

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/10848/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
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20 August 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd August regarding the petition to extend the postgraduate STEM bursary to all MSc students in Wales. HEFCW has worked with our universities to implement the STEM incentives bursary scheme to support as many students as possible. HEFCW's [guidance circular](#) explains that they should be allocated to Master's students who fit the eligibility criteria for postgraduate student finance and are enrolled on eligible Master's programmes as defined in the Education (Student Support) (Postgraduate Master's Degrees) (Wales) Regulations 2019 (the PM Regulations 2019), as amended. Unfortunately, the current legislation does not allow HEFCW to extend the scheme to alternative providers.

Although the bursary is not available for students studying at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), alternative providers, such as CAT can apply via HEFCW to have their courses specifically designated to enable eligible students living in Wales to apply for our generous postgraduate support package from Student Finance Wales. Eligible students commencing a course in 2021/22 can apply for master's finance up to £18,025, a mixture of grant and loan is provided to students as a contribution towards costs for the duration of their course.

I appreciate this may not be the response the petitions committee were hoping for, but I hope it provides some clarity on the student finance available to Welsh students.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
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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.