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Lynne Neagle AM
Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

3 January 2019

Dear Ms Neagle

Inquiry into the status of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification

I noted with interest the 28 November and 12 December evidence sessions for the Children, Young People and Education Committee's current inquiry into the status of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ).

Although it was recognised that Cardiff University values the WBQ, the view was expressed in both meetings that the University would prefer admitting a learner with A Levels rather than a learner with the WBQ.

I thought it important to write to you and the Committee as a whole to reiterate the University's position as detailed in our institutional response to the inquiry's survey, submitted on 21 December 2018.

Cardiff University accepts the WBQ Advanced Diploma for admission to all of its undergraduate degree programmes, with the Welsh Baccalaureate Diploma Core accepted as equivalent to an A Level.

For applicants offering graded version of the core, we accept an A* grade as equivalent to an A* at A Level, A as equivalent to an A at A Level, B as equivalent to a B at A Level and a C grade as equivalent to a C at A Level. The WBQ is not, however, able to replace a required specified subject or subjects.

For applicants studying the WBQ Core in combination with three A Levels, any offer made for entry will be flexible, allowing them to satisfy the grades required either from the WBQ Core and two specified A Levels or grade requirements for three A Levels.



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For example, the typical A Level offer for Economics (BSc Econ) is AAB including Mathematics. The Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate will be accepted in lieu of one A Level (at the grades listed above) apart from the required A Level Mathematics.

I would also like to mention the support that we have given the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate, with staff undertaking joint presentations with WJEC to promote the qualification and the benefits it brings.

Feedback from academic colleagues is that there are early signs that the individual project element of the WBQ is providing particular benefit, equipping students with independent research and study skills required for degree level study.

I understand that during your consultation for the inquiry you received a number of responses from the University. For clarification, the University's official position is detailed above. The views of individual respondents based at the institution do not reflect our policy or practice.

Indeed, we have written to the Committee team to clarify our institutional position. We have also written to all admissions tutors to remind them of our WBQ policy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information about Cardiff University.

Yours sincerely



Professor Colin Riordan
Vice-Chancellor