



## Student Fees

Plaid Cymru believes that, in principle, higher education should be free for all, and we will continue to work towards this aim.

We will provide a subsidy to students resident in Wales who wish to study in Wales. Target groups and those studying subjects vital to the Welsh economy and public goals will pay no tuition fees in Wales, including those taking up key healthcare posts, studying science, engineering and technology subjects and students from particularly challenging backgrounds.

## Supporting our Universities

Our Higher Education Institutions play an important role in the national and local economies in attracting research investment, qualified staff and students to their localities. Welsh universities are currently under-funded. We will work with our universities to increase research capacity and funding, particularly ensuring that Welsh universities get a fair share of UK-based research funding and to get the best investment from the

European Union's Horizon 2020 funding. We will use this to enable our universities to work more closely with industry, promoting research and development related to universities, such as at the Menai Science Park that is being developed as a result of our 2012 Budget deal.

We will provide long-term sustainable funding for the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, ensuring greater availability of higher education in Welsh, subject to successful evaluation.

## Developing Further Education

Further Education Colleges play an important role in providing education and training for young people aged 16 years and over, and we will work with colleges to ensure that the sector continues to offer excellent education and training to widen participation, tackle social exclusion and stimulate economic regeneration.

We will continue to promote apprenticeships, particularly Higher Level Apprenticeships, as agreed in our 2012 Welsh Budget deal, and in-work learning courses.

Plaid Cymru values vocational and non-academic qualifications and we will continue to promote them through our Further Education sector, providing appropriate funding for training and courses in order to increase skills amongst our workforce, including adult community learning.

We will introduce a Citizens' Service, focusing on skills and learning, so that young people are ready for the world of work.

Using the model of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol in Higher Education, Plaid Cymru will increase the provision of Welsh language courses and tutors in Further Education across Wales, ensuring that vocational subjects are equally available to Welsh speakers in the 14-19 Learning Pathways.

We want both our young women and our young men to be equally successful in their further education, and we will therefore ensure that training for providers of educational, training and careers services includes an improved understanding of the effect of gender on learning and how this can be tackled.