

Annual Monitoring of Endorsed Youth Work Programmes Delivered in Wales

Academic Year 2011-2012

Report Compiled by Courtney Taylor

February 2013



**Post Graduate Diploma
Programmes**

This report covers the period for the academic year 2011-2012 within the three Higher Education Institutions detailed below. All information was collated within December 2012, with some information clarified in January 2013. As the number of students are much smaller than the BA programmes and only covered one cohort within each Institution, research was more straightforward and outcomes clearer in all areas.

Summary of Key Points within this Report

1. *The ratio of placements to students or qualified supervisors to students range from 1:1 to 1:4 for both criteria. There needs to be debate on what might be the optimum acceptable ratio for these criteria while maintaining effective support of students at this level.*
2. *All Institutions noted issues on recruitment to their programme.*
3. *Related to all students, 86% are studying part-time, 68% are female and 52% are under 30 years of age.*
4. *26% of students gained access to the programme through non-standard entry. More research is required to identify the background of these entrants to assure ETS Wales of professional rigour.*
5. *8% of students are from an ethnic background*
6. *32% of students completed the post graduate programme this academic year.*
7. *10% of students withdrew, deferred or left the programmes with 58% continuing their studies.*
8. *26% of all students are continuing to the full Masters award*

Background of the Institutions being monitored within PG Dip Programmes

All post graduate programmes being monitored have been endorsed through ETS Wales.

	Cardiff Metropolitan	Glyndwr	Trinity St. David
Title of Programme	Post Graduate Diploma in Youth and Community Work	Post Graduate Diploma in Youth and Community Studies	Post Graduate Diploma in Youth and Community Work
Endorsement Period	2011-2016	2007-2012	2010-2015

For information, the programme directors and external examiners are provided as follows:

	Cardiff Metropolitan	Glyndwr	Trinity St. David
Programme Director	Rick Newnham	Colin Heslop	Dr Nichola Welton
External Examiner - Fieldwork	Annette Coburn University of the West of Scotland	Yvonne McNamara Liverpool John Moores University (Appointed 2009/10 for 4 years)	Mr Gareth Jones Torfaen Local Authority (ESF officer) (Former Principal Youth Officer Swansea LA)
External Examiner - Academic	Annette Coburn University of the West of Scotland	Yvonne McNamara Liverpool John Moores University (Appointed 2009/10 for 4 years)	Dr Tony Morgan University of Ulster

Due to the small number of students undertaking study at post graduate level, ETS Wales felt that it is appropriate for the Fieldwork and Academic external examiners to be the same person within both roles.

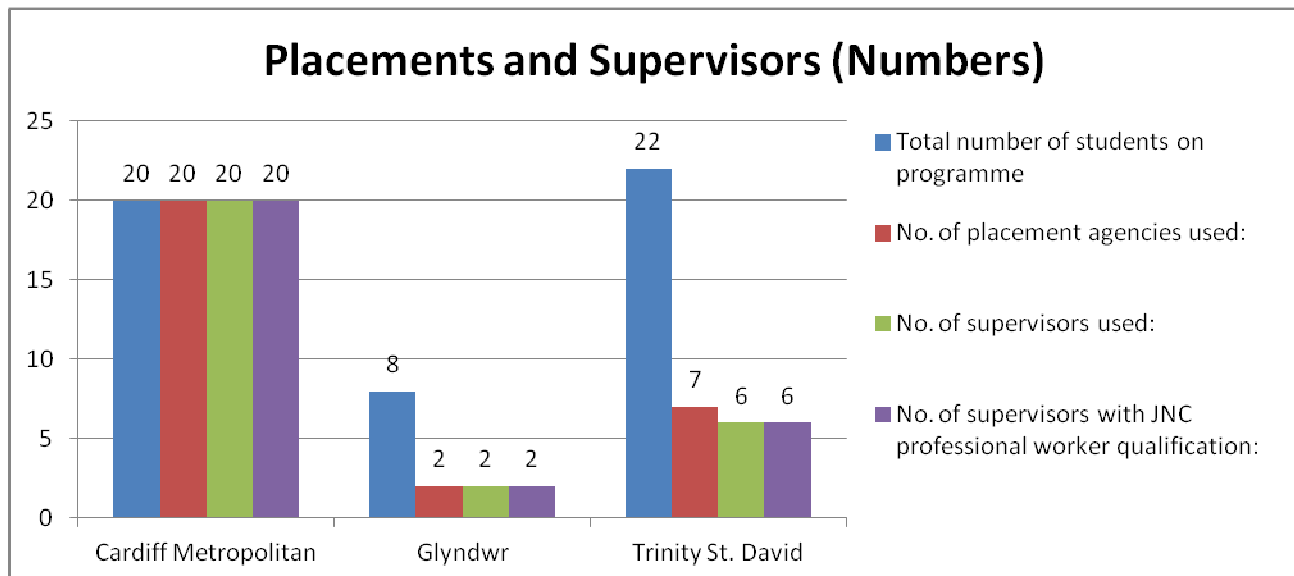
The following chart gives an insight into the staffing within each Institution based on the total number of students enrolled, part-time and full-time.

	Cardiff Met BA	Glyndwr BA	TSD BA
Total students on programme	20	8	22
Core Staff Qualified	1	6*	3
Core Staff Unqualified	0	0	0
Main Support Staff Qualified	1	0*	0
Main Support Staff Unqualified	0	0	0
Occasional Staff Qualified	1	2	0
Occasional Staff Unqualified	0	0	1
Visiting Staff	None cited	Research staff from the University. Practicing Youth Workers (JNC Qualified)	Guest Lecturers invited from other HEI institutions and the Field

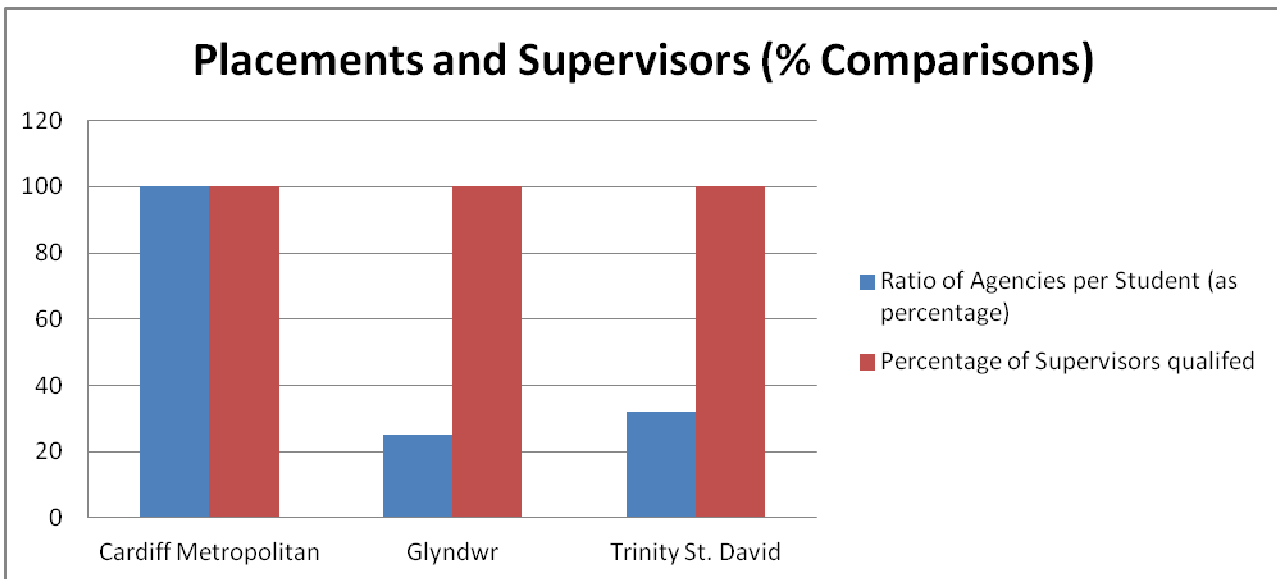
*These figures followed a clarification request. As the same names appeared within both the 'Core Staff' and 'Main Support Staff' it could be assumed that there is a spread between these categories.

Fieldwork Placements

The breakdown for students and placements is as follows:



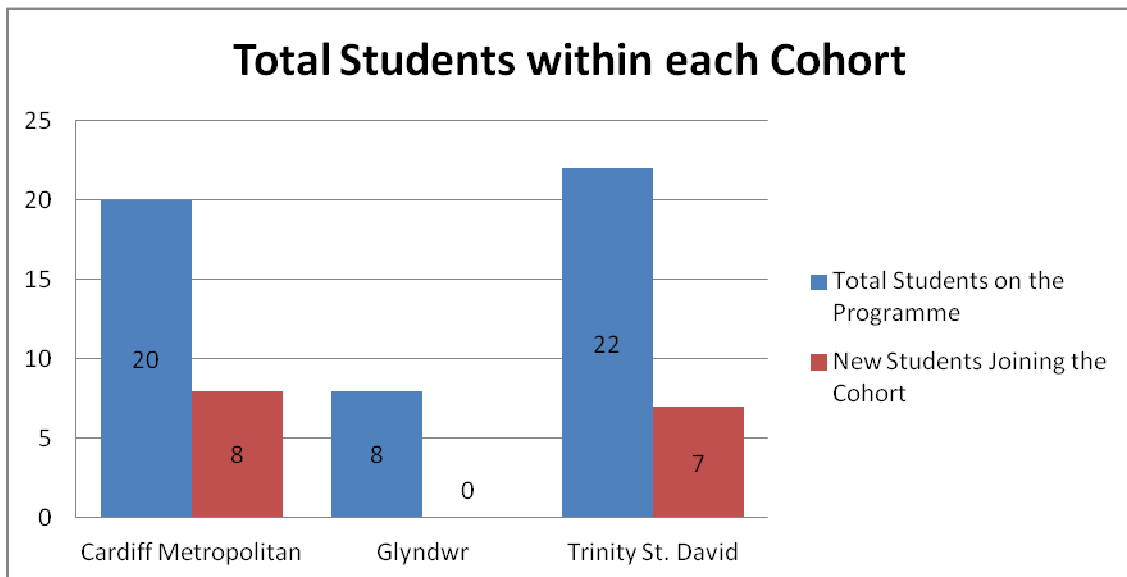
The use of the placements and supervisors could range from one placement agency for one student supported by one qualified supervisor to that of a broader ratio of one qualified supervisor supporting 4 students within one agency. The following table provides a better picture of this position.



The Institutions have ensured that all supervisors are qualified, which is an important criteria as the graduates are being taken through to qualification within a short time scale. However, as with the BA programmes, the optimum lowest ratio of agencies per student and that of supervisors per student should be considered through further research and discussion.

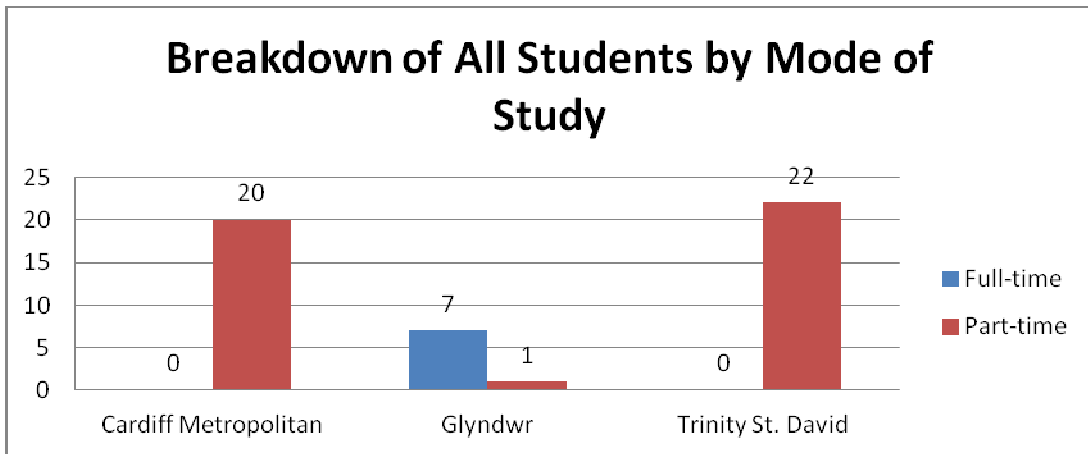
Student Enrolment

The following chart shows the overall number of students against those recruited within the current academic year.

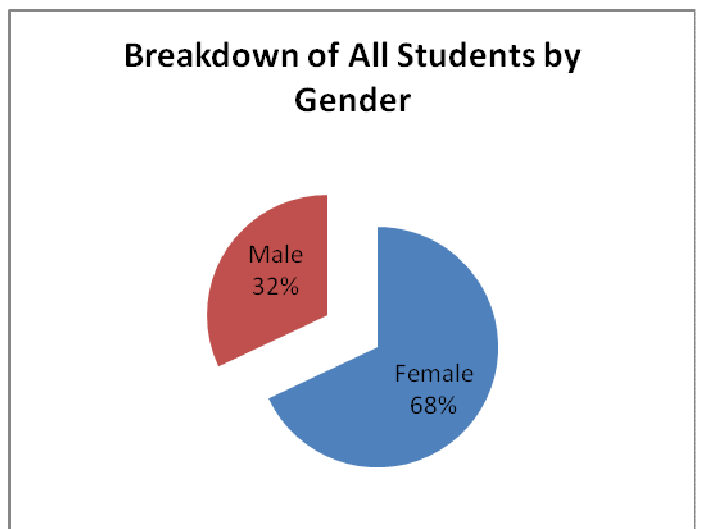
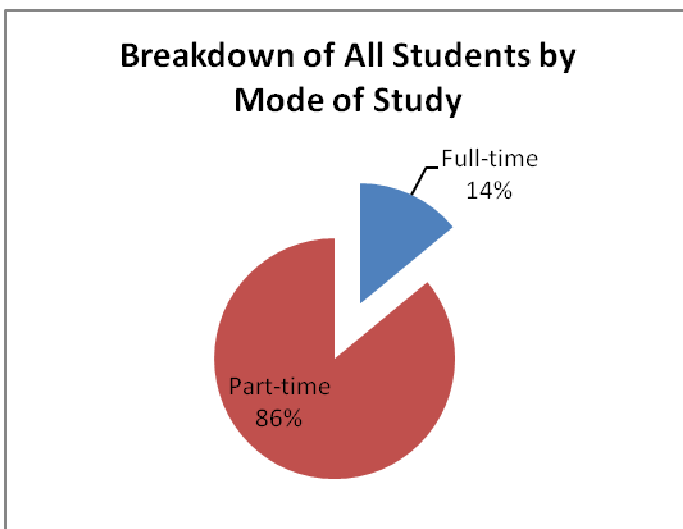
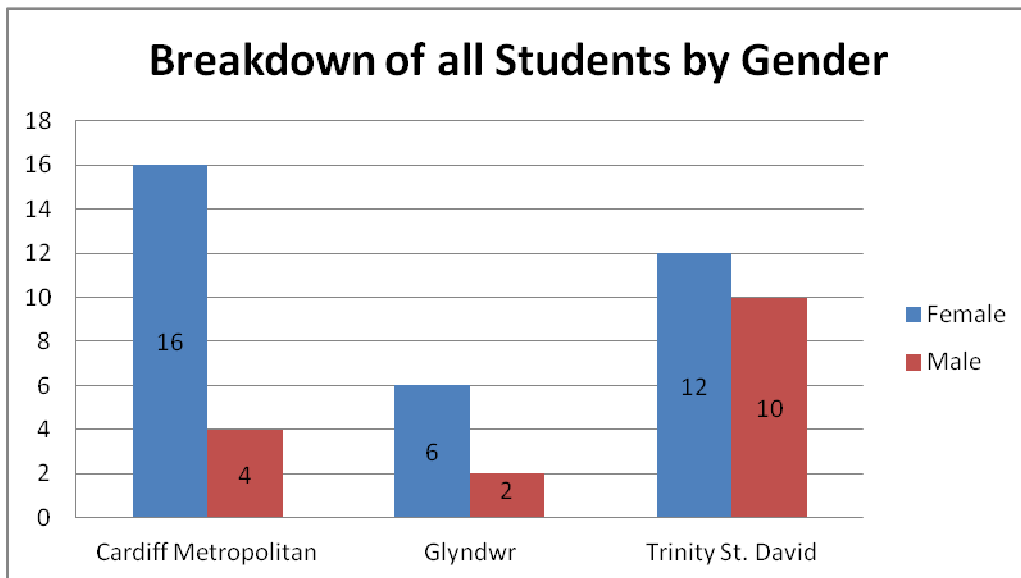


The number of new recruits during the academic year was low with only 30% of all students joining the PG Dip. This was due to difficulty recruiting and one institution making a conscious decision not to recruit. There is more information provided by the Institutions regarding recruitment within the final section of this report.

The following analysis of students covers all students within the cohort and not just the new recruits. Future data will differentiate between new recruits and continuing students in order to gain a better understanding on background of students being recruited year-on-year.

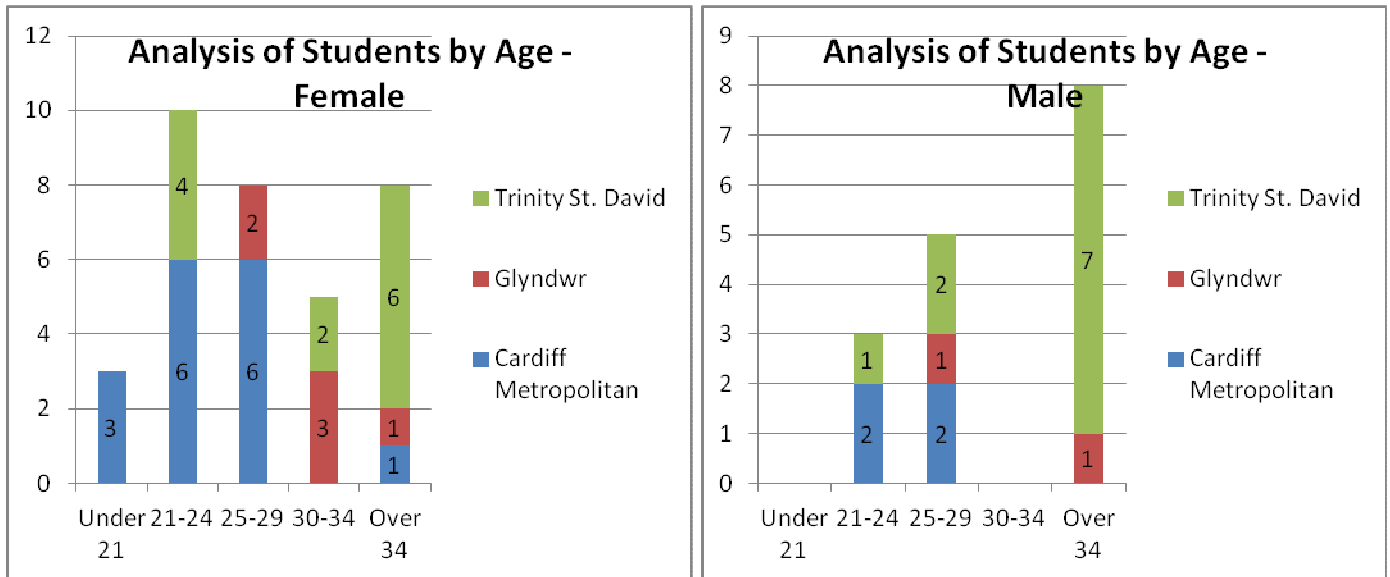


The following chart shows the gender breakdown of the students on the programmes delivered within each Institution.



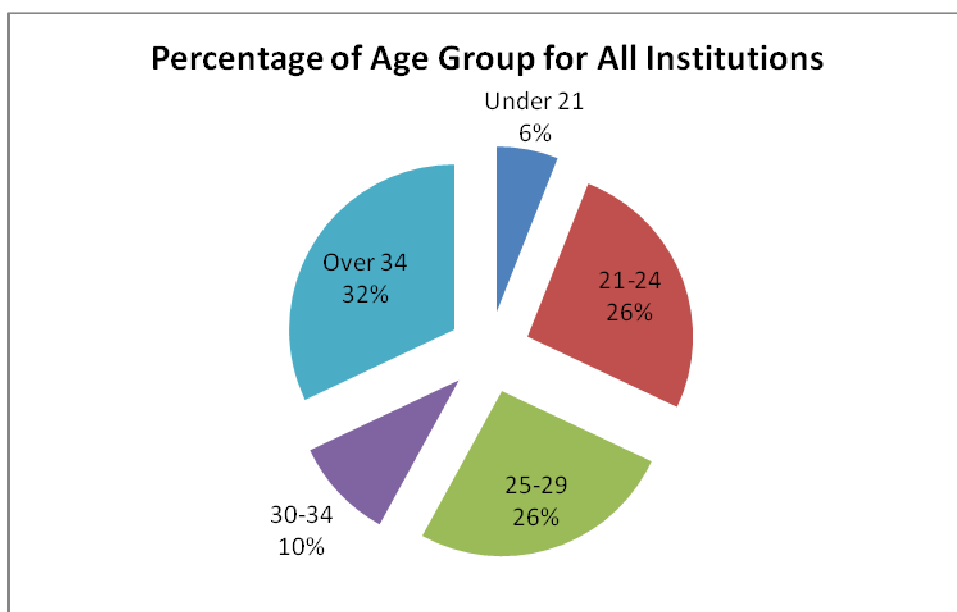
As with the BA programme, there are a greater proportion of female students on the post graduate programmes but a far greater number of students here are studying part-time. Only Glyndwr University, in the final year of their programme, are still catering for full-time students and these only make up 14% of the total students. A comparison of previous years will identify if this is part of a trend to part-time study at this level.

The following charts provide an age profile of students in relation to gender.

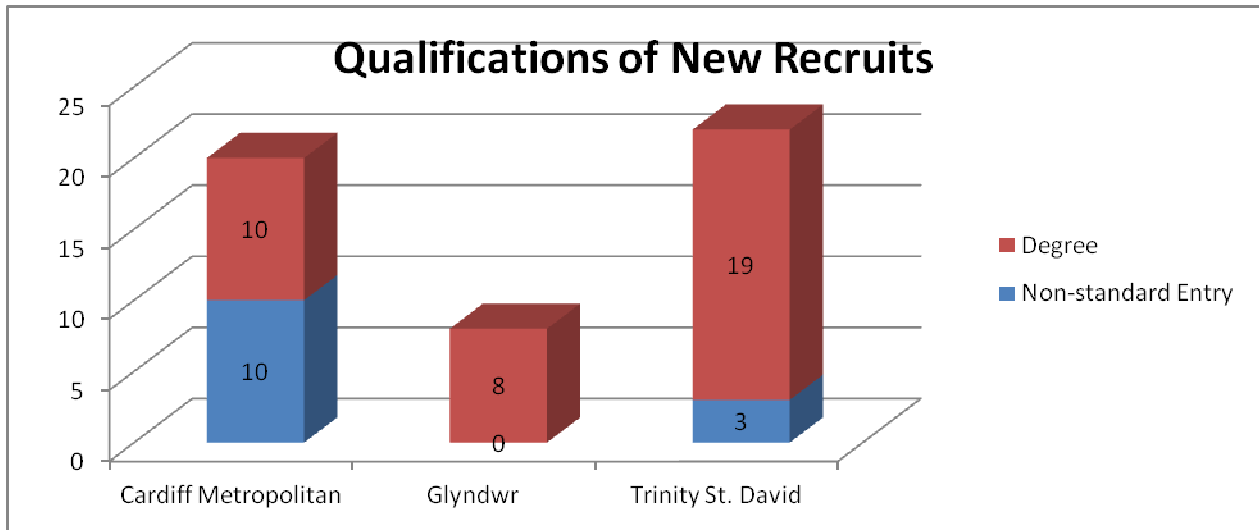


There are a large proportion of students who are 25 years or over with 68% of all students in this category and a third of all students are over 34 years of age. Of male students only, over 80% are over 25 years with half of all males being over 34 years of age. It is usually expected that students entering post graduate programmes will have taken a graduate degree and attained the age of 21 years; further questions will need to be asked regarding three entrants who were under 21 years at the point of entry.

This split between age groups can be seen more clearly within the following chart:



The following chart shows the qualifications on entry of all students on each programme.

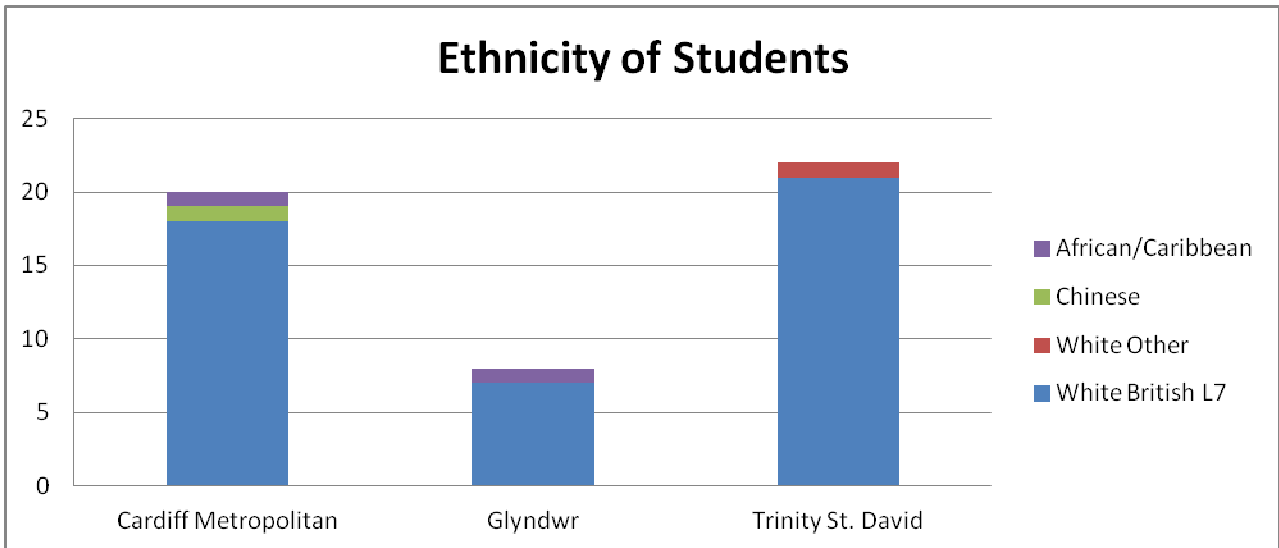


As expected, the majority of entrants gained entrance to the programme through a degree (74%) which leaves a quarter of places taken up by non-standard entrants. Within any future analysis, although there is no question that these students would have met the academic rigour required for entry at this level of study, it will be important to understand the background of these non-standard entrants to satisfy ETS Wales that these students - on completion of the PG Dip – also meet the professional rigour implied through the honours degree process.

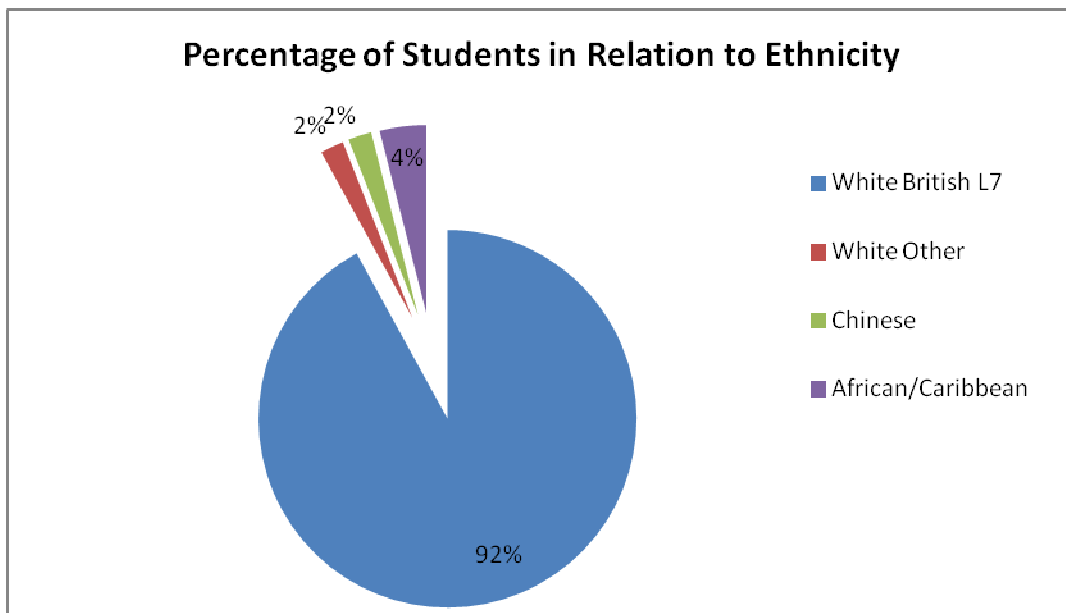
Further Analysis of Students on All Programmes

On the information the Institutions provided, 10% of all new recruits were stated to have some form of disability requiring support on the programme. This is particularly high proportion of the overall numbers spread between Cardiff Met 15%, Glyndwr 0% and Trinity St David 20%. It may be worth trying to link this data to non-standard entrants and age categories to understand if other factors are playing a part.

The ethnicity of new recruits is categorised as follows:



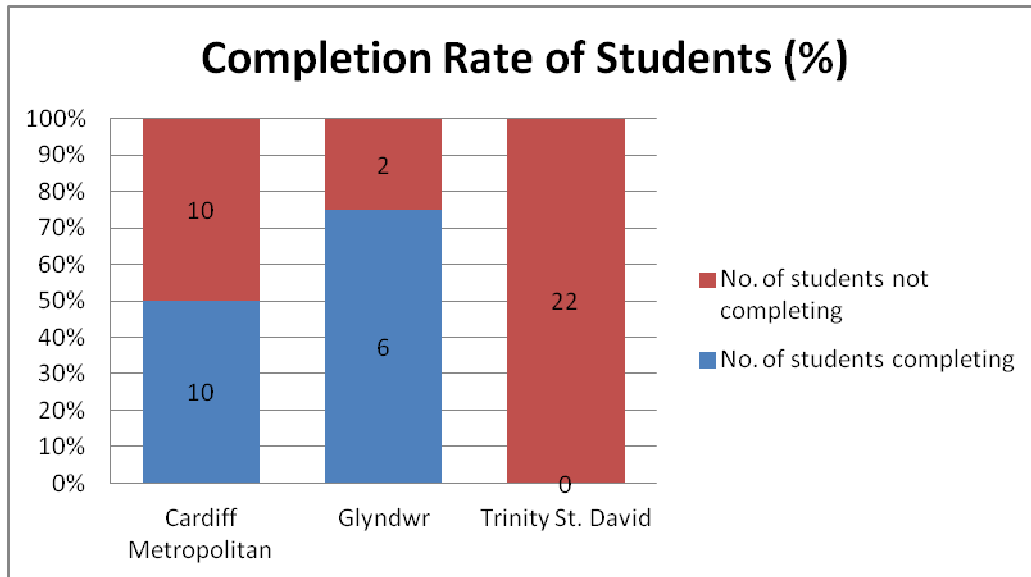
Shown as a percentage of all students, this becomes clearer:



In numbers this means that 3 students are from a non-white background with 1 student within the 'White-Other' category. There is no information to show whether this student is from a European background or otherwise.

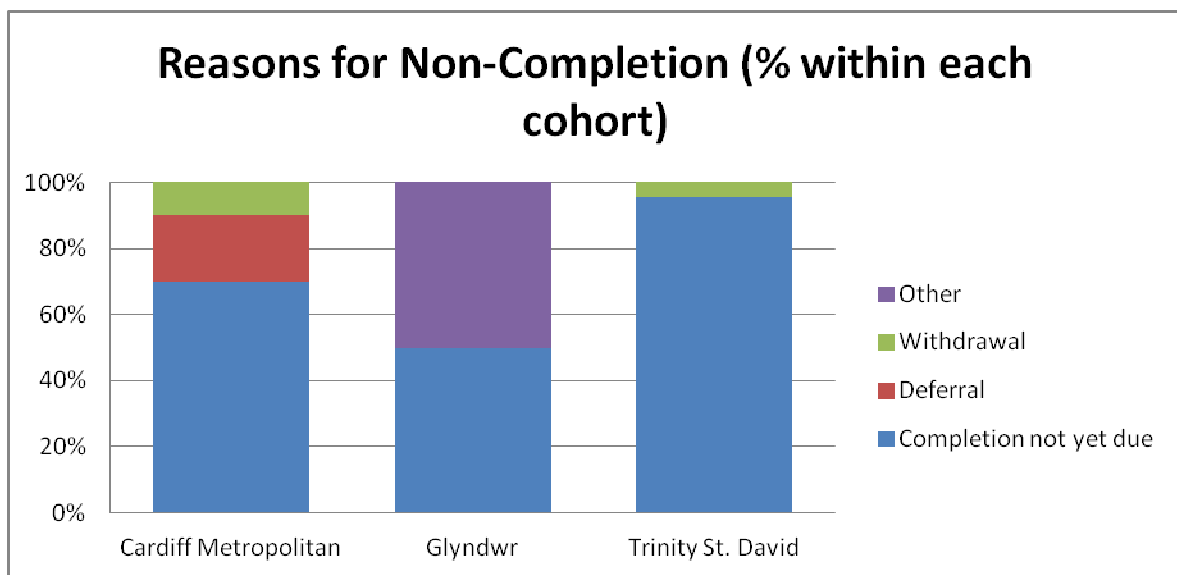
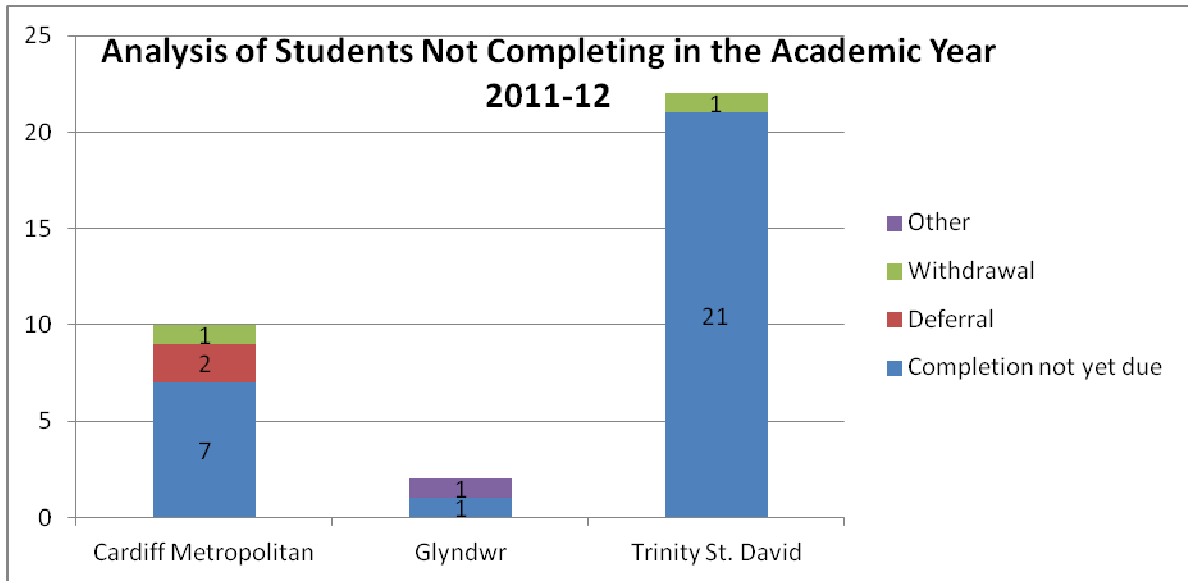
Completion of Students

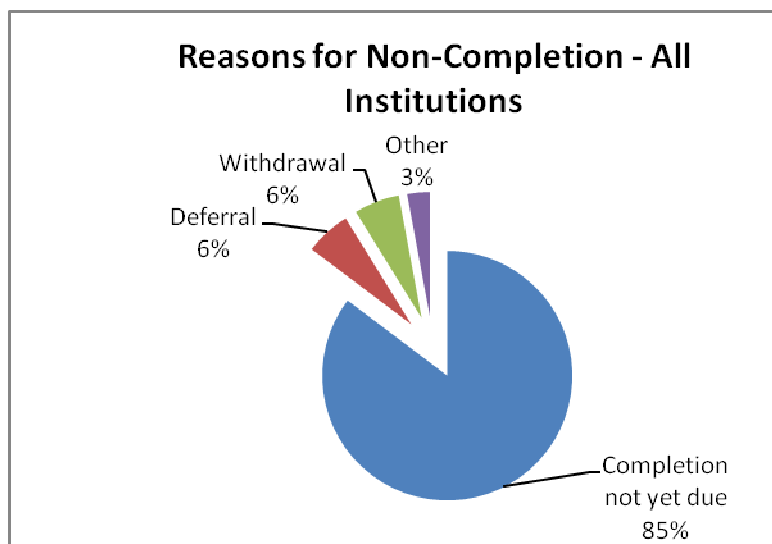
The percentage of students completing the post graduate diploma is as follows:



The data shows that only 32% of all students completed their studies this year with the remaining two-thirds continuing or withdrawing from the programme. It's noted that no students achieved an award through Trinity St. David in their second year of delivering the programme due to a delayed start and completion is now scheduled for January 2013.

The reasons for non-completion are as follows:





The student listed as 'Other' within Glyndwr was recorded as suspending their studies.

Only 7 students fall within the category of withdrawal, deferral or suspending studies.

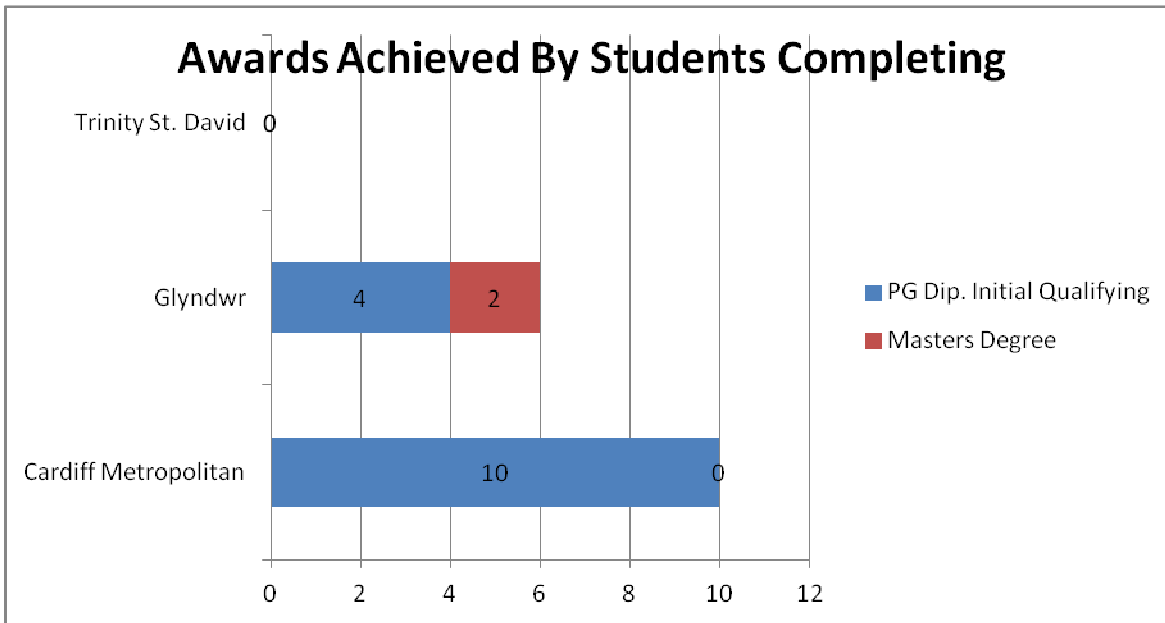
Also, only 2 students had their studies deferred and 2 further students withdrew during the year (both female).

Institutions were also asked to provide on a scale from 'high' to 'not applicable' whether certain factors played a part within students withdrawing from or deferring within their programme. With such a small number of students involved it is very difficult to read anything into these opinions and so this table is provided for information only.

	Cardiff Met BA	Glyndwr BA	TSD BA
Work/life balance	High	Medium	High
Health issues	Not Relevant	Not Relevant	Not Relevant
Financial reasons	Not Relevant	High	High
Employment changes	High	Not Relevant	High
Demands of a caring role	Not Relevant	Not Relevant	Not Relevant
Other	Not Relevant	MA Dissertation, for financial reasons No progression funding available	Not Relevant

Completion of the Full Programme

Sixteen students achieved awards which were distributed between the Institutions as follows:

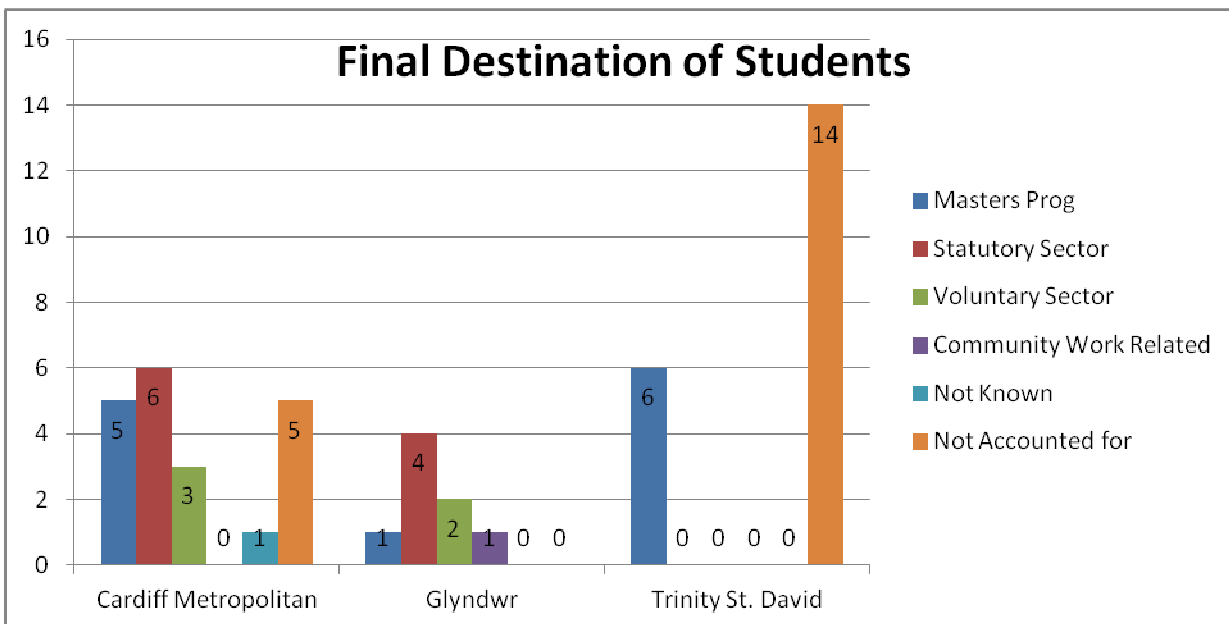


In the case of Glyndwr, as the endorsed programme is the Post Graduate Diploma then it is assumed that the two students awarded the Masters have achieved this as part of this process.

Study or Employment Destinations

There appears to be a misunderstanding on the data required within this question as all Institutions provided information for all students on the programme and not just those completing. I decided not to follow-up the responses on this occasion due to more pressing points and the time required to complete the report. In this respect, all charts will relate to the full cohort whether they achieved an award or not.

As stated within the report for the BA programmes, the relevance and wording of this question will need to be looked at when data is collected in the next academic year.



As with the BA programmes, the data shows that the majority of students had destinations within the statutory and voluntary youth service. However, rather than seeing this as a destination it should be viewed as being the employer while the students were on the post graduate programme.

Examiners Reports and Reviews

Institutions were asked to provide key points from their Examiners' reports as well as providing the reports in full. All Institutions complied but the format of the responses has meant that some responses had to be heavily edited. The nature of the response to this question will be addressed on future monitoring forms to control a number of key salient points on each category.

In all cases more information is available to the ETS Wales Committee through the reports which have been made available by each Institution.

External Examiners' Reports

	Cardiff Met BA	Glyndwr BA	TSD BA
Reports Available	Yes	Yes	Yes
Positive Areas	Academic standards and assessment	<p>The academic and professional standards for the award are commensurate with similar programmes in other institutions of Higher Education. They relate to the relatively new subject benchmarks in youth and community work.</p> <p>Programme staff offer training that is of a high standard</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Variety of Assessment methods, good practice in second marking. 2. Modules Reviewed illustrated that student's relate theory to practice well and have the opportunity to do so. 3. Knowledgeable Staff. 4. Good Staff Student relationships. 5. Modules calibrate to both the subject benchmarks and National occupational standards
Areas for Development	<p>Recruitment</p> <p>Timely Feedback</p>	<p>Staff challenges, in terms of recruitment and appointments continued this year, with temporary and part time staff filling gaps. However, new appointments are very welcome and will enable the programme to continue to develop.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing further examples of good practice in relation to Referencing. 2. Importance of consolidating teaching before making any changes

Program Reviews

The following information was provided by the Institutions.

	Cardiff Met BA	Glyndwr BA	TSD BA
Reviews Completed	No	Yes	Yes
Positive Areas	We are subject to periodic reviews rather than annual reviews so no extensive review took place during 2011/12.	A small cohort has its advantages and resulted in clearer more direct communication improved 1-2-1 support for students and improved feedback times. The outcomes have been good & evidenced in GU statistics, with all PG Dip (IQ) students successfully completing and gaining JNC professional recognition in Youth & Community Work. Feedback from the External Examiner is very positive.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revise the Field work module. 2. Monitor and evaluate the visiting University Tutor role and address capacity issues. 3. To develop robust placement guidelines for 2012/13. 4. Develop Welsh Medium and Bilingual Provision. 5. Continue to invite Guest Lectures to contribute to the programme
Areas for Development	None cited	Disappointingly the intention to develop a new postgraduate offer was not achieved as anticipated for a 2013/14 start and a revised submission is, at the time of producing this report, being submitted for validation & professional endorsement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To explore funding opportunities for students to encourage them to progress to Part 2; 2. To consider a change to delivery of one evening a week to block residential delivery; 3. Continue to ensure meaningful placement experiences in relation to ETS guidelines.

	Cardiff Met BA	Glyndwr BA	TSD BA
Overall Progress	We are subject to periodic reviews rather than annual reviews so no extensive review took place during 2011/12.	All action points completed with exception of action on Commissioning of new MA programme & endorsement of the professional elements of the JNC route. As outlined in 2010/11 this programme, due to low student numbers, ceased recruiting in 2010 with the intention of developing a new postgraduate offer for Y&C progression. Therefore this 2011/12 report records the issues & achievements of a very small cohort. Commissioning request to review the offer and develop collaborative submission with Criminal Justice.	The programme recruited well in 2010/11 and 2011/ 12, the students have engaged with the programme and we have had positive External Examiners feedback. The students have raised some issues, outlined in the annual review which as a programme team we are very keen to address and ensure continued support for students and their views.
Other Relevant Information	Recruitment and marketing needs to be improved throughout the coming year.	None cited	Recruitment for the academic year 2012/13 has been very poor and therefore it was decided to postpone the start date to January 2013. The programme Team are keen to look at a different delivery model to try and encourage further recruitment. Funding for MA programmes also seems to be an issue, the programme coordinator intends to look at sources of funding to try and make the programme more attractive to prospective students.