



S S Patiar
Director
Skills Development

**Overview of Education Systems
in
England, Wales
and Northern Ireland**

**Education Population and
Language of Instruction**

- In 2005/2006, 58 per cent of the population in the United Kingdom (including Scotland) aged between 0 – 29 years were in education
- The official language in England by custom and practice is English. In Wales, the language of instruction is either English or Welsh or a combination of both. However, all pupils in Wales are required to follow a programme of study in Welsh, either as a first or second language, throughout the years of compulsory education.
- In Northern Ireland, the language of instruction is English, except for in a small but growing number of Irish medium schools.

Pre-Primary Education

➤ In England and Wales, this is established as the foundation stage of education, which caters for children aged three until the end of the reception class (usually aged 5) in publicly funded provision. It is a statutory requirement that children at this stage of education work towards the six early learning goals:-

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Communication, Language and Literacy
3. Mathematical Development
4. Knowledge and understanding of the World
5. Physical Development
6. Creative Development

Compulsory Education

Primary Education	Age 5 to 11 (England/Wales) Age 4 to 11 (Northern Ireland)
Secondary Education	Age 11 to 16

➤ Many children in England and Wales start in the reception class of Primary School at the age of four.

➤ The majority of students move to Secondary School at the age of 11, although in some areas of England, middle schools cater for children from the age of 9 or 9 to 12 or 13, respectively.

➤ Most Secondary Schools also provide education for post-compulsory students aged 16+ to 19+ now.

Post-Compulsory/Upper Secondary and Post-Secondary Level Education

Types of Education

Secondary School	Age 16 to 19
Further Education * Sixth Form College Further Education * Tertiary College	Age 16 to 19

* England and Wales only

➤ Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Colleges offer General/Academic Education along with some courses in Vocational Subjects

➤ Further Education Colleges place a greater emphasis on Vocational Courses although they also offer General Courses

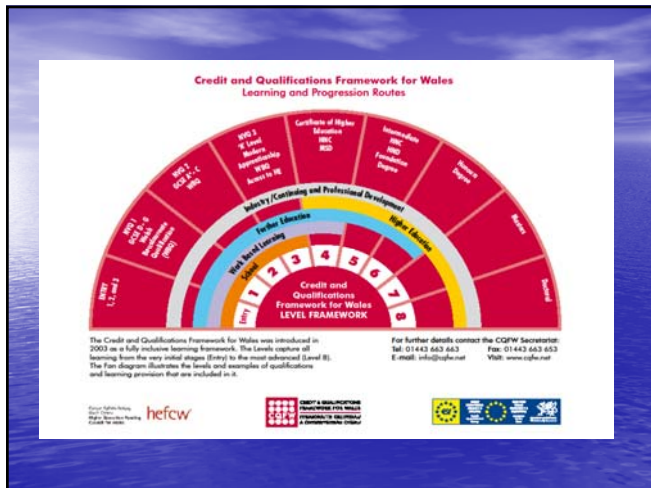
➤ Tertiary Colleges offer both General and Vocational Education

Higher Education

- Higher Education institutions include Universities, Higher Education Colleges and a small number of Further Education Colleges delivering Higher Education qualifications leading to Foundation Degrees but mainly in Vocational subjects

Access

All major Higher Education institutions are autonomous bodies and each determine its own admissions policy and requirements. Entry is competitive and each institution determines its own admission policy. In most cases entry requirements are specified as GCE _ 'A' Levels or equivalent qualifications. Most institutions also welcome applications from mature candidates who may have appropriate experience but lack formal qualifications



Hospitality and Tourism Vocational Education

FURTHER EDUCATION

COURSE TITLES		
	Operations Level	Supervisory/Management Level
Entry Level Entry at Age 14 Years	Introduction to the Catering Industry - Connect Courses	BTEC Entry Level Certificate Qualifications
Level 1 Entry at Age 14 Years	National Vocational Qualification or Vocationally Relevant Qualifications	Foundation Diploma * or Welsh Baccalaureate (Foundation Level)
Level 2 Entry at Age 16 Years	National Vocational Qualification or Vocationally Relevant Qualifications	Higher Diploma * or Welsh Baccalaureate (Intermediate Level)
Level 3 Entry at Age 16 Years	National Vocational Qualification or Vocationally Relevant Qualifications	Advanced Diploma * Or Welsh Baccalaureate (Advanced Level)

* New Diplomas to be introduced during the Session 2009/2010 Hospitality
Session 2010/2011 Travel & Tourism
