BRITISH COUNCIL

Building partnerships

with universities and colleges in Wales

Welcome to Wales

Wales Millennium Centre
Credit: Jonny Gios

Dolgellau, Wales
Credit: Joseph Reeder

Croeso i Gymru

Foreword

At the British Council, we work with education leaders, governments and institutions in over 150 countries and territories. When we discuss tertiary education, we hear common themes: the need for trusted partners; for universities and colleges that combine academic and technical excellence with genuine care for their learners; and for long-term collaborations that deliver mutual benefit.

Wales answers that call in ways that consistently impress our international colleagues and partners. Home to just three million people, Wales welcomes learners from more than 130 countries to its further and higher education institutions, which combine a strong tradition of teaching excellence with world-leading research that is helping to address some of society's most pressing challenges, from food security and healthcare to clean energy, the role of AI and digital equity. Underpinning all of this is Wales's distinctive bilingual identity, which fosters openness, cultural awareness and strong international connections.

Our universities and colleges work effectively together to meet the needs of the individuals, industries and communities they serve. Beyond our borders, they are helping to shape the future alongside partners globally.

This guide is an invitation to discover what the tertiary education providers of Wales have to offer. And to see how working with them will benefit your institution, your students and your country.

Croeso i Gymru: welcome to Wales.

Ruth Cocks, Director, British Council Wales

Welcome to Wales

Wales is one of the UK's four nations, alongside England, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

All major Welsh cities and towns are easily accessible by train from Birmingham, Manchester and London's international airports. Major European cities are two hours by air from the well-connected Cardiff Airport.

Welsh universities perform above the UK average across several National Student Survey themes, including learning opportunities, assessment and feedback, academic support, organisation and management, learning resources and student voice (NSS 2025).

Compared with many other UK study destinations, Wales offers a lower cost of living, making it an attractive option for international students seeking a more affordable high-quality education.

3.1m
population

1
UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation in Wales and other major UNESCO designations, including four World Heritage Sites, two Global Geoparks and one City of Literature.

9
universities renowned for world-leading research, strong industry partnerships and supportive learning environments.

32,395
learners were studying for a Welsh degree in their home countries through transnational education (TNE) programmes in 2024–25*.

20,935
international students were hosted in Welsh universities in 2024–25*.

89%
of research done by Welsh universities is considered world leading (4) or internationally excellent (3) for impact, which is higher than the overall UK proportion (REF 2021).

Welsh universities generate more than
12.5%
of the UK's active graduate start-ups – the highest rate per capita of any UK nation*.

Three Cliffs Bay on the Gower Peninsula coastline, Swansea.
Credit: VisitBritain/Andrew Pickett

750+
miles of coastline

13
further education (FE) colleges and institutions in Wales delivering vocational qualifications and apprenticeships, as well as academic qualifications such as A-levels, which often serve as a progression route to study at a UK university.

The citation impact for research related to the Sustainable Development Goals was
130%
above the world average between 2010 and 2019 (Elsevier for Welsh government).

*(HESA)

Introduction

Wales is a nation where learning is valued and academic standards are high. As part of the UK higher education and further education systems, our universities and colleges offer qualifications that are respected by academics and employers across the world. Wales is a proud nation. We are both part of the United Kingdom and a country in our own right, with a devolved government and our own parliament, the Senedd, that passes our own laws. Around 3.1 million people live here, including more than 251,000 learners in further and higher education.

Cardiff Central Library
Credit: Mat Wright

Wales is a friendly, cosmopolitan country, and our universities and colleges are international in outlook, with 134 nationalities represented among our learners. Culture is a shared experience in Wales and everyone is welcome. That spirit of inclusion is rooted in Wales's identity as a bilingual nation where English and Welsh have equal official status and speaking more than one language is recognised as an asset.

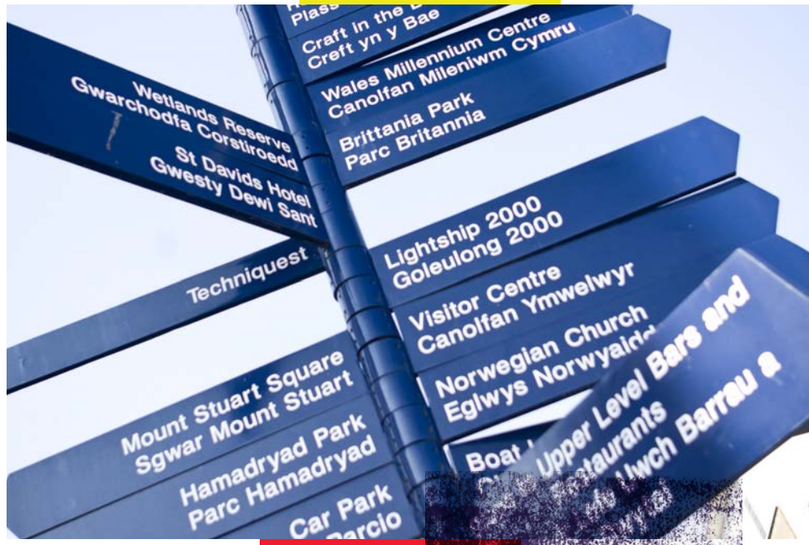
Wales is deeply committed to growing and strengthening international education connections at institutional and governmental level, and backs this up with bold policy decisions and investment. When the UK left the European Union (EU), the Welsh Government established Taith (meaning 'journey' in Welsh) to sustain international mobility and partnerships, and the Welsh sector has retained its presence in Brussels through Wales Higher Education Brussels, allowing ongoing close engagement with European partners. This is unique within the UK.

Wales has a cross-sector, publicly-funded programme, Global Wales, dedicated to supporting international post-16 collaboration, enabling a coordinated and strategic approach to internationalisation.

Wales is distinctive within the UK for its integrated approach to regulating and funding post-16 education. Medr (meaning 'skill' or 'ability' in Welsh) was established in 2024 by the Welsh Government to bring further education, higher education, research and innovation, apprenticeships, adult community learning and school sixth forms (post-16) into a single national framework. This creates clearer progression routes between education and training, improves access to lifelong learning, fosters social mobility, encourages collaboration and strengthens alignment between study options and real labour market opportunities. As part of its remit, Medr has a legal duty to promote a global outlook and to support internationalisation.

Wales was one of the world's earliest industrialised countries. By the mid-19th century, census data showed that a greater proportion of people in Wales worked in industry than in agriculture, reflecting its global significance in coal, iron and steel.

Today, Wales is reimagining its economy around skills, innovation and inclusive growth, with strengths in green and fairer futures, digital transformation and AI, agritech, the creative industries, advanced manufacturing and biotech. Supporting this work, the Wales Innovation Network brings together higher education providers, industry and public bodies to strengthen collaboration in strategic research areas.



The Dyfi Biosphere in Mid Wales is one of the UK's seven UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and part of a global network of more than 750 sites recognised as living laboratories for sustainable development. It is also home to the internationally renowned Centre for Alternative Technology, a leading centre for renewable energy, sustainable design and environmental education.

Wales is known around the world for its stunning landscapes, rich musical heritage and vibrant sporting culture, all of which are central to Welsh national identity and help build international connections and partnerships.

Wales has embedded a values-led approach to governance through pioneering legislation and policy. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to consider the long-term impact of their decisions and pursue sustainable development, reflecting the principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Alongside this, the Nation of Sanctuary policy and Anti-racist Wales Action Plan demonstrate Wales's commitment to inclusion, equality, human rights and social justice by protecting the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and ethnic minority communities.

Taken together, these strengths reflect a country that brings together deep cultural identity, bold policy innovation, and a strong commitment to global engagement. Wales offers a distinctive, values-led environment where education, research and international collaboration are connected and actively supported. This creates a welcoming and forward-looking platform for lasting partnerships, talent development and sustainable growth.

Five reasons to build education and research partnerships with universities and colleges in Wales

The strength of Wales's tertiary education sector lies in its combination of high-quality teaching, research excellence, transformative technical skills development and global connectedness. With nine universities and 13 further education colleges, Wales offers a system that is small enough to be collaborative and agile, yet diverse enough to support learners, researchers and employers across a wide range of disciplines and sectors.

Complementing these assets, Wales's commitment to inclusion, sustainability and social justice creates a distinctive environment for education, research and international engagement. Together, these qualities give Wales five key advantages.

1

A welcoming and inclusive nation

In 2024–25, Wales hosted 20,935 international students in its universities, with 44 per cent at undergraduate level, 50 per cent studying for a postgraduate taught qualification, and six per cent undertaking postgraduate research. India was the leading source country followed by China, Nigeria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the USA, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

International learners are valued members of our campuses and communities. Through their contributions in study and research, they ensure our universities and colleges continue to have a global outlook and bring social and economic benefits to communities across Wales. By spending their time in Wales, international learners enhance the fabric of our society, share their own experiences, and strengthen our ties to countries all over the world. Universities and colleges in Wales do everything they can to ensure that those who choose to come and study here feel welcome and valued, and that they receive the guidance and support they need. This approach is formalised in a set of shared principles that is regularly reviewed by institutions for effectiveness and appropriateness.

Research commissioned by the British Council among international alumni of Welsh universities found that Welsh hospitality, commitment to inclusion, and a strong sense of cultural identity were defining highlights of their experience as students and researchers. Some describe Wales as their 'second home' – a place they feel drawn to return to years after graduating. This sense of longing is poetically conveyed in the Welsh word 'hiraeth'.

A defining feature of Wales is the everyday co-existence of both the Welsh and English language. For international learners and researchers, this means an environment where communication is in English, but exposure to Welsh is part of daily life, offering a distinctive cultural experience without creating barriers to participation. Many universities and colleges provide free Welsh language training for staff and students if they would like it.

As one university leader puts it:

> 'It isn't about the Welsh language itself – it's about being open and welcoming to people who might not understand the language being spoken around them. The bilingual nature of the university means that adding another 13 or 14 languages is neither here nor there.'

Cardiff Bay, showing the Senedd and Pierhead Building.

Alongside its internationally diverse student population, Wales is home to well-established international communities, many with histories in Wales spanning generations. Our commitment to creating a welcoming environment for people from all cultural backgrounds is reflected in our progressive legislation. The Anti-racist Wales Action Plan sets expectations and accountability for public bodies, including universities and colleges, to advance racial equality, removing barriers and tackling discrimination.

The Welsh Government's Nation of Sanctuary policy aims to ensure that wherever people seeking sanctuary arrive in Wales, they are met with welcome, understanding and recognition of the contribution they make to Welsh society. It is grounded in principles of compassion, solidarity and justice. Wales has welcomed thousands of refugees in recent years, most notably from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

A final and very important feature of Wales, which is particularly welcome for international learners and researchers, is the lower cost of housing and living expenses compared to many other UK study destinations. This makes a high-quality education affordable and helps international partners and governments achieve greater impact with their scholarship and mobility funding.

'At Cardiff Met, I found more than just a university – I found a community. The Cardiff School of Technologies provided an inclusive and supportive environment that made all the difference in my academic journey. From the faculty to the students, everyone was willing to offer help and guidance. The sense of camaraderie and collaboration was invaluable, especially during moments when I felt the pressure of balancing academic and personal life in a foreign country.'

Graduate from Nigeria, Cardiff Metropolitan University

'As an international student from India, moving to Aberystwyth was a big change, and it took me some time to adjust, especially to the Welsh weather! However, the welcoming and inclusive community made the transition much easier than I had expected. Both at the university and within the town, I found people to be incredibly friendly and supportive. Before long, Aberystwyth had become much more than just a place where I studied; it had become a home away from home.'

Graduate from India, Aberystwyth University

'The way they fought for their language, the Welsh people, what they went through with their identity search, everything that relates to civil rights in Wales, I've heard the stories and it just was so close to home because it was the same with us struggling with our identity, our recovery finding our past and recovering our language. I do feel that connection.'

Graduate from Kazakhstan, Bangor University

2

A high-quality education system and an outstanding student experience

Across the sector, a strong commitment to high-quality academic and technical and vocational teaching, small class sizes, and personalised support characterises the learner experience in Wales. In the 2025 National Student Survey results, Wales exceeded its UK peers in the areas of learning opportunities, assessment and feedback, academic support, organisation and management, learning resources, student voice, and representation by students' unions.

Underpinning this high level of student satisfaction is a robust quality assurance system. While higher education quality assurance arrangements vary across the UK, Wales remains aligned with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. As a result, Welsh institutions operate within rigorous, internationally recognised quality frameworks, providing confidence in academic standards and helping to maintain strong connections with European higher education networks.

Further education colleges in Wales are quality assured through inspection by Estyn (meaning 'extend' or 'reach out' in Welsh), the national education and training inspectorate. Estyn evaluates teaching and learning, learner outcomes, well-being, safeguarding, leadership and quality improvement processes. Colleges are inspected regularly, with reports identifying strengths and areas for development to support continuous improvement.

Transnational education (TNE) programmes delivered across the world by Welsh institutions are quality assured to the same rigorous standards as courses delivered in Wales, building the trust and confidence of host governments and partner institutions. All Welsh universities and colleges offering higher education qualifications through TNE programmes take part in the UK-wide QAA TNE Quality Scheme, which supports providers to enhance the quality of their TNE provision, align their courses to country contexts, and develop mutually beneficial and sustainable global partnerships.

Alongside developing expertise in their chosen discipline, international alumni of Welsh universities reported in a British Council survey that their studies fostered critical thinking, teamworking, communication, self-reliance and intercultural competence. These capabilities are increasingly valued by employers and are essential for success in a global and rapidly changing workforce.

'I believe the most important skill or behaviour is that I was not afraid so much of the mistakes I might make. Because post-Soviet education is all about having to win 100 per cent of the time. If you don't, you're good for nothing. While in Cardiff, we even had sessions about accepting our mistakes, accepting that at least 50 per cent of our performances will not be good enough and it's all right, and this is how it works. And I know maybe for you it sounds obvious, but for me it's not. In Cardiff it was very, very different. The community was very supportive. My classmates were amazing.'

Graduate from Uzbekistan, Cardiff University

‘The teaching is practical and supportive, with lecturers who genuinely care about your progress. From day one, I noticed how approachable they were.’

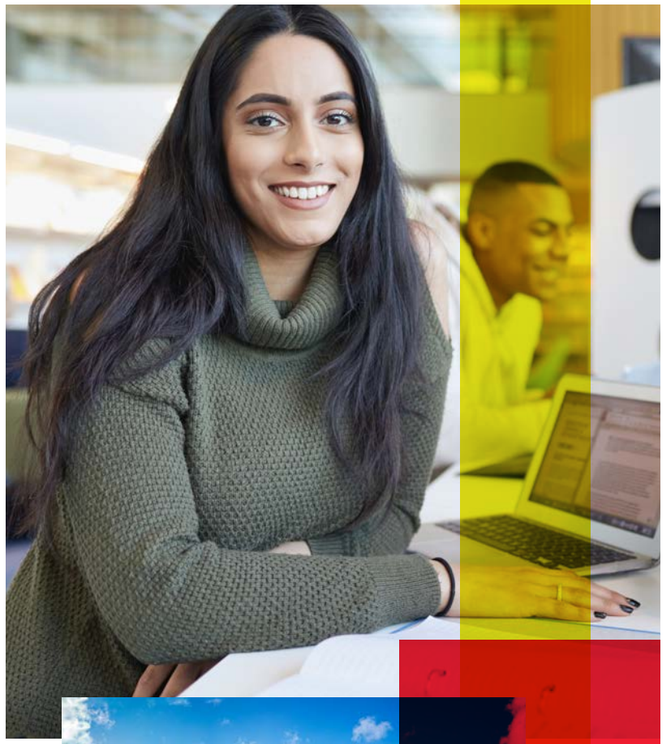
Graduate from India, Wrexham University

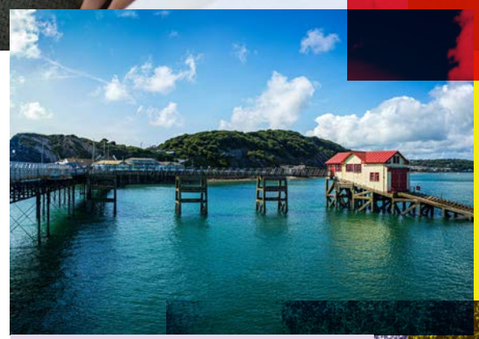
‘It’s been a fascinating experience. I received great support with my university application, including preparation for aptitude tests and interviews. I honestly don’t think I would have been accepted by Cambridge if it wasn’t for the amazing support and guidance I received from staff at Gower College Swansea.’

Graduate from China, Gower College Swansea and Christ’s College Cambridge

‘What I like most is that the feedback from the teachers is very specific and can be immediately applied to my projects or assignments. Another point is that the classroom atmosphere is very free; you can boldly express your ideas, and the process of discussing with everyone is very inspiring.’

Graduate from China, University of Wales Trinity Saint David





Mumbles Pier
Credit: Gabrie McCallin

3

An outward-looking nation with a distinctive approach to international education

Wales thinks globally, and its principal advantage lies in its strong networks and joined-up approach to working internationally. With nine universities and 13 further education colleges in Wales, the tertiary education sector can be brought together around a shared international partnership opportunity in days rather than months, working together collaboratively to contribute different specialisms.

The Welsh tertiary education sector often works with states, regions and systems with shared ambitions and challenges: examples include partnerships with Karnataka and Telangana in India, a memorandum of understanding with Universities Canada, and research collaboration with Nordic countries.

Wales is part of the UK but has a devolved education system, giving the Welsh Government the freedom and authority to make its own decisions on further and higher education, including developing policies and priorities for international mobility and partnerships.

For example, in contrast to England, Wales has decided not to introduce an additional charge on higher education institutions for recruiting international students in 2026, avoiding additional financial pressures on institutions at a challenging time for the sector.

Equally, Medr, Wales’s Commission for Tertiary Education and Research, is widely regarded as the first national tertiary education and research funding body in the UK to bring together responsibility for further education, higher education, apprenticeships, adult learning and research under a single organisation. In operation since 2024, Medr promotes a global outlook and international collaboration as one of its strategic duties and is committed to supporting researchers and innovators to participate in national, European and international research programmes.

Supporting this approach is a strong ecosystem of organisations and programmes that enable international engagement across further and higher education, helping learners, educators, researchers and institutions build partnerships and connect globally.

Following the UK’s exit from the European Union, the Welsh Government established Taith, an international mobility programme supporting learning, volunteering, partnerships and two-way exchange opportunities for thousands of learners and staff across schools, further education colleges, independent training providers, universities, adult learning and youth work. The programme has supported partnerships with organisations in more than 90 countries, with 44 per cent of participants coming from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds.

Alongside this, Global Wales is a publicly funded, cross-sector international education programme that provides a unified framework for international engagement across Wales’s further and higher education sectors. It is a distinctive feature of Wales’s international education landscape and supports institutions to build partnerships, attract students and researchers, and strengthen Wales’s global profile.

Wales has also maintained a dedicated European presence through Wales Higher Education Brussels, supporting ongoing international engagement and partnership development with European partners.

The British Council, the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, has a strong presence in Wales and a global network of education experts connecting Welsh institutions with governments and partners worldwide. We provide grants for international partnerships, convene policy dialogues, manage the UK Alumni network, and support International Skills Partnerships, research and study tours that strengthen education systems through two-way knowledge exchange.

In 2026, the UK announced its reassociation with Erasmus+, the European Union's programme for education, training, youth and sport. From 2027, UK organisations and individuals will once again be able to participate fully alongside partners across Europe. As the UK's National Agency for Erasmus+, the British Council is committed to helping Wales maximise this opportunity by supporting institutions to access Erasmus+ funding, strengthen international partnerships, and enable more learners and educators to gain valuable international experience.

Together, these organisations and programmes provide Wales with a strong platform for global collaboration, enabling institutions to build global partnerships, attract talent and investment, and ensure learners, educators and researchers benefit from international collaboration.

The main entrance to the The Royal Mint Experience, in Ynysmaerdy, Rhondda Cynon Taf
Credit: The Royal Mint Experience

4

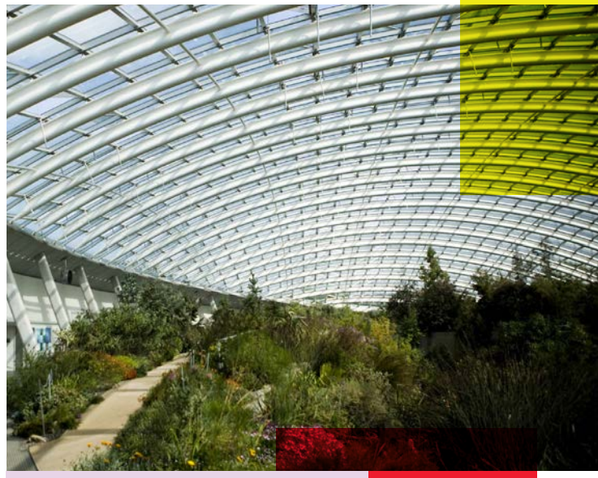
A focus on skills, employability and industry partnerships

Wales has a strong tradition of industry-embedded learning, with universities, colleges, independent training providers and employers working in partnership to align education and training with workforce needs.

For example, at the University of South Wales, students train in a simulated hospital ward, an aircraft hangar, professional recording studios and a scene-of-crime house. Wrexham University has developed strong partnerships with employers such as Airbus, Kellogg's, JCB and the BBC, providing opportunities for valuable workplace experience. Swansea University's Simulation and Immersive Learning Centre supports learners and teams through immersive, real-world scenarios. The Allied Clinical Health Hub at Cardiff Metropolitan University is a sector-leading clinical facility providing healthcare students with the opportunity to work in an authentic clinical setting that is committed to improving the health and well-being of local communities.

AberInnovation at Aberystwyth University supports innovation and skills development in agritech, food and the bioeconomy. M-SParc (Menai Science Park), Bangor University's science park in North Wales, strengthens technical capability and enterprise in the science, technology and energy sectors. sbarc|spark at Cardiff University provides a collaborative environment for academia, industry and the public sector, supporting knowledge exchange and the practical application of research. The University of Wales Trinity Saint David's Innovation Matrix in Swansea supports entrepreneurship by connecting start-ups, researchers and industry partners to develop ideas, access expertise and create new businesses.

Technical skills partnerships between Welsh colleges and priority growth sectors actively strengthen the ecosystem. The High Value Engineering Centre at Coleg Gwent, the Rhyl Engineering Centre at Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, and Cardiff and Vale College's Advanced Technology Centre provide industry-informed training in areas including advanced manufacturing, robotics, renewable energy and digital technologies.



National Botanic Garden of Wales, Llanarthne, Camarthenshire, Wales, UK.
Credit: Mat Wright

Welsh further education colleges have a strong track record in WorldSkills and EuroSkills competitions, winning a high share of medals and achieving internationally benchmarked standards of excellence. They are also recognised for their inclusive approach, with notable success in Foundation Skills competitions for learners with additional learning needs. The quality of Welsh further education and its close alignment with global industry standards make Welsh colleges attractive partners for learner and staff mobility, curriculum development, collaborative projects, and wider international education partnerships.

For those seeking a career in the performing arts, the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama prepares musicians, actors and production artists for careers in the creative industries through intensive professional training and performance-based learning.

The strong collaboration in Wales between institutions and employers delivers results: 87 per cent of graduates from Welsh institutions are in work or further study within 15 months of completing their studies, and Wales stands out for its high levels of employment stability and regional retention, with many graduates finding opportunities locally. The system performs particularly well in health, education and applied Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, where clear pathways into professional roles support high employment

rates. In a British Council survey, over 80 per cent of international alumni from Wales report that their degree improved their career prospects.

This approach has also delivered strong entrepreneurial outcomes. Welsh institutions now generate more than 12.5 per cent of the UK's active student start-ups – the highest rate per capita of any UK nation. Over the last ten years, there has been a 25.4 per cent increase in the number of student start-ups from Welsh institutions, with 390 in 2024–25. These businesses employed overall approximately 3,397 people (full-time equivalent) in 2024–25 and turned over an estimated £47.3 m.

For international governments and institutions seeking to align tertiary education with the needs of a modern workforce, Wales offers a proven model of cross-sector collaboration that breaks down traditional silos and connects academic, vocational and higher technical pathways. Wales offers opportunities for partnership at multiple levels – from co-designing industry-relevant curricula with individual institutions to engaging in national collaborations that support system-wide skills development and workforce transformation.

'The multiple opportunities for practical experience through the year in industry and internships is a significant advantage. The academic quality is excellent, particularly for courses like Economics and Finance. Finally, the location and overall student experience are truly exceptional, as Swansea is a beautiful city, and the university provides a vibrant student life with numerous clubs and societies allowing students to continue hobbies and develop new interests.'

Graduate from South Africa, Swansea Univer

'What I really like about Cardiff and Vale College is that I can combine my vocational studies in Physiotherapy with improving my English. It's giving me valuable practical experience while helping me develop the language skills I need. I know this experience will open up more opportunities for my future career when I return home to Cancún.'

FE graduate from Mexico, Cardiff and Vale College

Kaptin, Big Love Festival 2026, Usk, South Wales
Credit: Crown Copyright

5

A thriving network of international research and teaching partnerships

Research and innovation

Wales's tertiary education sector is an internationally connected hub of research, innovation and collaboration, attracting the highest calibre of academics and researchers from around the world. Working with partners across academia, industry, government and civil society, Welsh universities and colleges are tackling challenges of international significance, from developing next-generation semiconductor technologies and advancing sustainable manufacturing to improving health outcomes, strengthening food security and supporting the transition to a greener economy.

Their work delivers lasting benefits for people, communities and economies in Wales and around the world, reflecting Wales's commitment to long-term thinking and sustainable development as embodied in the pioneering Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The Welsh Innovation Network brings together higher education providers, industry and public bodies to strengthen collaboration in strategic research areas where Wales can build competitive advantage. Across the sector, institutions increasingly share expertise and facilities, collaborate on research projects, and co-supervise doctoral researchers, often in partnership with industry. This integrated approach enables closer coordination, reduces duplication, and creates stronger alignment between research, innovation and economic priorities in Wales.

International collaboration is essential for tackling global challenges, and 60.8 per cent of Welsh research in 2024–25 was done with international partners, an increase of 14 per cent since 2015. The USA is the top research partner for Welsh institutions, accounting for 26.2 per cent of all international collaborative research. China (20.6 per cent), Germany (14.9 per cent), Australia (14.2 per cent) and Italy (12.1 per cent) are the next most popular international collaboration partner countries. Medicine is the most popular field for international collaborations among Welsh institutions, with over 8,000 publications between 2021–2025. Engineering, computer science, biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology, and social sciences are the next most popular subject areas for international research collaboration. International partnerships often involve a combination of research, teaching and professional services projects that have clear outcomes and a pathway to develop and sustain the collaboration.

Cardiff Hight Sreet Arcade
Credit: Crown Copyright

National Botanic Garden of Wales
Credit: Crown Copyright

Wales makes a strong and impactful contribution to research related to the UN SDGs. The citation impact for SDG-related research for Wales was 130 per cent above the world average between 2010 and 2019. While Wales' overall research output performs well across all United Nations SDGs, publications relevant to the planet (SDGs 6, 12, 13, 14, 15) captured the highest share in the UK and produced a citation impact more than double the global average.

> 'I've seen technologies in the UK that, to be honest, are now – ten years later – being adopted in my country. My MSc project was on hydrogen energy storage. That's now become our national framework. I've done a lot of work advising the government also on matters related to sustainability and energy and for that I can definitely give credit to my British education. The way that I share things or provide my insights here definitely were shaped by my MSc.'

Graduate from the Philippines, University of South Wales

Kaptin, Big Love Festival 2026, Usk, South Wales
Credit: Crown Copyright

Caernarfon Castle,
Credit: Julian Rayar

Caernarfon Castle,
Credit: Neil Thomas

World-leading research and innovation in Wales

Clean energy

The University of South Wales's Hydrogen Research Centre is advancing hydrogen technologies that are central to international energy system transformation and the shift towards low-emission fuels.

At Aberystwyth University, researchers have developed biochar from plant biomass as a renewable alternative to coking coal, contributing to global efforts to decarbonise steelmaking.

Alongside industry partners, Swansea University, Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Bangor University and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David are working with the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult to advance offshore wind, wave and tidal energy technologies.

Life sciences and medicine

Cardiff University's Brain Research Imaging Centre places Wales at the forefront of international brain imaging research. Its Medicines Discovery Institute has recently established Draig Therapeutics, a clinical-stage biotechnology company that has already secured $205 million from global investors.

Aberystwyth University's Barrett Centre for Helminth Control is world-leading, and recently won a £9.9m grant to work on schistosomiasis, a debilitating disease caused by parasites affecting millions worldwide. Elsewhere, ground-breaking work in nuclear medicine is developing life-changing systems of drug delivery using lab-grown diamonds as transporters.

Swansea University is a pioneer in population data science and is home to the SAIL Databank – a rich and trusted data resource – that supports population-level insights at vast scale for academic, government, health and commercial users.

Bangor University has partnered with Verily, a global precision health technology leader, to expand wastewater-based public health surveillance across the UK and Europe, contributing to international efforts in early disease detection and population health monitoring.

The University of South Wales's safeMedicate digital learning platform has become a global leader in medication safety training, used by more than 80 per cent of undergraduate nurses in the UK and adopted in 12 countries, including the USA, Canada and Australia.

Food security and agritech

Aberystwyth University's Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) is internationally recognised for its work in plant breeding and food security. Around 80 per cent of the UK's winter oat varieties come from breeding programmes with IBERS involvement. A new £52m Green Futures Innovation Park will further expand capacity in sustainable food systems and bio-manufacturing.

Cardiff Metropolitan's Zero2Five Food Industry Centre co-led a programme that has delivered a £103m boost to Wales's food and drink industry in 2026 and has secured £500,000 of funding to help boost food safety and reduce food waste by developing the safe use of ozone.

Digital technologies and cyber security

The Cyber Innovation Hub links Cardiff University and the University of South Wales with global companies including Airbus, Thales and CGI, embedding Welsh research within international defence, aerospace and cybersecurity supply chains.

Bangor University's Digital Signal Processing Centre of Excellence advances next-generation communications technologies, connecting Wales to international research networks in telecommunications, signal processing and future mobile systems.

Advanced manufacturing and design-led innovation

The CSconnected cluster, led by Cardiff and Swansea Universities in partnership with industry and specialist facilities, is the world's first compound semiconductor cluster. It integrates academic research, prototyping capabilities and global manufacturing supply chains, positioning Wales at the forefront of internationally competitive semiconductor innovation.

At Wrexham University, academics are developing the UK's first commercial Laser-Induced Damage Threshold testing facility for the photonics sector. Serving defence, space, healthcare and manufacturing industries, it will also provide R&D collaboration, bespoke testing and specialist training. Also at Wrexham University is the Composites Laboratory, which combines expertise in composites, prototyping, automation, optics, renewable energy, propulsion and AI.

Cardiff Metropolitan University's PDR is a world-leading design consultancy and applied research institute that uses design to drive innovation across the public and private sectors. It works with industry, governments and academic partners to improve product and service design. In 2026, three PDR projects received recognition at the prestigious iF DESIGN AWARD, one of the world's leading international design competitions.

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David's Wales Institute of Science and Art supports digital manufacturing, robotics and sustainable production. The university also hosts the Construction Wales Innovation Centre, a national centre of excellence transforming construction and built environment sectors, delivering advanced training, research and enterprise support.

Swansea University's ASTUTE Centre of Excellence has delivered successful collaborative partnerships in advanced manufacturing between industry and academia since 2010, contributing over £500 million to the Welsh economy.

Transnational education partnerships

Students choose transnational education (TNE) because it provides access to internationally recognised qualifications while allowing them to remain in their home country. TNE offers a more affordable and accessible alternative to overseas study, enabling students to balance education with work and family commitments, overcome financial or mobility barriers, and benefit from international learning through local delivery.

In 2024–25 there were 32,395 students studying on Welsh TNE programmes in over 150 countries and territories worldwide, representing an increase of 21.2 per cent in the last five years. Around 80 per cent of qualifications were delivered through collaborative provision with established partners, including franchised, validated, joint and dual degree arrangements. 12 per cent of students

studied via flexible, distance or distributed learning, with the remainder registering with a Welsh university while based at an overseas partner organisation.

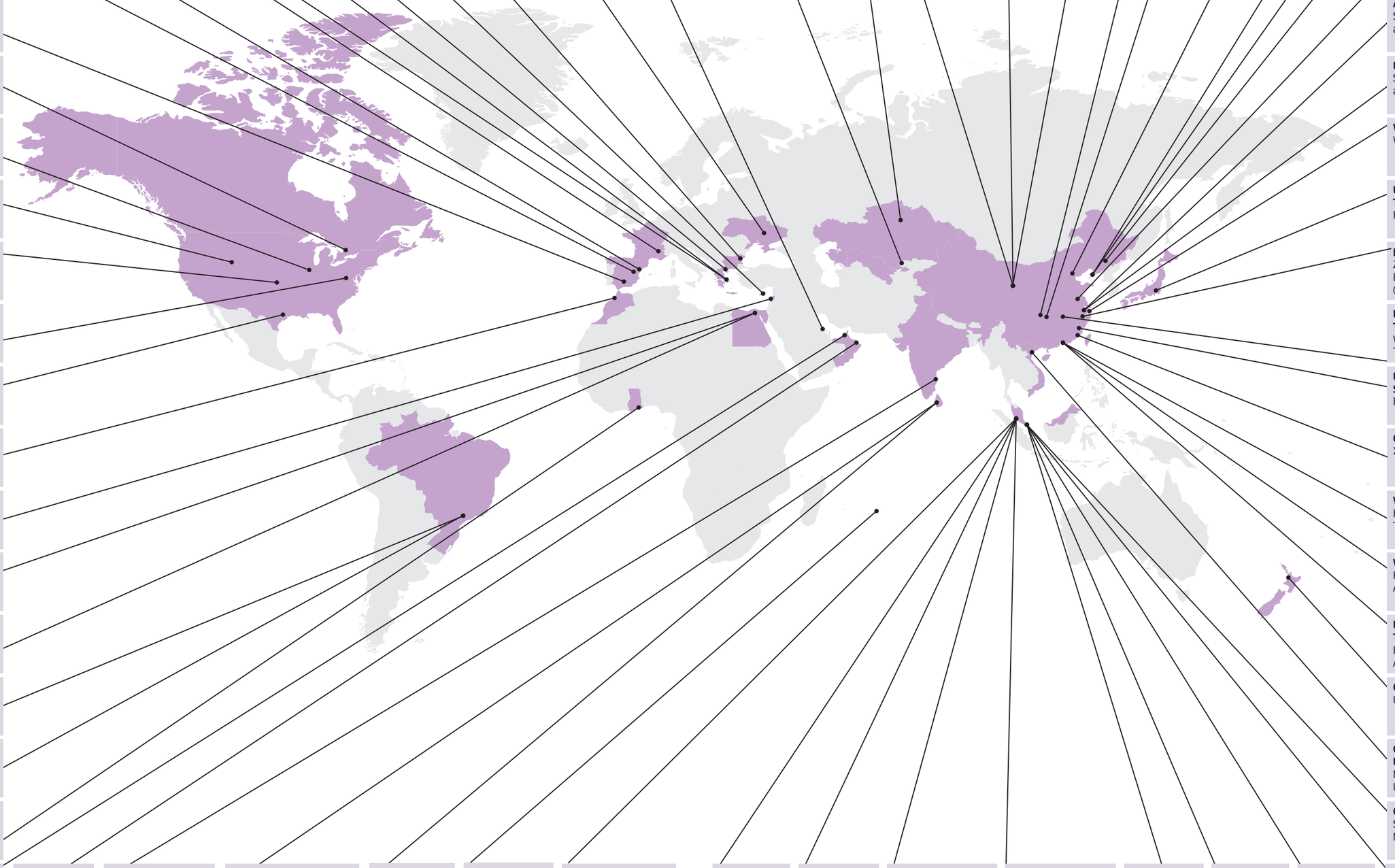
Globally, most TNE students studying with Welsh providers in 2024–25 were in South Asia (49 per cent), followed by East Asia (18.7 per cent), the Middle East and North Africa (14 per cent), the EU (nine per cent), and Central Asia (four per cent).

73.4 per cent of TNE students that studied with Welsh providers in 2024–25 were undergraduates, of whom 47.9 per cent were studying for a first degree and 25.5 per cent doing other undergraduate studies, almost all at the diploma level. 25.8 per cent were enrolled on postgraduate taught programmes and 0.9 per cent were doing a postgraduate research degree.

Transnational education programmes delivered across the world by Welsh institutions are quality assured to the same rigorous standards as courses delivered in Wales, building the trust and confidence of host governments and partner institutions. All Welsh universities and colleges offering higher education qualifications through transnational education programmes take part in the UK-wide QAA TNE Quality Scheme, which supports providers to enhance the quality of their TNE provision, align their courses to country contexts, and develop mutually beneficial and sustainable global partnerships.

National Eisteddfod 2025, Wrexham, North Wales.
Credit: Crown Copyright

Transnational Education Partnerships



Swansea University
Swansea University Institute of Science and Technology, Athens

Swansea University University of Grenoble Alpes

University of Wales Trinity Saint David Escola Universitària Formatic Barcelona

University of Wales Trinity Saint David Centro de Estudios Superiores y Técnicos de Empresa (CESTE)

University of Wales Trinity Saint David Escuela Autónoma de Dirección de Empresas (EADE)

Swansea University Trent University

Cardiff University University of Illinois System

Cardiff University University of Wyoming

Swansea University University of Oklahoma

Aberystwyth University School of International Service, American University, Washington DC

Swansea University Houston Methodist Research Hospital, Houston TX

Cardiff Metropolitan University Superior Institutions of Science and Technology

Cardiff Metropolitan University Modern University of Business and Science

Cardiff Metropolitan University Arab Academy for Science and Technology

Cardiff Metropolitan University The British University in Egypt

Aberystwyth University UNESP

Cardiff University UNICAMP

Wrexham University University of Gold Coast

Wrexham University Capital College

Cardiff Metropolitan University City Unity College

Cardiff Metropolitan University Perrotis College

Cardiff Metropolitan University City Unity College

Cardiff Metropolitan University Varna University of Management

University of Wales Trinity Saint David Alfred Nobel University

Bangor University Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance

Cardiff Metropolitan University TMC Institute of Tashkent

Cardiff University Cardiff University Kazakhstan

Aberystwyth University Northwest Normal University

University of South Wales Northwest Normal University

University of Wales Trinity Saint David Lanzhou University

Wrexham University Chongqing Vocational Business College (CBVC)

Bangor University Bangor College

Cardiff University Beijing Normal University

Wrexham University Dalian Polytechnic University

Swansea University Dalian Maritime University

Wrexham University Tonghua Normal University

Swansea University Nanjing Tech University (NJTU)

Aberystwyth University Suzhou University of Science and Technology

University of South Wales Suzhou University of Science and Technology

Wrexham University WCDI of Shanghai University

University of Wales Trinity Saint David Human Academy, Japan

Bangor University Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics (ZUFE)

University of Wales Trinity Saint David Wuhan University of Technology

University of Wales Trinity Saint David Fujian Jiangxia University

Cardiff University Xiamen University

Wrexham University Hong Kong Institute of Technology (HKIT)

Wrexham University Hong Kong Management Association (HKMA)

University of Wales Trinity Saint David Hong Kong Management Association

Cardiff University University of Waikato

Cardiff Metropolitan University National Economics University

Cardiff University Singapore Institute of Management

Cardiff Metropolitan University Beacon International College

Cardiff Metropolitan University Gulf College

Swansea University Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras

Cardiff Metropolitan University International College of Business and Technology

Wrexham University Londontec City Campus

Swansea University Uniciti

Aberystwyth University Universiti Kebangsaan

Aberystwyth University Brickfields Asia College

Cardiff University Xiamen University

University of Wales Trinity Saint David Universiti Malaya-Wales

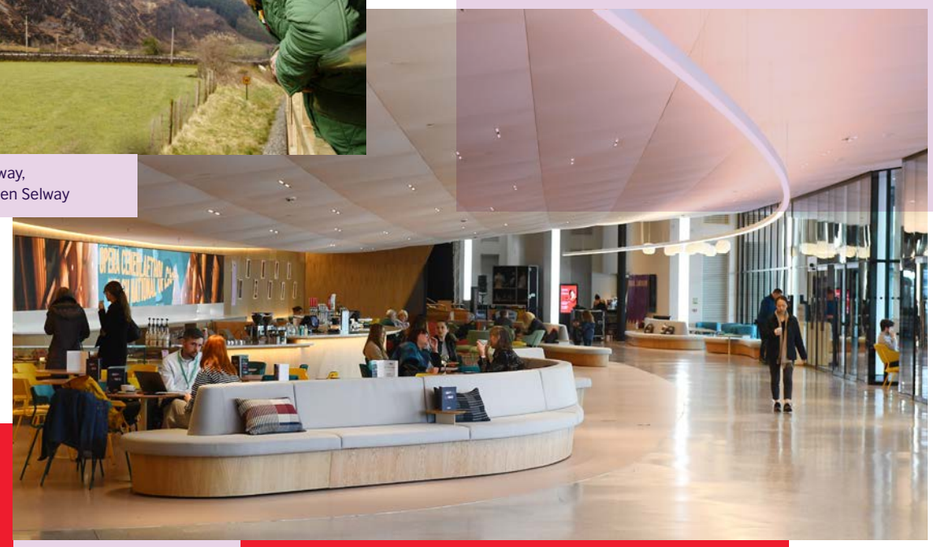
Wrexham University Despark International College

Aberystwyth University DAS Academy

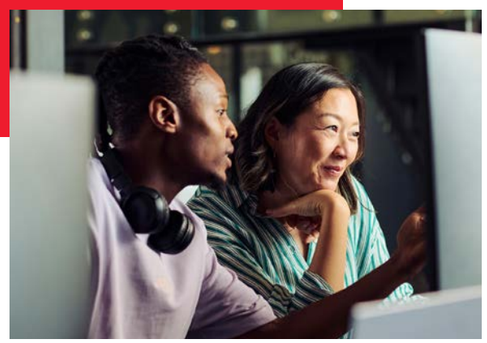
Wrexham University SHRM College

University of South Wales DAS Academy

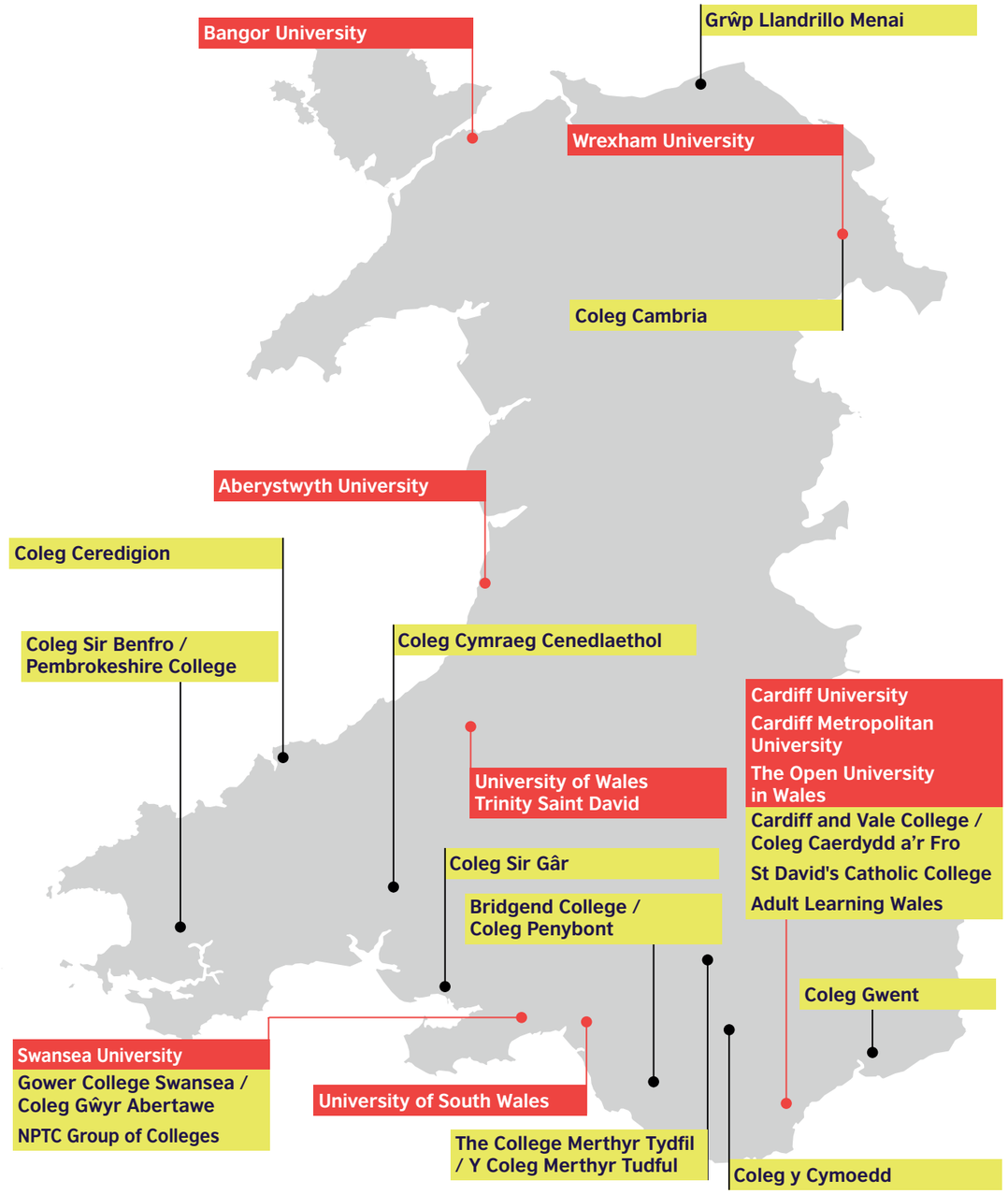
Welsh Highland Railway,
Credit: VisitBritain/Ben Selway



Millenium Centre, Cardiff
Credit: Crown Copyright



Meet the universities and colleges



Aberystwyth University

Situated on the coast of Cardigan Bay in Wales's first UNESCO City of Literature, Aberystwyth is Wales's oldest university, founded in 1872. It combines a global research reputation with a student experience that consistently ranks among the best in the UK.

Top
10
in the UK for Teaching Quality (Good University Guide 2026, The Times and Sunday Times).

Top
5
in the UK for Academic Support, and top ten in the UK for Teaching on my Course (National Student Survey 2025).

Its stunning location provides an inspiring backdrop for learning, and the university's focus on community and support helps students from across the world settle here and make Aberystwyth their home.

- 98 per cent of research activity at Aberystwyth University was judged to be of an internationally recognised standard or higher (REF 2021).
- University of the Year for Sustainability (Good University Guide 2026, The Times and Sunday Times).
- Top in Wales for Student Satisfaction for ten years running (National Student Survey 2025).
- Top in England and Wales for Student Experience (Good University Guide 2025, The Times and Sunday Times).
- First and only School of Veterinary Science in Wales (in partnership with the Royal Veterinary College).
- Home to the world's first Department of International Politics, established in 1919.
- International accommodation awards available for overseas students in their first year.

Aberystwyth Ceredigion Mid Wales
Credit: Crown Copyright

www.aber.ac.uk

Bangor University

Bangor has been educating students since 1884. Located close to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the city of Bangor, on the north Wales coast, sits between the mountains of Eryri (Snowdonia) and the sea. The location, the scenery and the surrounding area add another dimension to student life.

Pontio Arts and Innovation Centre
Bangor University
Credit: Crown Copyright

It's a place where world-leading research meets one of the UK's most affordable and beautiful cities. Nearly 2,000 international students from over 120 countries make it a genuinely global community, while its bilingual Welsh-English culture gives it a warmth that's distinctly its own.

- 85 per cent of Bangor's research is rated world-leading or internationally excellent.
- Research strengths in earth systems and environmental sciences, sport and exercise sciences, psychology and neuroscience, and health and allied health professions (REF 2021).
- Newly-established North Wales Medical School in partnership with the Welsh Government, Cardiff University, and NHS Wales.
- World-class academic facilities including one of the most noteworthy archival and rare book collections held by a university in Wales, its very own ocean-going research ship, a natural history museum, a 200-seat digital cinema, a 455-seat mid-scale theatre, botanical gardens, an MRI scanner, a cutting-edge arts and innovation centre, a research farm and field centre, a trading floor, a moot court, and science and engineering laboratories.

100%
Bangor's research is rated world-leading or internationally excellent.

100%
overall Student Satisfaction for Medical Sciences (NSS 2025) and ranked eighth in the UK for research quality in Biomedical Sciences (Complete University Guide 2027).

www.bangor.ac.uk

Cardiff University

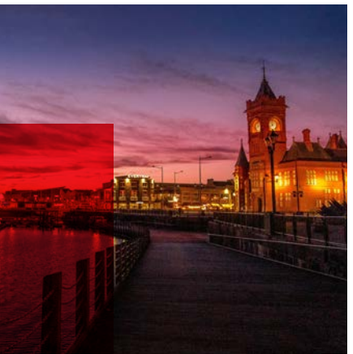
90%

of research rated as world-leading or internationally excellent, making Cardiff a top.

20

university in the UK for the overall quality of research (REF 2021).

Founded in 1883, Cardiff University is established as a leading research university. Home to over 30,000 students from more than 140 countries, Cardiff combines the prestige of being Wales's only Russell Group university with the warmth and affordability of the Welsh capital.



Cardiff Bay
Credit: Nick Fewings

It leads pioneering research that acts today for the benefit of tomorrow, creating knowledge and ideas that future generations will depend on. Cardiff's facilities include a dedicated Centre for Student Life, an Innovation Campus, and Europe's largest brain imaging research centre.

- Research strengths in health, biomedical and life sciences, neuroscience, advanced materials and semiconductor technologies, earth systems and environmental sciences, cybersecurity and AI (REF 2021).
- Ranked 181st in the world (QS 2026), the leading university in Wales. Ranked 22nd in the UK (Complete University Guide 2027).
- Ranked in the QS global top 100 in the following subjects:
  - Communication and Media Studies; Dentistry; Architecture/ Built Environment; English Language and Literature; Psychology; Archaeology; Geography; Nursing (QS 2026).
  - 94 per cent of graduates in work or further study 15 months after graduating (HESA 2025) and ranked the 12th best UK university for employability in the 2026 Times Good University Guide.

Cardiff is the third most affordable student city in UK and the UK's first 'Music City'. Cardiff will host the UEFA European Championships 2028 opening ceremony.

www.cardiff.ac.uk

Cardiff Metropolitan University

Welcomes students from over

130

countries: approximately 17 per cent of students in Cardiff are international.

Cardiff Metropolitan is a leading modern university that is distinctive and progressive, with a strong focus on student experience and outcomes, innovative professional partnerships, and significant local, national and global reach.

Its applied research and innovation positively impact lives and communities in Wales, the UK and the wider world.

- Largest TNE provider in Wales and sixth largest in the UK, with over 19,000 students studying for qualifications through partners in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe, quality assured through the UK TNE quality scheme.
- Research strengths in sport, health and life sciences, education leadership and policy, food, AI, climate change and the circular economy.
- International Student Barometer showed 95 per cent of students were satisfied with the overall learning experience and 95 per cent of students were happy or very happy with life at Cardiff Met.
- Winner: Postgraduate Employability Award – Graduate Futures Institute Academic Employability Awards 2026.
- Won the 'Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership' award at the Times Higher Education Awards 2025.
- Wales's Sporting University, with the largest number of undergraduate sports courses in the UK and 14 performance sport programmes. Cardiff Met's under 19s football team is the only university team to be playing in the UEFA youth league in 2026–27. Both the men's and women's rugby teams play at the highest level of UK student rugby.
- Ranked first in Wales and tenth in the UK People and Planet's University League 2025–26.
- The first University of Sanctuary in Wales, offering Sanctuary Scholarships to at-risk undergraduate and postgraduate students and academic staff.

Ranked

101–150

in the QS World University Ranking for sports-related subjects.

Cardiff Castle
Credit: Peyton Wells

cardiffmet.ac.uk

Swansea University

94%

of graduates were in employment and/or further study, or doing other activities, such as travelling, 15 months after graduating (HESA 2026*).

86%

of overall research rated as world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2021).

Founded in 1920, Swansea University is located on a five-mile stretch of beach that is easily accessible from two campuses, with the Gower Peninsula (an Area of Outstanding National Beauty) on its doorstep.

Swansea University is ranked in the top 350 universities worldwide, known for science, engineering, medicine and computer science expertise. Over £100m has been invested in facilities this decade alone, including a state-of-the-art Centre for Integrative Semiconductor Materials facility, the first of its kind in the UK.

Swansea
Credit: Gilly Tranabose

- Research strengths include population data science and medicine, semi-conductor and advanced materials, environmental and energy research, mathematical and computational modelling, sustainable communities and socio-economic research.
- Ranked in the top 350 in Universities in the World (QS World Rankings 2027).
- Scored 93.8 out of 100 in Times Higher Education SDG impact rankings, placing it firmly in the global top 40 out of 2,318 institutions and fifth in the UK (THE impact rankings 2025).
- Ranked fourth in the UK and top in Wales for spin-out companies (UK Spin-Out Register 2026).
- Facilities include £20m Swansea Bay Sports Park, home to the 50m Wales National Pool, outdoor athletics track, gym and International Hockey Federation pitches. global-approved hockey piches.

*Based on 2023–24 Graduate Outcomes data

swansea.ac.uk

University of South Wales

Pontypridd Library
Credit: Crown Copyright

Across its campuses in Cardiff, Newport and Pontypridd, USW offers practice-led education in professional-standard environments, giving students access to specialist facilities including the Aerospace Centre, the Clinical Simulation Centre, the Crime Scene Village, film and television production facilities, and professional recording studios.

Through collaborations with organisations such as the NHS, the Football Association of Wales and Screen Alliance Wales, students benefit from real-world projects, placements and industry engagement throughout their studies. This commitment to career-focused learning ensures graduates are well prepared for employment and leadership in their chosen fields.

The USW believes that the most powerful ideas, opportunities and solutions are created through partnership. By working collaboratively with institutions, industry and governments across the globe, it looks to transform lives through education, research and innovation, while preparing graduates to thrive in an interconnected world. USW is proud of its strong industry partnerships, which help ensure students develop the skills, experience and confidence needed to succeed in a rapidly changing global economy.

- The first higher education institution in Wales to receive Gold recognition twice from the National Cyber Security Centre for excellence in cyber security education and expertise (2026).
- Top in the UK for Complementary Medicine (Complete University Guide 2027).
- The only UK university to offer integrated EASA and CAA Part 66 B1.1 aircraft maintenance basic training with an honours degree.

94%

of graduates in employment and further study 15 months after graduation (HESA 2026 based on Graduate Outcome Survey 2023–24).

Ranked

1st

in Wales for graduate start-up businesses for the sixth consecutive year (HESA 2025).

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

1st

in Wales and second in the UK for Student Satisfaction (Complete University Guide 2027).

One of the UK's leading providers of TNE, with almost

4,000

students studying for UWTSD awards through international partnerships and collaborative provision, including a strong presence across Spain and East Asia.

Lampeter University
Credit: Crown Copyright

Founded in 1822, UWTSD is one of the UK's oldest universities and traces its origins to St David's College, Lampeter – the first degree-awarding institution in Wales.

The university holds the oldest Royal Charter in Wales and England outside Oxford and Cambridge, combining over 200 years of educational heritage with a modern, career-focused approach to learning.

Today, UWTSD is a dynamic, multi-campus university with locations across Wales and England, including Carmarthen, Lampeter, Swansea, Cardiff, London and Birmingham. Renowned for its supportive learning environment, small class sizes and strong industry connections, the university equips students with the knowledge, skills and practical experience needed to succeed in an increasingly global workplace.

His Majesty King Charles III serves as Royal Patron of the University, reflecting UWTSD's longstanding commitment to education, culture, sustainability and civic engagement.

- Seventh in the UK for Graduate Prospects (Complete University Guide 2027).
- University of the Year for Teaching Quality (The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2026).
- Swansea College of Art ranked first in Wales for Fashion and Textiles (fifth in the UK) and first in the UK for Film Production and Photography (Guardian University Guide 2026).
- A university with a strong focus on entrepreneurship, sustainability, industry engagement and applied learning, helping students develop the skills employers value most.

uwtsd.ac.uk

Wrexham University

Wrexham University is a world-leading modern civic university, regionally rooted and globally engaged, committed to transforming lives through education, skills, research and innovation.

Ty Pawb, Wrexham, North East Wales
Credit: Crown Copyright

Guided by its Vision and Strategy 2030, the university works with industry and international partners to deliver impactful research and develop graduates equipped with the applied and human-centred skills needed to thrive alongside AI and emerging technologies. Located at the heart of one of the UK's most significant advanced manufacturing regions, Wrexham University provides students with exceptional opportunities for transdisciplinary learning, industry collaboration and sustainable careers in the industries of the future.

- Top ten in the UK for Health Studies (Complete University Guide 2027).
- Award-winning student support and career prospects – ranked first in Wales in the Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2026.
- Home to CanfodAu – Centre for Engineering and Innovation – supporting advanced manufacturing, hydrogen technologies and sustainable innovation.
- Research and industry partnerships with organisations including Airbus, Kellogg's, JCB, BBC, the Football Association of Wales and Wrexham AFC Foundation.

87%

per cent of graduates in employment or further study within 15 months (HESA 2025).

Top

3

in England and Wales for Social Inclusion for eight consecutive years (The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2026).

wrexham.ac.uk

The Open University in Wales

The Open University in Wales offers flexible higher education that can be studied from anywhere and tailored around individual circumstances.

Around three quarters of The Open University students combine study with work, while its internationally recognised Business School holds prestigious triple accreditation. Research strengths span fields including space science, social policy, and education. For learners who need to fit study around work, family, or other commitments, The Open University in Wales provides a distinctive route to a respected UK degree.

- Wales's largest provider of part-time higher education., enabling learners to study flexibly alongside work, family and caring responsibilities.
- More than half of students in The Open University in Wales live in more disadvantaged areas, reflecting the university's strong commitment to widening participation and social mobility.
- Strong partnerships with the Welsh Government, NHS Wales, local authorities and employers to support workforce development and lifelong learning.
- Global pioneer in digital education and lifelong learning.
- An open admissions policy, with most undergraduate courses not requiring formal entry qualifications.
- Digital Degree Apprenticeship, helping apprentices across Wales train for a career in IT whilst they earn a salary.

open.ac.uk/wales

Meet the colleges

Bridgend College/Coleg Penybont

Bridgend College is one of Wales's leading further education colleges, serving in excess of 7,000 learners across two campuses, with county-wide outreach programmes. The college offers a breadth of academic, vocational, apprenticeship, higher education and adult learning programmes, supporting learners from entry level through to degree-level study. Known for its strong employer partnerships, innovative teaching facilities and student success, Bridgend College plays a key role in developing skills, widening participation and supporting the economic and social development of Southeast Wales.

Cardiff and Vale College/Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro

Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) is Wales's largest further education college and one of the UK's largest, supporting over 30,000 learners each year, across further education, higher education, apprenticeships, traineeships and employer training. Its international activity includes overseas partnerships, student and staff mobility, international recruitment, sports academy programmes, group programmes, and short-course delivery abroad. With learners from more than 25 countries and around 1,400 international students, CAVC connects Welsh vocational education with global partners, strengthening its role in international skills development.

Coleg Cambria

Coleg Cambria has rapidly become a leading UK education provider, with approximately 6,000 full-time and 20,000 part-time learners. Operating across five sites, it offers a broad and inclusive curriculum including GCSEs, A-levels, Vocational Qualifications (Entry to Level 3), Welsh for Adults and university-level programmes. The college also works in partnership with employers locally and nationally to deliver apprenticeships and bespoke training.

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is a national organisation dedicated to developing and promoting Welsh-medium education and training across the post-16 sector in Wales. Established in 2011, it works in partnership with universities, further education colleges, apprenticeships and other training providers to increase opportunities for learners to study and train through the medium of Welsh. Supporting thousands of learners annually, the organisation plays a central role in strengthening Welsh-language skills, expanding bilingual provision, and contributing to the Welsh Government's goal of reaching one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Coleg Gwent

Coleg Gwent is one of Wales's leading further education colleges, serving diverse communities across Southeast Wales through campuses in Cwmbran, Crosskeys, Ebbw Vale, Newport and Usk. The college offers a wide range of inclusive academic, vocational, apprenticeship and adult learning programmes designed to unlock potential and inspire ambition. With strong links to employers and communities, Coleg Gwent plays a key role in widening participation, developing skills and supporting the social and economic well-being of the region.

Coleg y Cymoedd

Coleg y Cymoedd is a major provider of further and higher education, apprenticeships and workforce training in South Wales. With four campuses and more than 9,000 learners, the college combines strong employer engagement, modern technical facilities and a commitment to widening participation, helping to develop the skills needed to support regional growth and opportunity across the Valleys and beyond. The college works with over 1,500 local and national employers and has vast experience in international partnerships and enriching learning experience via international activity.

Grŵp Llandrillo Menai

Grwp Llandrillo Menai employs 2,000 staff and delivers courses to 21,000 students, including over 1,500 higher education students across Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire and Gwynedd. It aims to support the economy of North Wales by equipping local people with the skills and qualifications needed to ensure the competitiveness and success of the region. The Grŵp's wide range of courses, high-quality learning experiences, first-class facilities and talented staff all contribute towards the achievement of these goals.

Gower College Swansea/Coleg Gŵyr Abertawe

Gower College Swansea is one of the largest and highest-performing further education colleges in Wales, offering a broad portfolio of academic, vocational and higher education programmes in the vibrant city of Swansea. Recognised for its commitment to global engagement, the College received the British Council Award for Internationalism at the Association of Colleges Beacon Awards 2022–23, celebrating the impact of its international partnerships and activities. It is also ranked among the top30 state institutions in the UK for progression to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge (Daily Mail, 2025).

Coleg Ceredigion

Coleg Ceredigion is a bilingual further education college serving Mid Wales through its campuses in Aberystwyth and Cardigan. As part of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David Group, the college enrols around 900 learners each year, including approximately 600 full-time students, and offers a wide range of academic, vocational, apprenticeship and adult learning programmes. With strong links to local communities, employers, and Welsh-language initiatives, Coleg Ceredigion plays a vital role in developing skills, widening participation, and supporting the economic, social and cultural well-being of Ceredigion and the wider region.

Coleg Sir Benfro/Pembrokeshire College

Coleg Sir Benfro is the largest provider of post-16 education and training in Pembrokeshire, serving around 15,000 learners, including approximately 2,000 full-time students and 13,000 part-time learners and apprentices. Based at a modern campus in Haverfordwest, the college offers a broad range of academic, vocational, apprenticeship, higher education and adult learning programmes. With strong links to local employers and key industries, Coleg Sir Benfro plays a vital role in developing skills, widening participation, and supporting the economic and social well-being of West Wales.

Coleg Sir Gâr

Coleg Sir Gâr is one of the largest further education colleges in Wales, serving around 10,000 learners. As part of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David Group, the college offers a broad range of academic, vocational, apprenticeship, higher education and adult learning programmes. With strong links to local employers, a commitment to bilingual education, and specialist facilities supporting sectors such as agriculture, engineering, health, and the creative industries, Coleg Sir Gâr plays a key role in developing skills, widening participation, and supporting the economic, social and cultural well-being of Southwest Wales.

NPTC Group of Colleges

NPTC Group of Colleges is one of the largest further education providers in Wales, supporting approximately 15,000–20,000 learners across eight specialist campuses in South and Mid Wales. The Group has developed an international dimension through its commercial and development activity, delivering technical and vocational education and training, skills development, and capacity-building programmes in partnership with overseas institutions, governments, and industry partners in China, East and South Asia, North and South America. It leads the Education Together UK consortium, supporting student mobility and cultural exchange programmes, particularly across Latin America and the Caribbean, and contributes to international teacher development and skills training initiatives.

The College Merthyr Tydfil/Y Coleg Merthyr Tudful

The College Merthyr Tydfil (Y Coleg Merthyr Tudful) is a modern tertiary college serving around 2,300 learners across Merthyr Tydfil and neighbouring communities. It provides a wide range of A-level, vocational, apprenticeship, higher education and adult learning opportunities within a contemporary campus. As part of the University of South Wales Group, the college is recognised for strong learner support, high achievement, and effective partnerships with schools, employers and community organisations. It plays a key role in skills development, widening participation and regional regeneration.

St David's Catholic College, Cardiff

St David's Catholic College is Wales's only sixth form college and the largest provider of A-level education in the country, serving learners from across the Cardiff capital region. Rooted in a distinctive Catholic ethos of formation and service, the College consistently achieves outcomes well above national benchmarks. Its strategic vision places human dignity and flourishing, employability, and progression to leading universities at the heart of an inclusive, values-driven education open to all, in line with its distinctive Catholic mission.

Adult Learning Wales

Adult Learning Wales is Wales's national adult community learning provider, delivering bilingual, inclusive education in communities, workplaces and online. It supports adults to build confidence, skills and qualifications through programmes in essential skills, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), employability, health and wellbeing, Welsh language, digital, civic education and vocational pathways. Working with colleges, universities, local authorities, employers and community partners, it widens participation and supports progression into further learning, volunteering and employment.

The colleges listed above do not represent the entirety of Wales's post-16/tertiary education provision. Independent training providers are also included, many with experience of working in international partnership.

www.britishcouncil.org

BRITISH COUNCIL