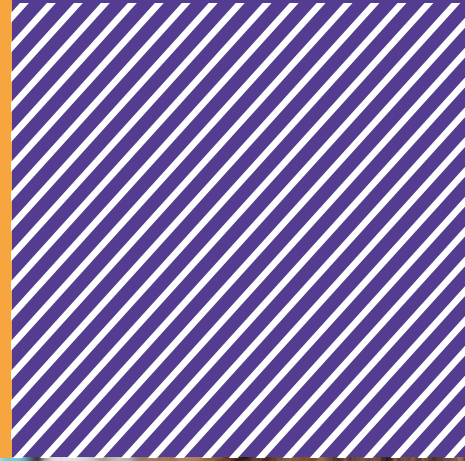




Prifysgolion
Cymru
Universities
Wales

A guide to higher
education in Wales

Civic Mission



Universities in Wales have long served their communities, both through education and research as well as supporting local schools and the foundational economy.

They continue to have a crucial role to play in engaging with their local communities and contributing to society, particularly as we emerge from the pandemic.

During the Covid pandemic, universities stepped up to provide their expertise and resources to support Wales' efforts by supplying medical equipment, facilities and resources, and through staff and students volunteering their time.

In January 2021, universities in Wales launched the Civic Mission Framework to help universities build upon the ways they work with people, schools and communities. It is the first of its kind in the UK, and the first in the world to have all universities in a nation signed up to it.

The framework is set around five key areas of action to ensure universities are well connected and contributing to their places and people:



Leading place
– engaging
with other key
civic leaders at
a national and
community level



Contribution to
raising educational
standards by
developing links
with schools,
colleges and
other learning
environments



Developing active
citizenship



Acting as the
engine of social
enterprise,
business skills
and employability



Responding
to global
issues

| Aberystwyth University

Dewis Choice, a project run by Aberystwyth University, is the first dedicated service in the UK for older people who've experienced domestic abuse. Since its inception, over 140 older people and their families have been provided with long-term intensive support, with many describing the service as life-saving.

| Bangor University

Scientists at Bangor University are working with Welsh Government and Public Health Wales to examine the levels of Covid-19 present in waste water. This work helps to capture the levels of the virus circulating in Welsh communities and can also provide an early warning system for other diseases emerging in the community, such as influenza and norovirus.

| Cardiff Metropolitan University

Design researchers at Cardiff Met have created a 'HUG' product which is designed to provide comfort and increase wellbeing in people living with advanced dementia. It has a beating heart, plays music, and it has weighted limbs that give the sensation of giving and receiving a cuddle. In a care home study, people who used the HUG for six months showed an 87% increase in their wellbeing.

| Cardiff University

The Caer Heritage Project by Cardiff University aims to raise the profile of historical sites such as Caerau Hill Fort, which is the largest and most complex iron-age site in the Cardiff region. The project involves people and local communities in every part of the process through activities such as historical research and archaeological digs. The project has had over 3,500 active participants.

| The Open University in Wales

The Blaneau Gwent REACH project run by The Open University in Wales in partnership with Linc Cymru Housing Association and Aberbeeg Residents' Group supports Blaenau Gwent residents to engage with the arts, community and heritage. There are plans to grow the project in all areas of Wales.

| Swansea University

The Swansea University Copperopolis project is focused on engaging with community groups, schools, colleges and charities in the heritage-led regeneration of Hafod copper works. The work has helped to raise the profile of the industrial heritage of the Lower Swansea Valley and its importance to the city.

| University of South Wales

The University of South Wales operates a Refugee and Asylum Seeker Sanctuary Scheme, which allows refugees and asylum seekers in Wales to access language tuition and language preparation before starting their degree.

| University of Wales Trinity St David

The Assistive Technologies Innovation Centre at UWTSD is working with Cerebra to develop a process for scanning the heads of children with brain conditions that have affected the growth and development of their skulls. Imogen has cerebral palsy and loves horse-riding, but the shape of her skull makes it difficult to find a riding helmet that fits properly. Through this partnership, ATiC and Cerebra were able to use hi-tech scanning equipment to make a bespoke helmet that fits perfectly.

| Wrexham Glyndŵr University

The TrACE project by Wrexham Glyndŵr University and ACE Support Hub aims to enable and support Wales to become a world leader in preventing, mitigating and tackling adverse childhood experiences and trauma.