



GRADING OF THE WELSH BACCALAUREATE ADVANCED LEVEL CORE FROM SEPTEMBER 2013

From September 2015, the Welsh Baccalaureate is to become the over-arching qualification for 14-19 year olds in Wales. In the interim, the qualification is being revised and strengthened, with grading being introduced for the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Level Core. The first grades will be awarded in the summer of 2015 and be relevant for entry to HE courses in 2015 and 2016. Advice will be issued on any further changes relevant for entry in September 2017.

Grading and the UCAS Tariff

UCAS has confirmed that the current Pass grade of the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Level Core, aligns with the new C grade. Achievement of a C grade or above in the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Level Core will continue to attract 120 UCAS tariff points.

Alternatively, offers can now be expressed in terms of a grade to be achieved in the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Level Core. It should be noted that achievement at A* - B requires a better performance than that currently required to pass the qualification.

How grades are calculated

Grades will be on a four point scale A* - C. All students must achieve the entire Welsh Bac Core with grades determined, as shown in the table below, by performance in a combination of Essential Skills Wales/Wider Key Skills and a strengthened Individual Investigation with more rigorous assessment criteria and requiring a minimum of 3,000 words.

WBQ Core Component	ACHIEVEMENT					
Wales, Europe & the World	Pass					
Personal & Social Education	Pass					
Work-related Education	Pass					
Individual Investigation	Distinction	Distinction	Merit	Merit	Pass	Pass
6 ESW/ WKS at level 2 or 3	4 or more at level 3 with at least 2 ESW	3 at level 3 with at least 1 ESW	4 or more at level 3 with at least 2 ESW	3 at level 3 with at least 1 ESW	4 or more at level 3 with at least 2 ESW	3 at level 3 with at least 1 ESW
Overall Grade for WBQ Core	A*	A	A	B	B	C

The Welsh Bacallaureate Qualification is widely recognised by universities across the UK.

'The Welsh Bacallaureate provides students with unique opportunities and experiences which differentiate their applications from the thousands of others that we see. We consider the level and volume of work required to be a significant achievement, and a clear indication of potential for success in Higher Education and beyond.'

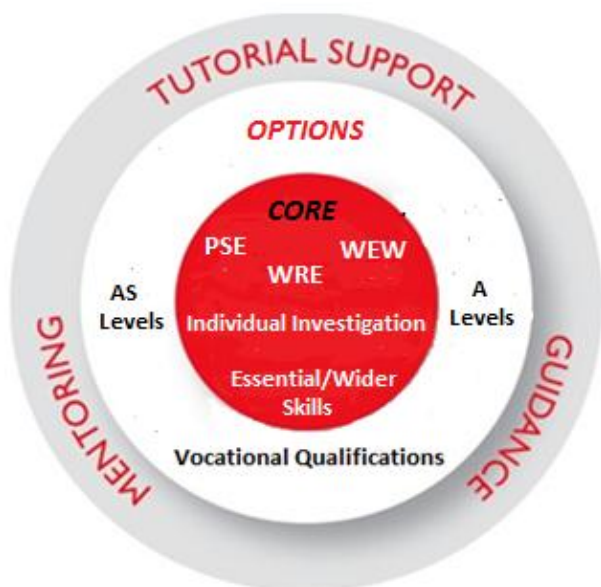
Steve Minney, Student Recruitment Officer, Swansea University

More information on the Welsh Bacallaureate

The Welsh Bacallaureate provides a wide range of valuable educational experiences, which complement other academic studies. The transferable skills which students develop are extremely useful both as a preparation for higher education and for employment.

The Welsh Bacallaureate Advanced Diploma consists of two parts:

- **Core** - Essential Skills Wales/Key Skills, Wales, Europe and the World, Language Module, Work-related Education (including work experience and an enterprise activity), Personal and Social Education, Community Participation and an Individual Investigation.
- **Options** - courses / programmes currently offered e.g. Advanced Subsidiary / Advanced (AS / A levels), BTec, Principal Learning.



To pass the Advanced Diploma candidates must achieve one of the following:

A maximum of **three** qualifications at Level 3 which total 720 GLH or 108 credits or 100% of the Level 3 threshold.

In its 2012 report, the Welsh education inspectorate Estyn found that students studying the Welsh Bac were "becoming more confident, improving their essential and social skills and gaining a better understanding of a range of topics from enterprise to politics and current affairs through studying the Welsh Bacallaureate."