# Cardiff University reduces proposed job cuts amid financial challenges



Proposed job cuts at Cardiff University have been significantly reduced, as the institution's Vice Chancellor, Professor Wendy Larner, confirmed a decrease in the number of academic positions at risk. Initially, the university had announced plans to eliminate 400 academic roles, but this figure has now been adjusted to 286. The decision to scale back comes amid efforts to address a projected deficit of over £31 million.

Professor Larner provided this update during a recent communication to university staff, stating that employees in the school's mathematics and chemistry departments will no longer face redundancy. However, the overall landscape remains precarious, with a total of 1,307 full-time positions still identified as being at risk.

The adjustments stem from a 90-day consultation process that commenced in January, during which Cardiff University proposed extensive cuts, including the elimination of various academic courses across departments such as nursing, modern languages, music, ancient history, translation, religion, and theology. On April 10, staff members from both the maths and chemistry departments received notification relieving them from redundancy concerns.

In an effort to preserve its nursing faculty, the university is now considering alternative proposals rather than pursuing outright closure of the nursing school. These proposals involve recruiting smaller student cohorts and potential modifications to the existing nursing programmes. The success of this plan hinges upon securing agreement with key stakeholders, including the Welsh Government and the NHS.

“We will be looking to broaden the routes into that degree programme to ensure widening participation, potentially by adding a foundation year,” said Professor Larner. She emphasised the importance of maintaining a pipeline of well-trained graduates for the NHS. The Vice Chancellor noted that, while changes are necessary, they aim to ensure that existing students can complete their courses.

Professor Stephen Riley, Pro Vice Chancellor of the College of Biomedical and Life Sciences, highlighted that the plan for the nursing school entails a reduced number of courses and staffing but is seen as a viable alternative that aims to ensure a consistent supply of skilled nurses. He remarked, “I am pleased to say that there is an alternative proposal that provides a credible alternative plan, addressing the issues of academic and financial sustainability.”

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) in Wales has expressed mixed feelings regarding the revised plans. A statement from the RCN indicated relief at the continuation of nursing education, but disappointment that the needed actions were not implemented sooner. Helen Whyley, executive director of the RCN in Wales, noted: “The RCN vehemently opposed the proposed closure, which would have had a devastating impact on nurse staffing levels, the education of future nurses, and the quality of patient care across Wales."

Despite the newly proposed reductions in job cuts, the Cardiff University branch of the University and College Union (UCU) argues that the current plans do not go far enough. The UCU warns that over a thousand staff members remain at risk of redundancy and advocates against compulsory job losses. They have also indicated the potential for industrial action over the summer should obligatory redundancies be enacted.

In summary, while Cardiff University has made notable adjustments to its initial job cut proposals, the situation for thousands of staff members remains uncertain, and discussions around the future of nursing education continue amidst the backdrop of financial challenges facing the institution.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://nation.cymru/news/union-calls-for-no-compulsory-redundancies-as-cardiff-university-scales-back-cruel-and-unnecessary-cuts/> - This article corroborates the reduction in job cuts at Cardiff University, initially from 400 to 286, and the ongoing uncertainty faced by staff despite the scaling back of cuts. It also highlights the union's call for no compulsory redundancies.
* <https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/plans-close-cardiff-university-nursing-school-paused-job-cuts-scaled-back> - This source supports the reprieve of nursing courses and details the plans to scale back job cuts at Cardiff University, emphasizing the remaining challenges and the necessity for approval from key stakeholders.
* <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/cardiff-nursing-courses-handed-reprieve-job-cuts-scaled-back> - This article provides insight into the adjustments made to preserve the nursing faculty by proposing alternative plans, focusing on reduced student intake and maintaining quality education, which aligns with the institution’s broader restructuring efforts.
* <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/> - While not directly addressing the current job cuts, this official university website can provide context and updates on Cardiff University's restructuring efforts and future plans regarding academic programs and staffing.
* <https://www.ucu.org.uk/> - This site, the official webpage of the University and College Union, could offer perspectives and updates on the union’s stance regarding job cuts and potential industrial actions at Cardiff University.