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Studying natural sciences bilingually





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Studying natural sciences bilingually

Thinking of studying a natural sciences course? Considering studying through the medium of Welsh and want to know what the benefits are? Not sure whether your Welsh is good enough? If you're reading this article, it's quite possible you've thought about these questions. This article aims to answer these questions, and show how studying natural sciences through the medium of Welsh could improve your experience of higher education, as well as improve your employment prospects.

What are the benefits of studying through the medium of Welsh?

Hear from a teacher:



Hear from a student:

Video content is not available in this format.

Student





Why study through the medium of Welsh? Everyone has different reasons and experiences, but here are <u>the main benefits</u> of studying through the medium of Welsh according to the students themselves:

- financial support via Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol scholarships
- smaller class sizes, enabling a more personal and supportive learning experience
- you get to know the lecturers and fellow students better
- better career options and employment opportunities due to additional skills on CV
- improved confidence and Welsh language skills
- better understanding of the subject by working in two languages

Want to hear more from the students about the benefits of studying courses through the medium of Welsh? Take a look at the <u>Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Ambassador blogs</u> or follow #llaisllysgennad on Twitter.

Careers

Studying natural sciences can open doors to <u>a wide range of careers</u> in various sectors – from research, education and conservation to media, business and management, to name but a few. Studying a course in Welsh could open even more doors, with an increasing number of <u>employers looking for graduates with bilingual skills</u>. The ability to discuss a subject at a highly technical level in more than one language is acknowledged as a valuable skill by employers in Wales and throughout the multilingual world.

Watch Snowdon warden <u>Helen's story</u>, about her experience of looking after the mountain and working in a bilingual community.

OK, but... is my Welsh good enough?

Not sure whether your Welsh is good enough to be able to study a science subject through the medium of Welsh at university? This can be a concern for some individuals for



various reasons. Perhaps you don't get many opportunities to use Welsh on a daily basis. Or you may feel comfortable using Welsh with friends or family, but less certain in academic situations. You may be worried about learning new scientific terminology at university. Don't worry. Studying through the medium of Welsh is an opportunity in itself to build your confidence in using the language, through:

- learning in small groups with students from a variety of linguistic backgrounds
- guidance from tutors who are world-leading experts in their field
- linguistic support, such as:
 - a. language skills courses
 - b. language proofing software on your computer and online
 - c. terminology dictionaries on your phone and online.

Take a look at Zoology student Rhiannon's blog, about her experience and tips for studying a science subject through the medium of Welsh.

What other resources are available for studying natural sciences through the medium of Welsh or bilingually?

In addition to the resources you will receive on your course, a number of Welsh-medium resources are available online to support your learning and to help you find out more about the wonders of the natural world! Here are some examples:

- <u>Gwerddon</u> a Welsh-medium academic e-journal that publishes research on a range of subjects, including natural sciences
- Wicipedia Cymraeg a Welsh encyclopaedia, which is based on Wikipedia, with over 90,000 subject pages
- Llên natur a dictionary of names and terms

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