Thousands of Cardiff graduates have told us that they want to #BeTheDIFFerence.

How? By inspiring prospective students, providing internships and work placements, and taking part in Cardiff events across Wales and the world.

Our new Alumni Volunteering Programme is designed to enable Cardiff alumni like you to do just that.

Come home to Cardiff. In person or online, in the classroom or at work; your experience and expertise are invaluable to current and future Cardiff students.

To get involved, visit bit.ly/cu-getinvolved (this is a secure link)
Welcome

I’m delighted to report that last year, donations to Cardiff University reached a new high, with £4.5m pledged and given by 700+ alumni and friends. Our *diolch* is, as ever, heartfelt.

Every gift helps Cardiff University to create and share knowledge, and to educate for the benefit of all.

Some gifts deserve special mention. I am especially grateful to our 53 Cylch Caerdydd members (listed below), who each gave £1000 or more this year.

We are proud to partner with Realcan, a Chinese company providing £1m for cancer research and PhD studentships. And I am inspired by the Cardiff-based Hodge Foundation’s pledge of £1m to create the Hodge Centre for Neuropsychiatric Immunology.

Our most generous donors help to unlock Cardiff student potential, and enable Cardiff scientists to develop new treatments for devastating diseases.

Of course, generosity takes many forms. 160 #TeamCardiff community fundraisers raised significant funds for research into cancer, neuroscience and mental health. And many alumni now help the generations that follow them by assisting with student recruitment, experience and employability.

These are testing times for UK universities, but Cardiff is rising to the challenge. We were named Welsh University of the Year in *The Times/Sunday Times* Good University Guide. And we reached a milestone in our aim to join the global top 100 universities in key league tables, placing 99th in the prestigious 2017 Academic Ranking of World Universities.

The Cardiff community strengthens each year, with help from generous alumni and friends. You underpin our successes: *diolch* for all that you do.

**Professor Colin Riordan**

Vice-Chancellor and President

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Cardiff University also extends sincere thanks to all donors who wish to remain anonymous.

To learn more about Cylch Caerdydd visit cardiff.ac.uk/cylch-caerdydd
Be the difference for Cardiff students

Thanks to you, today’s Cardiff students have a wealth of opportunities to learn and grow, both in the classroom and beyond.
Professional internships, research placements, and programmes to study, work or volunteer abroad – these are ‘once in a lifetime’ experiences that will benefit students for the rest of their lives.

That’s why Cardiff University has identified a broad range of programmes that will be of significant benefit to our graduates as they enter the worlds of work and research. And support from alumni and friends is invaluable in strengthening these opportunities further.

In 2016, Lucy Jenkins (MA 2016) started on a three-month internship with Rewise Learning, a company who support all different learning types by encouraging them to use their creative talents – like recording songs to help learn GCSE Physics. Her placement was so successful, Rewise extended Lucy’s contract to 15 months.

“The project management skills which I gained have undoubtedly benefited me,” says Lucy. “I am now working as National Coordinator of the Modern Foreign Languages Student Mentoring Project.”

Oliver Copleston (Computer Science 2015-) took part in the University’s Research Opportunity Programme, a scheme to give undergraduates the chance to have a summer placement within academic research teams. Oliver took the opportunity to develop a piezo-electrical device which allows animals to be monitored non-invasively.

Oliver says: “Although the role was originally for an electrical engineer, a professor of mine who knew that electronics is my hobby invited me to take part. I jumped at the chance to learn new and valuable skills such as circuit board manufacturing, programming and 3D printing, and to make great contacts for the future.”

Katy Forrest (English Language & Literature 2016-) spent a month last summer volunteering in Ecuador as part of Cardiff’s Global Opportunities Programme.

She says: “We worked in a small village doing manual labour to improve facilities. The impact this work had within the community was so rewarding.

“At the end of our stay, the villagers invited us to trek into the rainforest. We were the first non-native people to attempt the path. Trying to avoid the local wildlife, I ended up swinging on a vine like George of the Jungle!”

“I would recommend this to everyone: the experience will never leave me. I cannot thank Cardiff enough for the opportunity to be involved in a project like this. It was both terrifying and amazing and I don’t regret a minute of it!”

Empower more student internships and overseas opportunities by giving to student support at cardiff.ac.uk/donate; or, offer career insights or work placements to current students via bit.ly/cu-getinvolved
Journalism in a changing world

Cardiff’s School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies is the best in the UK. It is ranked number one for its teaching by the Guardian, and number one for its research by both The Complete University Guide and the UK’s Research Excellence Framework 2014. Cardiff alumni hold key roles in journalism in the UK and beyond.

Grace Adeniji (Broadcast Journalism 2016-)
The School is moving to new headquarters in Cardiff’s Central Square in 2019, to give the next generation of students an even higher quality environment in which to learn.

And donors are now helping to ensure that talented students continue to thrive in this dynamic space, upholding the standard of dedicated, principled journalism.

The Sue Lloyd-Roberts Scholarship, a full-fee scholarship for postgraduate students, was established two years ago by friends and family of the late BBC journalist.

“My mother was one in a million,” says Sue’s daughter, Sarah Morris (PgDip 2009). “Her loss to us is unbearable but we also recognise how sorely missed her journalism is.

“Today we are in desperate need of brave journalists like her, who take risks, go where others won’t and report on the human rights abuses taking place behind the headlines. We’re very excited to support Cardiff students who are following in my mother’s footsteps.”

In 2016, the inaugural Scholarship was awarded to Grace Adeniji (Broadcast Journalism 2016-), who now works in BBC local radio. For her, the Scholarship has offered a means to replicate Sue’s journalistic values regionally. “There will always be a place for local journalism. No matter how big or small the story, there’s always a person or community at its heart,” Grace says. “The skills I have gained have laid a foundation to tell local stories from across the world.”

The 2017 recipient is Lauren Brown (Magazine Journalism 2017-), who describes her interests as “class relations and socio-economic underprivilege and education on an international scale”.

“I think it’s so important to look beyond our own borders,” says Lauren. “To use our own platform as a kaleidoscope through which voices can be heard. Sue did this and I hope to do the same.”
Neuroimmunologist Dr Mathew Clement (PhD 2013) is proud to be one of the first Cardiff researchers to benefit from a donation from the #TeamCardiff funds.

His work focuses on a virus known as HCMV and its possible links to an increased risk of Alzheimer’s disease.

Mathew says: “The best thing about my job is the discovery of things that nobody in the world has ever known before, in areas which will make a real difference to Alzheimer’s patients and families. Without the money raised by #TeamCardiff and other supporters, early career researchers like me would struggle to establish independent projects. I would like to offer massive thanks for the support #TeamCardiff have given me!”

As well as running, #TeamCardiff’s committed members raise funds in other ways. There are now more than 350 people involved, and the team is still recruiting! All money raised goes directly to life-changing research at Cardiff University, building a better future for patients and families affected by mental health diseases and cancer.

Start fundraising as part of #TeamCardiff by visiting justgiving.com/cardiff-university

#TeamCardiff: funding the future of research

In October 2016, 160 runners from the #TeamCardiff community fundraising project took up the challenge of the Cardiff University/Cardiff Half Marathon. Collectively, they raised an impressive £32,000 for cancer research, and neuroscience and mental health research.
Thank you for your support in 2016/17

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How does it feel to be back at Cardiff today?
It fills me with pride to be associated with the University, both as a student and now through my work with the alumni team. Construction on this building [Hadyn Ellis] began just as I was leaving, when the site was mainly student houses and sheds. Now it’s at the forefront of life-changing research.

At Cardiff Day you’ve seen the impact that philanthropic gifts can make. What did you think of the work these gifts have made possible?
I was overwhelmed by the talent on display in Cardiff’s research community. I strongly recommend that any Cardiff alumni take the opportunity to hear postgraduates talk about their work. They are amazing!

How does it feel to contribute to another person’s education?
I owe a lot to Cardiff. I made lifelong friends and got a very good degree. When I was a Students’ Union officer, I met a lot of people who experience hard times, often due to financial circumstances. Now that I’ve got a little bit I can give, I want to help see today’s students through their degrees.

For now mine is just a small contribution, but I know from firsthand experience that gifts add up quickly, and can make all the difference. It feels fantastic to know that you’ve helped someone to stay the course. And you never know, hopefully they’ll be in a position one day to do the same for the next generation.

What would you say to people who are considering support for Cardiff University?
Just do it! (laughs) If you came to Cardiff and had a good time and feel you can give, then choose whatever area you feel that should be invested in. Whether it’s research or student support – you really can help.

Tom McGarry
(BA 2000, PgDip 2004)

diolch met donor and former Students’ Union president Tom McGarry at Cardiff Day, an event to celebrate supporters and friends whose philanthropic gifts to Cardiff University are helping to save, change and enrich lives in Wales and beyond.
Living – and living, and living – with cancer

Alan Buckle knows about cancer. He’s lived with a diagnosis of incurable prostate cancer for the last 13 years.

“I was diagnosed with cancer in 2004,” Alan says. “A radical prostatectomy followed and then my journey of treatments at Velindre began; I had all the conventional therapies – hormone injections, radiotherapy and two batches of chemotherapy. But by 2012, my options were running out. At one point, the future looked very bleak.”

The fact that Alan is here today, in good health and spirits, is testament to his quiet fortitude, pioneering research at Cardiff University, and the work of Kay Wilson (ND 2003) and her team.

Kay is the Early Phase team lead at the Velindre Cancer Centre. Velindre and Cardiff University have a unique partnership, working together to test new cancer treatments.

Kay first met Alan in 2012, when he was offered the chance to participate in a Phase 1 Clinical trial. As a trialist, he would be one of the very first people to receive a new cancer drug. It also meant being constantly monitored, to measure both the benefit and any possible side effects. And there were no guarantees of success.

At that time, Early phase research at Velindre was new; Kay says it included “one trial, one doctor and me”. But the trial offered Alan the chance to be treated in Wales, rather than travelling hundreds of miles for frequent, tiring treatment and monitoring sessions.

“I started with a ‘first in man trial’,” Alan says, “and I lasted a year, which I took as a year gained. My next trial, unfortunately, I had to..."
withdraw, because of side effects. But then I was offered a chance to be a lead patient on a combination trial of two already approved drugs. I started in May 2014 and three years later I am still on the trial and feeling very well.

“Being a Phase 1 clinical trial participant has had an incredible effect on my life. For a start, I’ve been around to see my four beautiful grandchildren, born since I began the treatment. But it’s more than that,” Alan adds. “I’ve got two sons, and my Dad died of prostate cancer. You don’t go into a trial thinking that it is particularly going to benefit you. You do it because you believe you’re doing your bit to improve things in the long run.”

Kay agrees. “Patients like Alan are having a massive impact on future generations. A good patient outcome is fantastic, especially when our main aim is to test how well a drug is tolerated? Are there any side effects?”

Cardiff University is at the forefront of cancer research in the UK. Since Alan started the trial, the Cardiff team opened many more Phase 1 trials, so if he should need them, there may be more treatment options available to him.

Philanthropic gifts are vital to drug development, which came as a surprise to Alan. “Rather naively, I thought these things were paid for by the NHS, but of course that’s not the case.”

For Kay, the drive is always “to do more, to do better. We hear every day that cancer is going to affect one in two of us. That’s part of why I’m so proud to do this important work.”

Alan adds: “I saw my nine-year-old granddaughter a few months ago. Her mother said: ‘Alan, you’re a superhero to Jess.’ I said ‘Why?’ and she replied ‘Because you trial drugs, to help other people’s future.’ That’s a good line to end on, isn’t it?”

1 in 2 of us born after 1960 will develop cancer in our lifetimes

Cardiff is an Adult Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre part of an elite network of UK-based and internationally recognised research centres at the cutting edge of early-stage clinical trials and translation of scientific discoveries

It is the only such facility in Wales, and has saved patients resident in Wales more than 1 year in travel time since its establishment
Everyone can leave a legacy

Please consider leaving a gift to Cardiff University in your Will

A gift can make a lasting difference – inspiring students to enquire, innovate and bring real change to the world today and in the future

For legacy enquiries, please contact: Alice Sockett, Cardiff University, Development and Alumni Relations Office, Deri House, 2-4 Park Grove, Cardiff CF10 3BN  t: +44 (0)2922 510296 e: socketta@cardiff.ac.uk