

## How will the Welsh Bac prepare young people to enter higher education?

Welsh Bac students still study their A level subjects and acquire knowledge, understanding and skills specific to the subject area which they want to pursue at university.

However, in addition they undertake a number of exciting and interesting activities which will give them wider experience and show them how skills are transferable and can be used in many contexts.

Welsh Bac students undertake an Individual Investigation and develop research, analytical and presentation skills. They learn to use their initiative and apply problem solving skills to different situations. They work with an employer and will develop entrepreneurial skills during their team enterprise activity. They undertake a community placement, which increases their understanding of what it means to be an active citizen. Through all these activities they improve their communication skills, both verbal and written, and grow in confidence.

During their learning, students make extensive use of computers and the internet.

## How has the Welsh Bac been received by Higher Education Institutions?

The Welsh Bac Core within the Advanced Level Diploma attracts 120 UCAS points, the same number of points as an A grade at A level. This is formal recognition by Higher Education Institutions that the experiences and skills gained are of value for studies at degree level and beyond.

The Welsh Baccalaureate has been welcomed by the majority of institutions, with many making a formal statement in their prospectuses and on their websites about the qualification. However, even if a formal statement has not been made, this does not mean the institution does not accept the qualification.

Guidelines on making offers to students with the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma have been distributed via the UCAS mailing list, both electronically and in hard copy. However, if you do not have a copy, please contact the Welsh Baccalaureate Project Team.

## Will the Welsh Bac replace the current system of qualifications?

At the moment, the Welsh Bac is being piloted in 31 schools and colleges across Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government will decide in summer 2006 whether the Welsh Bac should be offered in other schools and colleges across Wales from September 2007. This decision will be based on an evaluation of the pilot.

"The emphasis on organising and researching your work individually in the Welsh Bac really prepared me for university where we are left to our own devices. For instance, it is left up to us to act independently and conduct our own research to complete tasks such as writing essays and preparing for tutorials."

First year undergraduate student

## Further information

You can find out more by logging onto the Welsh Bac website [www.wbq.org.uk](http://www.wbq.org.uk) by e-mailing us at [info@wbq.org.uk](mailto:info@wbq.org.uk), or by telephoning 029 2026 5010.

### Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification

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**The Welsh Baccalaureate**  
Helping prepare students for Higher Education

# The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification

Helping prepare students for Higher Education

Information for Higher Education  
Admissions Officers and Tutors



## What is the Welsh Baccalaureate?

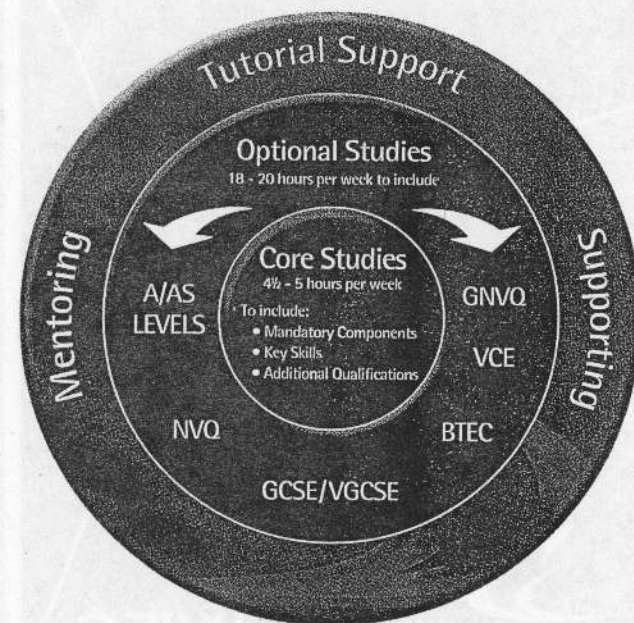
The Welsh Baccalaureate – or the Welsh Bac – is a new qualification, which includes well established, approved qualifications like A levels and VCEs, and develops the knowledge, understanding and skills which students need to progress to higher education.

### The Welsh Bac consists of two parts:

Core	with four components: Key Skills; Wales, Europe and the World; Work-related Education; Personal and Social Education.
Options	courses/programmes currently offered e.g. AS/A Levels, VCE (Vocational A-levels).

It is offered at three levels:

Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced – and students achieving the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma will be in a position to progress to higher education.



### The Core

- Key Skills
- Wales, Europe and the World – a chance to learn more about political, economic, social and cultural issues affecting Wales and learn more about wider perspectives on these issues e.g. UK, Europe and the world. A language module at a level suitable for the student is included in this component.
- Work-related Education – includes working with an employer and taking part in a team enterprise activity to help the student understand how businesses work and develop entrepreneurial skills.
- Personal and Social Education – allows the student to explore issues in the modern world; family, health, relationships, citizenship and sustainable development. The student will be required to engage in an activity in the local community.

## What does a student need to achieve the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma?

Core	Options
Core Certificate at Advanced Level	Two grades A-E at GCE Advanced or NVQ Level 3 or BTEC National Certificate at pass level or equivalent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three key skills at level 3, one of which must be Communication, Application of Number or IT together with the other key skills at level 2.</li> <li>• Working with Employers and Community Participation reports.</li> <li>• Individual Investigation at level 3.</li> <li>• Specified curriculum requirements.</li> </ul>	

## What skills will young people develop when they take the Welsh Bac?

To complement the subject knowledge developed through their AS/A levels, students will take part in a range of activities and develop a range of skills.

### These skills include the key skills of:

- Communication – taking part in discussions, making presentations, reading and synthesising documents and producing written documents.
- Application of Number – interpreting information, carrying out calculations, interpreting the results of the calculations and presenting findings.
- IT – searching for, selecting, entering and developing information, presenting text, images and number.
- Improving Own Learning and Performance – setting targets and planning how to meet them, making decisions about learning and improving performance, reviewing progress and providing evidence of achievements.
- Working with Others – planning work with others, working co-operatively with others, reviewing the individual's contribution and agreeing ways of improving work with others.
- Problem Solving – identifying problems and different ways of tackling them, planning and trying out ways of solving the problem, checking if the problem has been solved and identifying ways to improve problem solving skills.

Through their Individual Investigation, Welsh Bac students will learn how to research, analyse data and present the outcomes of their investigation.

“Welsh Baccalaureate students' key skills combined with their subject expertise will better prepare them for study at degree level. They will also, through their work and community experience, bring a new level of employment and civic awareness which they will be able to apply to their studies”

Dr Hywel Davies  
Head of Admissions and Recruitment  
University of Aberystwyth