10fed Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

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Offering Bilingual Modules to Distance Learners in Computer Science

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The Advanced Media Production scheme offers a taught Masters qualification to part time distance learning students employed in the erstwhile EU objective 1 area of West Wales and the Valleys. It is a WEFO funded project and one of the features was that we would offer all our modules in both Welsh and English. This is important as there is an active Welsh Language media industry. While in Computer Science some modules are offered with a Welsh Language option, these are not fully Welsh Language modules. So providing the option to study modules fully in Welsh is new to us. Our provision includes:

* Welsh language written coursework materials
* Welsh language lecture recordings
* Welsh language assessment briefs
* Fully bilingual Blackboard presence
* Welsh language tutorial groups, though this last cannot always be arranged.

We are not running separate Welsh language modules, but present the Welsh and English language materials alongside each other, giving students the flexibility to swap between languages. We have had quite a high take up of the Welsh language option.

Our provision will be introduced and problems we have encountered will be described and an attempt made to offer lessons that might be applied in a more typical university context. This will be done in a short presentation before discussion of our practice and, hopefully, other people's good practice we can learn from. As it is felt important that the problems and opportunities arising from Welsh language provision are shared beyond the Welsh speaking community, the presentation will be primarily in English. Contributions to the discussion can be in either language or both.

