of the learning experience in the future

- Encouraging, enthusing and supporting staff at all levels within the university to interact with high-quality, accessible educational resources in an OEP environment, taking into account local needs and the full diversity of learners
- Promoting quality assurance and peer review of learning and teaching materials that will facilitate new collaborative ways of working with students and staff across geographical boundaries
- Ensuring that educational materials developed with public funds are made available, where appropriate, under open licences, to maximise the impact of the investment by the Welsh Government and Research Councils UK
- Promoting the quality of Welsh higher education to the nation and internationally
- Demonstrating further the collaborative nature of higher education in Wales

**Professor Colin Riordan, Chair of Higher Education Wales
on behalf of the higher education sector in Wales**