

The Way Forward

2018-2023



Sub-strategy | Education and Students

Our ambition

Cardiff University is committed to ensuring an educationally outstanding and consistently high quality student experience, driven by creativity and curiosity, with excellent teaching and services to enhance learning and support student life. We will continue to attract well-qualified and highly motivated undergraduate, postgraduate taught and research students, who will benefit from and contribute to our excellent research culture, and become part of our global alumni community. We will build on our strong track record in widening participation to ensure we promote higher education for the benefit of all. We will work in partnership with our students to take them on an inspiring educational journey that will enrich their lives, preparing them for leadership and the world of work, and enable them to participate fully in society.

Building on the previous strategy

We will consolidate our strategy to ensure that all our students benefit from being in a research-rich educational environment, building on our successful programmes to engage students in our research, innovation and engagement activities. We will continue with our work to encourage widening participation and to support vulnerable student groups. Our projects to transform and develop our learning and teaching spaces will ensure our campus and facilities are student focussed and able to support collaborative, flexible, digital and independent learning. We will build on our investments in learning, teaching and the wider student experience, as key foundations of an educationally excellent offer for all our students.

Underpinning objectives

We will be known as a University:

- where there is a dynamic and creative relationship between our research and our teaching, through which our students engage with real-world challenges, research agendas and professional practice
- which challenges, stretches and supports all our students to do the best they can
- which encourages high levels of student engagement, and that listens to our students, responding to their needs and

expectations, and providing them with opportunities to shape their education and the wider student experience

- where teaching commitment and excellence are consistently supported, valued and rewarded
- which invests in high quality facilities and infrastructure to underpin outstanding learning, teaching and the student experience
- where we welcome students from across the globe, and from all backgrounds, supporting them to enjoy and benefit from a rewarding university education
- which is proud to be a Welsh university, providing all our students with opportunities to engage with Welsh culture and language
- where our committed alumni community offers enrichment and support to our students and to each other.

Making this happen

Our education strategy is predicated on the need for consistency and agility in the current fast moving context. It is underpinned by a clear vision of what a Cardiff University education and student experience offers and is focussed on key areas of activity, development and strength. We will develop specific action plans to ensure the delivery of each of our commitments for undergraduate, postgraduate and research students.

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Providing an inspirational education

We will:

- enable all our students to engage with our excellent research culture, extending our research opportunities programme so that they have the chance to develop their knowledge and skills through engagement with real-world concerns and contexts
- help our students to engage in research and engagement activities in an international context
- work to ensure that students are at the heart of our innovation, enterprise and impact work, extending our programme of innovation activities and increasing the spaces for our staff and students to take part in collaborative activities with external partners.

Supporting student life

We will:

- continue to attract high quality applicants from Wales, the UK and across the world, supporting all students to fulfil their potential
- ensure our students have the very best access to a wide range of support, sport and extra-curricular activities, working in partnership with the Students' Union
- realise our vision for the Centre for Student Life, helping us to deliver outstanding services to all our students
- consolidate and extend our provision which supports vulnerable students and those from backgrounds with low participation rates in higher education
- provide high quality student accommodation that offers a sense of belonging, and launching 'Residence Life' to further support our students who live in university accommodation
- further develop and strengthen our alumni community to offer enrichment and support to students before, during and after their studies.

Valuing our students

We will:

- engage all our students in meaningful dialogue about their learning, including providing regular, timely and accessible feedback to inform academic progress
- listen actively to the student voice in order to inform future planning and create a learning environment that meets our students' expectations
- extend the opportunities through which students can actively contribute to university life and help shape their educational experience, including student-led projects and student ambassador schemes.

Planning for global futures

We will:

- offer all our students opportunities to undertake placements or employment rich activities during the course of their studies, working with a range of external partners and our alumni community to enhance our national and international provision
- develop educational programmes in partnership with employers, responding positively to opportunities for further contributing to technical, industrial and skills agendas
- support our students to gain international experiences and apply their knowledge and skills in international contexts
- further develop sustainable Welsh Medium provision, working closely with Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, and focussed on areas of strategic importance for the Welsh economy, thereby preparing highly skilled graduates with the ability to contribute bilingually to Welsh economic, social and cultural life
- increase University-led opportunities for volunteering and civic engagement, where students make a difference in the community whilst developing their own employability skills.

Enhancing the learning environment

We will:

- develop our digital learning environment to ensure it meets the present and future learning and teaching needs of our students and staff
- increase our capacity to develop, curate and support high quality online and digital materials to support active learning
- continue the programme of transformation of our physical learning and teaching spaces, ensuring they are technologically robust, flexible, dynamic, and comfortable
- Further increase social and study spaces across our campus to better support independent, creative and collaborative learning.

Promoting teaching excellence

We will:

- embed a holistic framework for continuous personal and professional development to promote and support the improvement and enhancement of leadership, management and delivery of teaching
- provide structured and well supported opportunities for our postgraduate research students and postdoctoral researchers to be part of our teaching ecosystem
- support our staff and students to engage with new and emergent developments in learning, teaching and assessment
- ensure that excellence in teaching, and the wider support of our students, is consistently recognised and rewarded
- participate in the Teaching Excellence Framework as a mechanism for recognising our achievements and identifying areas for further improvement
- invest in projects which support teaching innovation and promote student engagement in learning, teaching and assessment development
- provide and promote opportunities for staff to be educationally innovative and develop new teaching practices, including launching a University teaching fellowship scheme.