

Ms Amanda Wilkinson
Director, Universities Wales

Jayne Bryant MS
Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee
Senedd Cymru

13 September 2023

Dear Jayne

International Students

Thank you for your letter dated 6 July 2023 regarding mental health support for international students in higher education. I welcome the opportunity to respond to your queries.

Universities Wales recognises that support for physical and mental wellbeing should be clearly signposted to international students, and student support services should reflect the full diversity of the international student community, in terms of culture and nationality, and mode of study.

Universities have an important role in supporting international students to navigate life in Wales, through the promotion of spaces and structures providing information on key areas such as access to healthcare, accommodation, transport, and advice on finances.

Regarding living costs, international students are required to have a certain level of funding for themselves and for their families, as part of the requirements for a Tier 4 Visa. Although some there are different evidence requirements in place for some countries (such as the US or countries in the EU), most international students need to evidence that they can pay for their course for one academic year and that they have access to £1023 per month for courses outside of London. Each dependant also requires a further £680 per month. This is made very clear in the [visa and application processes](#).

Universities take their duties in relation to Tier 4 requirements very seriously both for the benefit of students and to ensure institutions can continue to offer international students the opportunity to study in Wales. UUK has recently [published guidance](#) on best practice in this area.

Our International Network, chaired by Dr Ben Calvert, has committed to agreeing a set of principles for international recruitment including the expectations on signposting, engagement with local partners and provision of advice and guidance.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Ms Amanda Wilkinson
Director, Universities Wales