

Physics and the EU in Wales



The Institute of Physics in Wales is a scientific membership society devoted to promoting physics and bringing physicists together for the benefit of all. We have more than 1,000 members and are part of the Institute of Physics, a charitable organisation and leading scientific society.

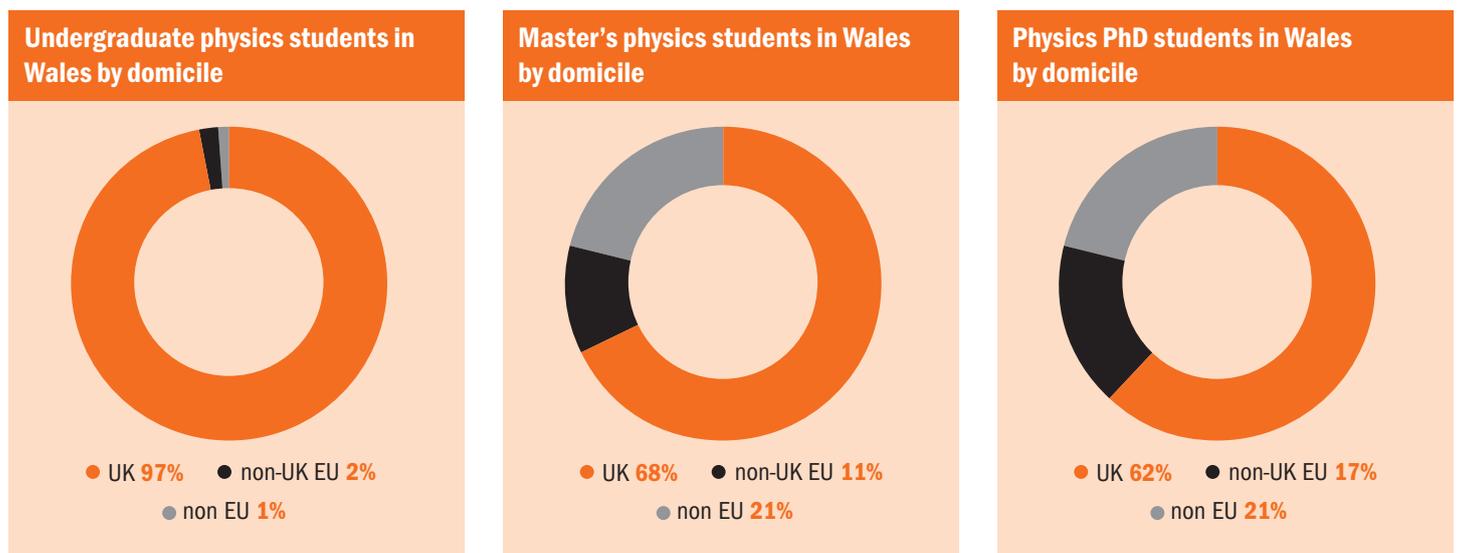
This briefing outlines a short set of statistics on the impact of the UK's membership in the EU on physics in Wales, and comparative data with other UK nations and subjects.

Welsh higher-education physics departments:

- Receive higher proportions of master's and PhD students from non-UK EU countries than the average for all subjects in Wales, but a lower proportion of undergraduate students
- Employ a higher proportion of academic staff from non-UK EU countries than for the average of all subjects in Wales, which is in line with the UK average for physics departments
- Receive 13% of their total research funding and grants from EU sources. This is lower than the proportion for other STEM subjects in Wales, and lower than the UK average for physics departments

Students

Non-UK EU nationals make up 2% of undergraduate and 11% of master's level students in Welsh physics departments, which is below the UK average of 5% and 16% respectively. However, for master's students this proportion is higher than the average for all subjects in Wales, which is 6%.

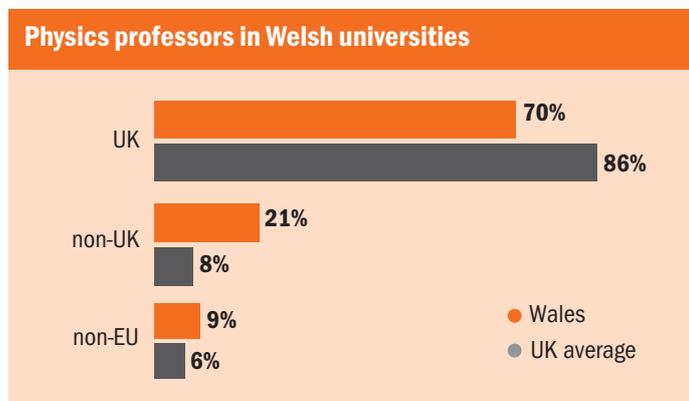
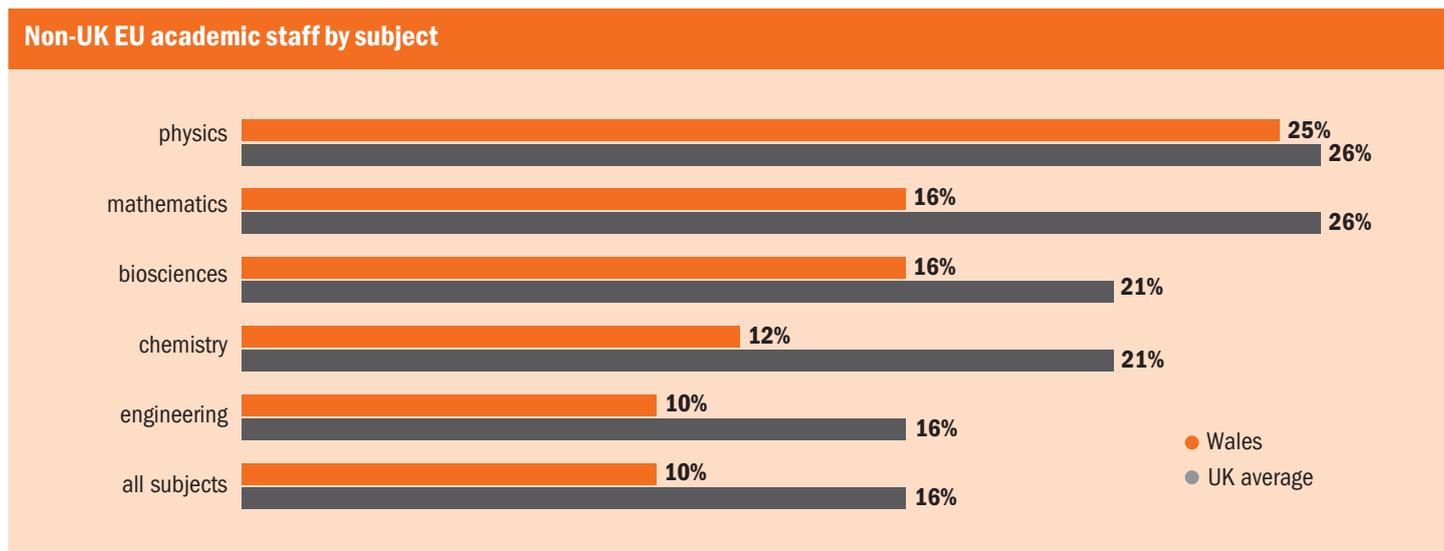


16.4% of PhD students in physics departments in Wales are from non-UK EU countries. This compares to an average of 10% for all subjects in Wales.



Staff

Non-UK EU staff members make up a quarter of all academic staff in Welsh physics departments. 65% of staff are from the UK, and just under 10% from outside of the EU. While the proportion of non-UK EU staff is smaller than in Scotland (28%), and in line with the UK (26%), it is higher than the average for all subjects in Wales (10%) and across the UK (16%) as shown in the graph below.



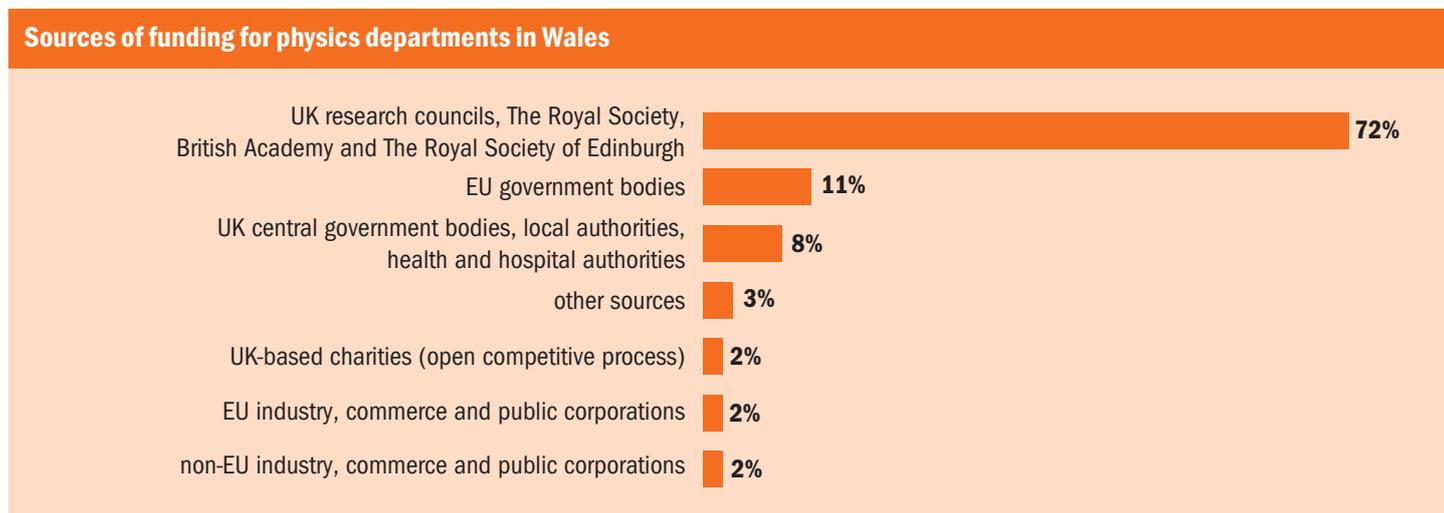
Professors are senior academics and responsible for some of the high-quality research in Welsh universities. Welsh physics departments employ a higher proportion of professors from non-UK EU countries (21%) than the average for UK physics departments (17%). This is also higher than the average for all subjects (16%) as shown in the graph.

All academic staff refers to levels F1, I0, J0, K0 of job titles as defined by HESA and staff on teaching only, research only, and teaching and research contracts, available at hesa.ac.uk/collection/c15025/combined_levels/html/.



Research grants and contracts

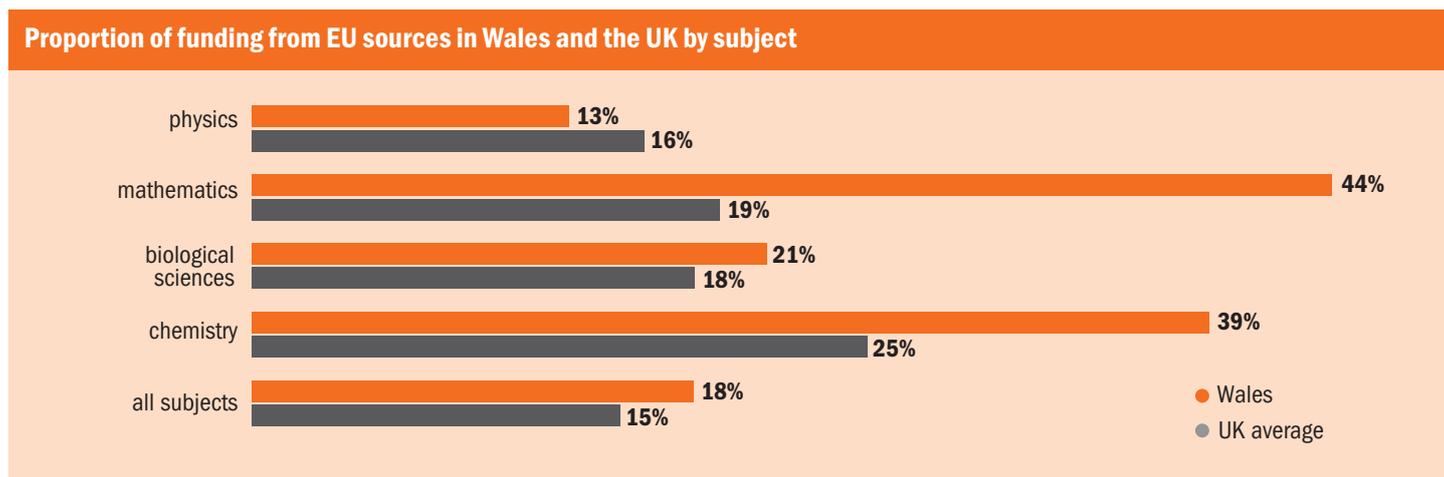
Physics departments in Welsh universities receive funding from a number of different sources, as shown in the graph below.



Recurrent grant funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales is not included in this data.

13% of all research grants and contracts received by Welsh physics departments come from EU sources, which is lower than England and Scotland (both 18%). 2% of this total funding comes from EU-based industry, which is a higher proportion than received in England and Scotland where this makes up less than 1%.

The graph below compares the funding from EU sources in Wales and the UK compared to other subjects. When all subjects are considered, the proportion of funding from EU sources in Wales is higher than the UK average.





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