

22.12.2025

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**Title**

Merger in higher education : learning from experiences / Melinda J. Drowley, Duncan Lewis and Simon Brooks

**Publication year**

2013

**Source/Footnote**

In: Higher education quarterly. - 67 (2013) 2, S. 201 - 214

**Inventory number**

34420

**Keywords**

Ausland : Großbritannien : einzelne Hochschulen

**Abstract**

Political pressure to reduce the number of higher education institutions in Wales has been sustained for over a decade by three successive ministers for education, two of whom, Jane Davidson and the current incumbent, Leighton Andrews, have left the Welsh sector in no doubt about the strength of their personal commitment to the policy of reconfiguration and collaboration. In this paper, an attempt is made to understand and explain how this policy was experienced by some of the people most closely affected by the recent merger between the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the University of Glamorgan in South East Wales. Some of the lessons learned in this particular context are elucidated in the hope that they might be of assistance to both policy-makers and members of higher education institutions elsewhere that are contemplating merger.(HRK / Abstract übernommen)