

# Best practice: from VET to HE in Wales

## Student's Case Study in Wales (UK)

Student D. has been working as a teaching assistant in a local primary school for the last 3 years having successfully completed the CACHE<sup>1</sup> Level 3 Diploma in Child Care in Education<sup>2</sup>. This is a nationally recognised qualification whose curriculum is regulated by Ofqual<sup>3</sup>. She left school at 16 with five GCSEs grades A\* - C including Mathematics and English which are the normal entry qualification for this programme<sup>4</sup>. Her job role involves supporting the class teacher working with 5- to 6-year-olds in a main stream local authority school. She takes responsibility for small group literacy sessions and has individual responsibilities which relate to supporting a child with additional learning needs.

Her CACHE qualification is a nationally recognised qualification which enables a student to gain knowledge, skills and competencies to work with children in Wales, supported by a regulatory body, the Care Council for Wales<sup>5,6</sup>.

Student D is keen to progress her career in child care and education and joins Coleg Gwent<sup>7</sup>, which is her local Further Education College to study for a Foundation Degree<sup>8</sup> in Childhood Studies. Her foundation degree is franchised from the local university, the University of South Wales<sup>9</sup>. During her course she develops her knowledge at QCF levels 4 and 5<sup>10,11</sup>. After successfully completing this course while continuing to work she was able progress to level 6 study via a top-up programme to a full BSc Honours degree though the progression opportunities at the franchising university<sup>11</sup>.

## Links to the References mentioned above

1. CACHE - Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education: <http://www.cache.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>
2. Cache Level 3 extended diploma for children's care, learning and development (Wales and Northern Ireland) (QCF):  
[http://www.cache.org.uk/Qualifications/CYP/CYPL3/Documents/KFL3CCLDED\\_1%2019%204%2013.pdf](http://www.cache.org.uk/Qualifications/CYP/CYPL3/Documents/KFL3CCLDED_1%2019%204%2013.pdf)
3. Ofqual - The Register of Regulated Qualifications: <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>
4. CACHE Qualification Handbook:  
<http://www.cache.org.uk/Qualifications/CYP/CYPL3/Documents/L3%20EDCCLD%20v3.0.pdf>
5. Care Council for Wales - Information and news for early years and childcare workers:  
<http://www.ccwales.org.uk/early-years-and-childcare-worker/>
6. National Occupational Standards for Supporting Teaching Learning:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/239935/NOS-SUPPORT\\_for\\_supporting\\_teaching\\_learning.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239935/NOS-SUPPORT_for_supporting_teaching_learning.pdf)
7. Coleg Gwent: <http://www.coleggwent.ac.uk/>
8. Foundation Degree qualification benchmark: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Foundation-Degree-qualification-benchmark-May-2010.pdf>
9. University of South Wales: <http://www.southwales.ac.uk/>
10. Coleg Gwent - Level 4 Foundation Degree Childhood Studies:  
<http://www.coleggwent.ac.uk/index.php?view=course&id=DG0013>
11. University of South Wales - BSc (Hons) Childhood Studies (Top Up):  
<http://courses.southwales.ac.uk/courses/515-bsc-hons-childhood-studies-top-up>