



**WALES  
CYMRU**

**RESPONSE TO:**

**Proposals for minor amendments to the current  
General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW)  
Registration Rules in preparation for its  
reconfiguration to the Education Workforce  
Council (EWC) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015**

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1. The University and College Union (UCU Wales) represents more than 7,000 academics, lecturers, trainers, instructors, researchers, managers, administrators, computer staff, librarians, and postgraduates in universities, colleges, adult education and training organisations across Wales.
2. UCU Wales is a politically autonomous but integral part of UCU, the largest post-school union in the world: a force for educators and education that employers and government cannot ignore.
3. UCU was formed on the 1st June 2006 by the amalgamation of two strong partners – the Association of University Teachers (AUT) and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) – who shared a long history of defending and advancing educators’ employment and professional interests.
4. We welcome the opportunity to respond to the consultation on Proposals for minor amendments to the current General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW) Registration Rules in preparation for its reconfiguration to the Education Workforce Council (EWC) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015

**Question 1**

Do you agree with the approach taken, in that the draft *Registration Rules 2015* are based on the existing GTCW Rules with minor amendments to incorporate the changes in the *Education (Wales) Act 2014* and the *Education Workforce Council (Main Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2015* ?

YES	x	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>If no, please explain why?</b>			
As far as is possible to tell without having had them applied to FE lecturers previously.			

**Question 2**

Do you agree that the revised draft *Registration Rules 2015* accurately reflect the changes made under the *Education (Wales) Act 2014* and the *Education Workforce Council (Main Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2015*?

YES	x	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>If no, please explain why?</b>			

### Question 3

Do you have any additional comments on the draft *Registration Rules 2015*?

It is assumed that the rules will be revised for 2016 with the introduction of two new categories for Learning Support Staff, as the draft rules make no reference to them.

At rule 4-(2)(i)(iv) it would seem unnecessary to include "was born overseas". It is not included in the current GTCW Registration Rules and seems somewhat superfluous here. The emphasis is surely on adults that have lived overseas for a period of time rather than, for example, children of service personnel.

Rule 4 (j) makes reference to the Council's Return to Practice Scheme. How will this differ from the current Return to Teaching Scheme?

Rule 5 (1)(b) - It should perhaps be made clear in the Registration Rules published by the Council, that references to the induction period are currently only applicable to teachers in maintained schools.

Rule 11 – We question the setting out of the meeting procedure in rule 11, whereby point (1) allows the Committee Chair to in effect alter the procedure as they so determine. We suggest that rule 11-(1) be amended to read as follows:

"The procedure to be followed at the meeting shall be determined by the Committee Chair, in accordance with rules 11 (2) – (14).

Rule 19 (7) outlines the process in respect of failure to pay the registration fee and states that failure to make a payment will result in notice being sent to the registered person and may result in their removal from the register and that an administrative charge may be applied. However, as in the case of FE lecturers, the fee will be deducted directly from salary and collected by the employer. Whilst it would be appropriate to notify a registered person that a fee payment is to be deducted from their salary and to notify them if the employer had not done this; which might affect the status of their registration, it would not be appropriate to shift the responsibility of fee payment to the individual, if in fact they have no control over this. If Rule 19 (7) is only intended for registered persons who are directly responsible for payment of their own fees, it should be amended to reflect this.

Rule 20 (1) (g) (i) and (ii) and rule 22 (1) make reference to "trainers". As previously noted the draft registration rules do not include references to LSA's. We do not agree that "trainers" are the same as FE lecturers and should therefore not be included in the category of FE Teachers, but in the category of FE Learning Support staff. We would like to see the word "trainer" removed from the Registration Rules at this point, until such time that the rules are amended to include LSA's.

Rule 20 (3) (a) it goes without saying that a letter confirming removal from the register, should not be addressed to a deceased person. However, it would be courteous to confirm this with the informant.

Responses to this consultation will be published on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick the box.