

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jane Bryant MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee

17 August 2023

SeneddChildren@senedd.wales

Dear Jane,

During the Joint Ministerial scrutiny session on post 16 education and skills on 5 July, I said I would write to the committee about current numbers of people going into degree apprenticeships in Wales. I hope the information enclosed is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy

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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.

The Minister for Economy agreed to provide the Committee with a note on the expansion of degree apprenticeships.

During the pilot phase of degree apprenticeships 2018 – 2021, Welsh Government prepared pathways in three frameworks – Advanced Manufacturing and Materials, Digital Technology and Engineering. From these pathways the universities developed qualifications such as cyber security management, software engineering, mechanical engineering, advanced manufacturing and others. There are 23 frameworks in the framework library and since the completion of the pilot, we have begun expanding our range of frameworks and pathways.

Railway engineering degrees will come on stream in January 2024. University of South Wales anticipate 20-25 new starts in railway engineering during the year. Pathways being developed in construction management, general surveying, quantity surveying and civil engineering are aiming for qualification launches to enable a September 2024 intake. We are also exploring how degree apprenticeships can support the Welsh Government’s net zero priorities.

Many sources of intelligence have been used to identify priorities for apprenticeship framework development including a demand analysis undertaken with universities. Priority growth sectors have also been identified by Regional Skills Partnerships (RSPs) along with demand evidence for the main apprenticeship programme. Skills also underpin most ministerial portfolios and officials have worked across government to identify higher skills needs across a number of occupations linked to Welsh Government investment.

In terms of programme starters:

First year students in Wales on HEFCW-funded degree apprenticeships (2019/20 to 2021/22)

2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
260	300	305

Source is ‘HESA student record via Welsh Government’¹

¹ Data calculated using full person equivalent. Data rounded to the nearest 5. Data based on students who are:

1. In the standard registration population
2. Studying at a Welsh Higher Education provider or in the Welsh national centre of the Open University.
3. On a HEFCW-funded degree apprenticeship scheme.
4. In their first year of study.

Data for 2018/19 is currently unavailable.