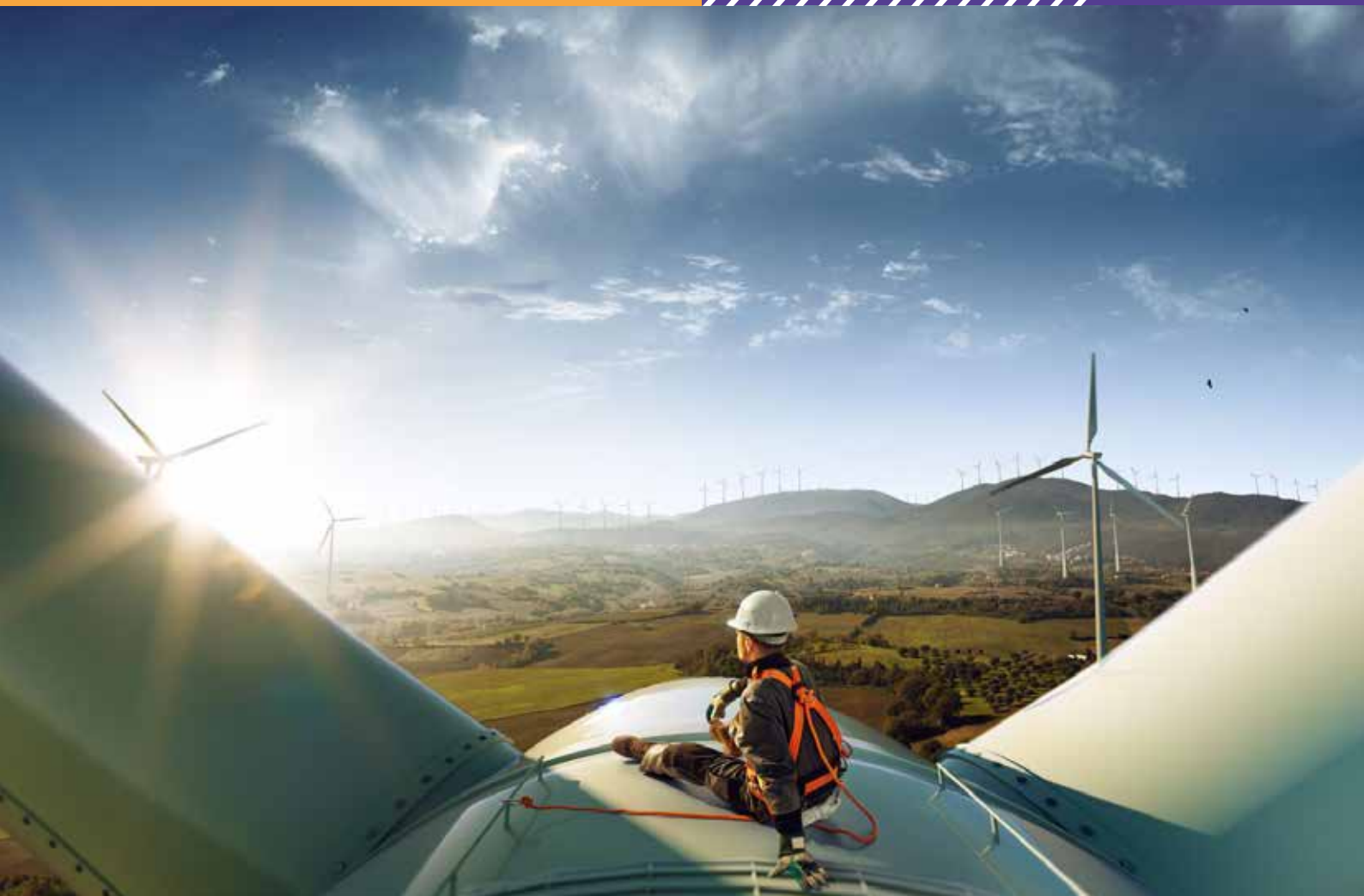
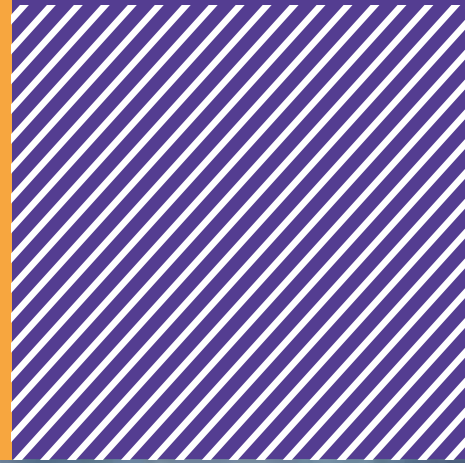


A guide to higher  
education in Wales

Building Wales'  
future - opportunities  
and challenges  
during the sixth  
Senedd



Universities are well-placed to collaborate with partners across Wales to support our nation's recovery from the pandemic and build Wales' future together.



### A future-ready workforce

During the sixth Senedd, universities will be able to support employment:

- through providing joined-up flexible learning, including part-time provision
- by delivering research and innovation activity that will generate new businesses, new jobs and new industries. This will include knowledge transfer partnerships that help existing businesses to expand
- by supporting the generation of new businesses, including graduate start-ups where Wales is already UK-leading
- through universities' local economic activity, including the contribution to the foundation economy and the spending of staff, students and visitors



### Climate change

Welsh universities are helping to tackle climate change by developing and implementing solutions in the race towards net-zero.

- Research and innovation directly addresses how we as a society transition to a low carbon future, as well as the practical challenges around generating and storing energy. Many of these projects are collaborative and examine complex and interdependent issues.
- Universities are also well-placed to deliver on sustainable use of resources and land/seascapes.
- As we introduce new technologies – such as those that will create and proliferate energy-neutral or energy-positive homes we will also need to retrain and upskill those who will be fitting, installing and making use of these technologies. There will be opportunities to further join up the skills system, allowing cutting edge research and innovation to inform delivery across the entire education system.

## Digitalisation

Wales' response to digitalisation, and ensuring we make the most of the opportunities presented, will in large part depend on our ability to further upskill our population, and the success with which we deliver research and innovation in this area.

- The implementation of degree apprenticeships in digital has seen substantial and increasing demand from businesses across Wales.
- Welsh universities host high profile hubs and centres that cover cyber security, software engineering and data science. Universities in Wales are building Wales' digital future.



## Changing global relationships

Through alumni, staff and student mobility, collaborative research, cultural and sporting activities our universities are contributing to Wales' soft power.

- Partnerships built by our universities through transnational education, research and commercial activities have established a significant footprint for Wales internationally, building on the international recognition of Wales as an innovative and forward-thinking nation.
- Similarly, by coming to Wales, international students, staff and researchers play an invaluable role in diversifying and internationalising our communities.

### Advancing Welsh culture

Universities play an important role in the cultural life of Wales.

- As well as teaching and research in the arts and humanities, our universities are often cultural and artistic hubs offering live performances, exhibitions, and public lectures.
- Universities undertake research in and about Wales and its culture.
- Universities also often provide a community space, a place for people to gather and pursue shared activities.
- As we emerge from the Coronavirus pandemic, the rooted presence of universities in communities will provide opportunities to come together and share experience. Universities will also continue to be key to meeting ambitions around the Welsh language, both by providing Welsh-medium education and also, in many cases, delivering or hosting Welsh for Adults courses.

### Building Wales' regions

Welsh universities are critical economic anchors in all parts of Wales that support the foundational economy.

- All universities in Wales are accredited Living Wage employers and signed up to the Code of Practice on Ethical Employment in Supply Chains.
- Universities have resources to deliver direct benefit to their communities through funding while also acting as conduits for other organisations and businesses – which might have smaller administrative capacity – to access regional investment opportunities.
- Universities can also leverage regional funding to secure additional investment to Wales.