

23 MARCH 2011

**CYMRUX VIEWS ON WELSH GOVERNMENT'S
APPROACH TO STUDENT FINANCE**

CymruX believes that the current Welsh Government's commitments to protecting Welsh students are right in terms of the Welsh Government's approach to higher education finance in Wales.

CymruX is pleased that Welsh students will be protected from higher education fees that students in England will unfortunately have to deal with. Maintaining fees at a lower level will make higher education far more accessible, and make it a realistic choice for young people all across Wales; that can only be applauded.

CymruX strongly believes that by ensuring that the lower fee threshold of £4,000 is implemented in Wales, students in Wales will not have to choose where they want to study purely on a financial basis. CymruX strongly believes that students in Wales should be able to choose where they want to study on the quality and provision of the course and institution they choose to study at, rather than the institution they can afford to study at.

Furthermore, our organization is pleased that Welsh students will be protected from higher fees wherever in the UK they study. CymruX believes that the Welsh Government is taking the right steps to ensure that young people in Wales can seriously consider continuing their studies.

In addition, CymruX would urge the Welsh Government to ensure that if universities in Wales are able to charge higher rates of fees, that this isn't taken for granted. CymruX would strongly urge the Welsh Government to ensure that there are stringent widening access clauses and robust financial and educational support mechanisms put in place if universities are able to charge higher fees.

However, CymruX continues to be of the view that education is indeed a right and not a privilege and should therefore be free. It is our belief that the Welsh Government is a perfect vehicle for effecting this change, and it would without a doubt be monumental, should higher education be made free in Wales. Therefore, CymruX would urge the Welsh Government to consider abolishing higher education fees in Wales when the public purse allows.

Cerith Rhys Jones
Principal Petitioner
Non-portfolio Officer, CymruX National Executive Committee

Authorized by the National Executive Committee on 22nd March 2011

