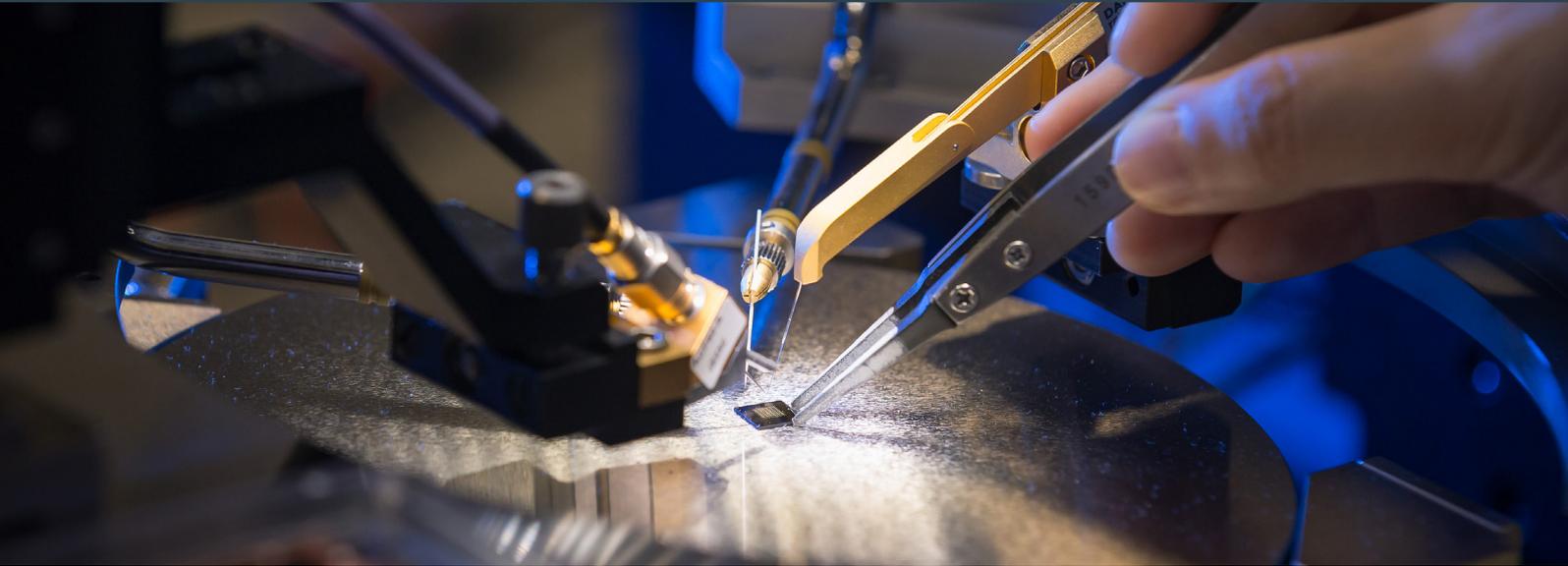


The Way Forward

2018-2023



Sub-strategy | Innovation

We define innovation as working in partnership to turn ideas into new products, processes, services and/or policy developments that add economic and/or social value.

Our ambition

We will be known as the Home of Innovation, with a thriving innovation culture and the aim to excel in connecting business, government and society with our academics and our students. We will champion knowledge exchange with impact.

Building on the previous strategy

The Cardiff Innovation System, launched in October 2014, is our innovation roadmap. It puts innovation at the heart of the University and promotes an ethos of entrepreneurship and collaboration. In order to underpin its future success, we are developing innovation-focussed partnerships with key stakeholders from industry, public and third sectors, involving the creative industries, public services, healthcare, and leading-edge technology.

Underpinning objectives

We will be known as a University:

- where innovation is an integral part of our academic purpose and structures, embodying the vision for creativity and curiosity, and with a strong focus on contribution to the excellence of the study and life experience of our students
- that promotes the development of an innovative, well-connected and creative student community through work or placement experience, industry-focussed degree programmes, professional development and executive education
- which is actively facilitating and supporting the creation of economic and societal value from our excellent research and education

- which is responsive and agile, fostering and stimulating a dynamic and inclusive localised ecosystem, based on partnerships of trust
- that is continuing to invest in the ambitious development plan for our Innovation System.

Making this happen

The Cardiff Innovation System, covering a wide array of activities and projects, will connect research, social improvement and wealth creation, building on our existing activities aimed at turning ideas and innovations into new policy developments, products, processes and services, technologies, spinouts and start-ups. The underlying principle is the creation of an innovation system that acts as a magnet both for participants and for funding, so that it becomes self-sustaining and self-propagating. Social Sciences, working alongside our other academic disciplines, will play an important role working on matters such as policy formation and alignment, public acceptance, political impetus and horizon-scanning.

Sub-strategy | Innovation

Our strategy for innovation will foster economic growth and social progress through the following:

The innovation environment

We will:

- work closely with the various stakeholders within the innovation ecosystem in Wales to achieve our innovation ambitions and to make Wales a more innovative and successful region
- engage with the UK Government's emerging Industrial Strategy
- play an active and leading role in the continuing development of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal
- develop deeper relationships with organisations within the Cardiff Capital Region to maximise the research opportunities and shape the region as a laboratory within which to test solutions with potential global impact
- work closely with partners on delivering the Health Enterprise Alliance for Regional Transformation (HEART) programme, leading to improved public health outcomes
- invest in the people, places and partnerships necessary for these innovative and creative activities to take place. The first of these are open – Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC), Hadyn Ellis, and the Medicentre – while Innovation Central and the Translational Research Facility will open their doors in 2020. We will ensure that they all work as integral components of the Innovation System providing facilities for industrial partners, entrepreneurial students and innovative researchers
- improve University processes which enable innovation and allow staff to be agile and responsive to demands and opportunities presented by our external partners
- develop and manage ten strategic, long-term partnerships with organisations to create economic growth and social progress.

Working with industry, businesses and governments to drive productivity through research, development and innovation

We will:

- as one of Wales' anchor institutions with international reach, support the Welsh economy by working with government and current businesses in Wales to grow their productivity and also to attract new innovative and knowledge based companies to Wales
- work with regional industry, universities, third sector and government agencies to develop a select number of research and innovation themes where established research excellence and business potential can be harnessed through collaboration to drive world leading innovation
- further develop the Cardiff University Innovation Network to support high quality stakeholder engagement in support of innovation
- provide a comprehensive support environment from pre-start-up to growth SMEs for our spinouts and student and graduate start-ups.

Developing innovative and entrepreneurial academics

We will:

- recruit and develop entrepreneurial academics, supported by a cadre of blended professionals, to promote knowledge exchange with impact
- commit to providing effective support to encourage staff to respond quickly to opportunities in a dynamic and agile environment
- appoint visiting professors and Professors of Practice to the University, aligning the University to key industry and business partners
- support and encourage the flow of staff to and from our partner organisations through secondments and staff exchanges
- promote and celebrate success and ensure that our incentives are aligned with our strategy.

Develop the skilled workforce required to energise the economy

We will:

- establish an Innovation for All programme, to maximise the opportunities for staff and students to take part in innovation and entrepreneurship activities
- provide opportunities for our students to engage in our societal challenges and work with our partners to address these through creativity, collaboration and new ways of thinking
- provide opportunities for students to undertake work placements and internships during their studies
- seek and respond to opportunities to establish new educational provision in response to industry demand, e.g. establishing a Data Science Academy to respond to the increasing demand from industry (public and private from numerous sectors) for Data Scientists
- strengthen our provision of Continuing Professional Development and Executive Education that meets the needs of employers.