

# Study in Wales

Interview with Ms. Tracy Merengue, Head of the Global Wales Program

Article by: Khalid ALKhalailah



Wales, renowned for its rich history, notable castles, and vibrant culture, is inviting students to explore its competitive tuition rates and diverse academic programs.

Tracy Merengue, head of the Global Wales Program, advocates for Wales as an ideal destination for international students.

“We want to raise the profile of Wales, its own little country, with eight wonderful universities,” she said in an interview at NAFSA 2024.

Merengue represents a partnership between the Welsh Government, Welsh Universities, and the British Council. She emphasized that Wales offers more than just a high-quality education—it provides an inclusive and warm environment.

“We’re a diverse country and we’re [known] for having a warm welcome,” she said. “International students are hugely important for our universities and colleges. They create a richness and diversity for our domestic students as well.”



According to Merengue, what’s enticing about studying in Wales is its affordability. Tuition rates are generally lower than those in other countries, making Wales an attractive option for

international students. The country is also doing a lot to support students coming from abroad, including the Global Wales Scholarship.

“The universities themselves have scholarships, but we The Global Wales Scholarship,” she said. “It’s for a master’s program and funds a place for one years in Welsh University.”

This scholarship targets students from countries like Canada, the U.S., Indian, and Vietnam, Merengue explains. She believes it’s a valuable initiative that supports international students pursue their education while easing financial stresses.



Merengue also highlights the country’s dedication to sustainability through the Future Generations Act. This act ensures public and private sector activities align with goals to benefit future generations in the long-term.

“Every business has to demonstrate that if they want funding from the Welsh Government, they’re doing what is in the best interest of future generations. Protecting the country and its people are what we’re hugely proud of in Wales,” she said.

Career-focused opportunities also set Wales apart, Merengue shares. Many degree programs involve paid work placements, providing students a hands-on experience in their chosen field.

“From my understanding, international students are allowed to work for 16 hours a week because it’s a study visa,” she said.

Merengue noted for those who secure skilled jobs, the UK offers pathways to long-term residency under UK immigration rules, which includes a work visa.

Merengue emphasized Wales’s friendly communities, diverse culture and high-quality education while reiterating the country’s focus on fostering international connections and providing inclusive and sustainable education.

“All of our universities have different international strategies and they welcome students from countries all over the world,” she said. “At the Global Wales program, we want to target students in the U.S., Canada, India and Vietnam.”

Merengue encourages prospective international students to explore what Wale's has to offer—an inclusive culture, community and education.

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