

SL(6)590 – The Education (Student Finance) (Fee Limit and Loan Amounts) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2025

Background and Purpose

These Regulations amend existing regulations to:

- (i) increase the full-time undergraduate tuition fee caps;
- (ii) apply these caps to all qualifying persons on qualifying courses at regulated Welsh institutions for academic years beginning on or after 1 August 2025; and
- (iii) increase the amount of tuition fee loan for academic years beginning on or after 1 August 2025 accordingly.

Procedure

Negative.

The Regulations were made by the Welsh Ministers before they were laid before the Senedd. The Senedd can annul the Regulations within 40 days (excluding any days when the Senedd is: (i) dissolved, or (ii) in recess for more than four days) of the date they were laid before the Senedd.

Technical Scrutiny

The following point is identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.2 in respect of this instrument:

1. Standing Order 21.2(v) – that for any particular reason its form or meaning needs further explanation.

Regulation 1(3) provides that regulation 3 applies in relation to "*an academic year which begins on or after 1 August 2025...*". The term "academic year" is defined in regulation 2(1) of the Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2017, but it is not defined in these Regulations.

As a result it is not apparent whether "academic year" is intended to have the same meaning in these Regulations as that prescribed by the definition in the 2017 Regulations. It is worth noting that other recent education legislation (such as the Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2024 and the Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2025) have included a definition of "academic year".

To provide clarity as to the Welsh Government's intended meaning of the term and to avoid potential confusion for the reader, we consider that a definition of "academic year" should be



included in these Regulations.

Merits Scrutiny

No points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.3 in respect of this instrument.

Welsh Government response

A Welsh Government response is required.

Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 17 March 2025 and reports to the Senedd in line with the reporting point above.

