Why Cardiff University?

Russell Group university
Established in 1883, and a member of the Russell Group of leading UK universities.

90%
90% of research at Cardiff University is officially world-leading or internationally excellent according to the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021).

10,000
Over 10,000 postgraduate students from more than 125 countries.

97%
97% of postgraduate research graduates and 90% of postgraduate taught graduates who were working in the UK were in highly skilled employment 15 months after the end of their course (Higher Education Statistics Agency, latest Graduate Outcomes Survey 2019/20, published by HESA in June 2022)*.

Top 10
Cardiff is recognised as one of the 10 most beautiful universities in the UK (Times Higher Education 2018).

400
More than 400 postgraduate study options, including full-time, part-time, blended learning and distance learning courses.

90%
90% of research at Cardiff University is officially world-leading or internationally excellent according to the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021).

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Established in 1883, Cardiff University boasts an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research, built on a history of service and achievement and recognised by our membership of the Russell Group of leading research-led universities.

The university is divided into 24 academic schools, located across two thriving campuses: Just a few minutes’ walk from the city centre, the majority of our academic schools can be found in our Cathays Park Campus, amongst the impressive buildings, parks and wide tree-lined avenues that form Cardiff’s attractive civic centre. Our Heath Park Campus is home to three academic schools offering programmes in medicine, dentistry and healthcare, sharing its site with the 1,000-bed University Hospital of Wales – the third largest teaching hospital in the UK.

Ambitious and innovative, we’re committed to creating and sustaining a welcoming, inclusive, accessible and friendly learning environment for all of our students. Our academic staff are driven by creativity and curiosity and many are leaders in their fields, creating a stimulating environment for you to learn in.
That’s Welsh for ‘welcome’, and you’ll feel it everywhere you go in Wales.

Welcome to a country of breathtaking natural beauty, where every day a new experience awaits. Around every corner, a hidden gem: colourful fishing villages and cozy inns, rugged valleys and cliff-top trails, sandy coves and vibrant cities. Here you can discover 640 castles: more than any other country in Europe.

This is a land of magic and myth, of princes and dragons. A land that has created writers and poets, musicians and athletes, architects and engineers, scientists and philanthropists. A land that has inspired generations to achieve their dreams.

This magical land is our home - and your home too. Croeso.

Dynamic, contemporary and easy to get around, our city is an outstanding place in which to live, work and study. Full of character, heritage and ambition, Cardiff offers the best of both worlds: combining all the advantages of a compact, friendly and affordable location with the cultural and recreational facilities that you’d expect of a modern capital city.

The many thousands of students who choose to make Cardiff their home each year form part of the beating heart of the city, enhancing its rich and diverse culture. A capital city with a community feel, Cardiff is friendly, welcoming and inclusive. No matter who you are, you can be yourself here.

Cardiff: A capital city

Most affordable UK city for students
(NatWest Student Living Index 2022)

‘The buoyant city of Cardiff has witnessed a remarkable evolution from a large town to a truly international city, with massive developments in the centre as well as on the rejuvenated waterfront. With a reputation as a party town, allied to lots of top-class sport and cultural attractions, it is one of the UK’s most enticing destinations.’

Rough Guides, 2020
As one of the UK’s **major sporting centres**, Cardiff is home to the iconic 74,000-seat Principality Stadium. The city hosts professional football at the Cardiff City Stadium, rugby at the famous Arms Park and international cricket at Sophia Gardens. Cardiff also boasts an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a white water rafting and canoe centre, ice rink and facilities to play a range of other sports.

As you’d expect from a capital city, Cardiff is one of the UK’s **leading retail destinations**. Designer boutiques and high street names can be found within the St David’s Shopping Centre, which stands alongside local independent shops, numerous indoor and outdoor markets and a fascinating network of glass-canopied Victorian and Edwardian shopping arcades.

Following an investment of £2.4bn, Cardiff Bay is regarded as one of the most successful regeneration projects in the UK. The Bay boasts a modern development of homes, shops, bars, restaurants, offices, and entertainment and sport facilities.

Boasting some **330 parks and gardens**, Cardiff benefits from an abundance of green spaces. Our parks reach right into the heart of the city centre, making the capital a green haven for exploring, relaxing and taking some time out.

Cardiff is a **truly cosmopolitan city** and its multicultural vibe is reflected in its diverse range of cafés, restaurants and bars. No matter your preference, you’re sure to find plenty to suit your taste and budget.

Want to escape the hustle and bustle of city life? The easily-accessible Brecon Beacons National Park offers outstanding scenery and wildlife, alongside ample opportunity for all kinds of outdoor pursuits including hiking and rock climbing. If it’s sea air you crave, take a wander along our stunning coastline by following the 870-mile Wales Coastal Path: the only path in the world that follows a country’s coastline in its entirety.

In the mood for some culture? Cardiff is well-equipped, with entertainment to suit all tastes. Cardiff Bay’s world-class Wales Millennium Centre regularly plays host to touring West End musicals, as well as concerts, drama and ballet. The city is also home to the acclaimed Welsh National Opera, two thriving theatres, several multi-screen cinemas, comedy clubs and a well-established arts centre.

Cardiff is a compact city, **best explored on foot or by bicycle**. The city’s Next Bikes scheme has cycle racks located all over the city - and the first half hour of every journey is free to all Cardiff University students! Excellent transport links also make it easy to travel across the city, south Wales and beyond, with London less than two hours away by rail.

“Cardiff is a great place to be a student. Although it’s the capital of Wales, it isn’t a large city, which means most things are within walking distance. The centre is very compact and filled to the brim with bars, restaurants, cafés and shops. I also love Cardiff because of its surrounding areas: within half an hour I could either be looking out to sea in Penarth or climbing a mountain in the valleys.”

David, MSc Data Science and Analytics
A global outlook

As an international student, you can benefit from a range of specialist support services designed to make your move to Cardiff as straightforward as possible:

Application guidance
Our international team offers a dedicated advice service to help guide you through the process of applying to study at Cardiff. You can contact our international team at any point before, during and after the application process, and we’ll answer any questions you may have.

A warm welcome
We offer an airport collection service before the academic year starts. Once you arrive in Cardiff, we will provide you with a comprehensive induction programme and arrange activities to help you settle into your new home.

Guaranteed accommodation
Cardiff is one of only a small number of universities that guarantees high quality, conveniently located accommodation for single international students (conditions apply). See pages 16-17 to find out more about our wide range of student accommodation.

Expert advice
Alongside the support provided by your academic school, our international student advisers are on hand to assist you with issues such as visas, immigration and finance.

Student societies
Our award-winning Students’ Union is home to more than 200 societies, many of which represent specific cultures or countries. The annual ‘Go Global’ festival is a two-week celebration of food, music and culture that gives international societies a platform to showcase and celebrate their talents. Student societies are a great way to make friends and quickly become part of the Cardiff University community.

English language programmes
Our English language programmes teaching centre offers a variety of courses which cater for most language levels and abilities. Our students come from all over the world to improve their English language skills before starting university. Classes are taught both online and on campus by our experienced, fully qualified English language tutors and include the following options:

- **Pre-sessional Programmes:** 8, 10, 12 or 20-week intensive courses are available for international students holding conditional offers.
- **English for University Study Programme:** a full-time English language and study skills course for international students.
- **In-sessional English language support:** assistance with academic writing, exam techniques, listening and speaking, pronunciation, note-taking and seminar skills.

Cardiff is a friendly, diverse and global university. We typically welcome around 8,000 international students each year from around 145 countries, who come to Cardiff to fulfil their potential through our programmes. We understand that choosing to study abroad can be a big decision. That’s why we’re here to help you every step of the way.
Teaching excellence

Our staff are experts in their fields, working at the forefront of their academic discipline - which means that you will too.

As a postgraduate student, you will be encouraged to develop a wide range of both subject-specific and transferable skills, enhancing your employability and equipping you with the capabilities you need to excel in your chosen discipline.

Languages for All

Looking to learn a new language or develop your expertise in an existing one? Our Languages for All programme gives you the chance to improve your language skills alongside your studies - for free. Whether you’re a complete beginner or a linguistic ace, we cater for all abilities. Our flexible choice of study options allows you to learn in a way that suits you, through weekly classes, intensive courses or independent learning. Courses are currently offered at a variety of levels in:

- Arabic
- French
- German
- Italian
- Japanese
- Mandarin Chinese
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

Research or study abroad

You may be able to apply for funding to study or complete research at one of the university’s partner institutions around the world as part of your postgraduate degree. Where you can go and for how long is subject to agreement from your academic school. An international experience offers you an exciting opportunity to become immersed in a different culture, make new friends and improve your language skills.

Continuing Professional Education

We offer a diverse range of part-time courses in a variety of subject areas, which take place in the daytime, evening and at weekends to fit around your lifestyle. Our Continuing Professional Education courses are ideal in helping you enhance your CV, improve your business and project management skills and broaden your learning experience.

Cardiff University has a long history of providing outstanding research-led teaching:

We are ranked among the top 40 best UK universities for teaching. (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022)

Ranked 151st in the QS World Rankings 2022, we are Wales’ highest ranked university and remain amongst the UK’s best.

Our teaching has received robust endorsement from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA).

Teaching excellence
Whether you choose to live in a university residence or private accommodation, we want you to feel at home here.

University residences
Dedicated postgraduate flats and houses are available in university residences, providing you the opportunity to meet, live and work alongside like-minded people who understand the demands of postgraduate study. International (not including EU, EEA or Swiss national) postgraduate students are guaranteed a single occupancy place in university residences for the full duration of their studies (terms and conditions apply). If you’re a UK student, university accommodation is not guaranteed but may still be available.

Options to suit everyone
We offer a range of student residences to suit individual preferences and budgets, including:
- Single or mixed gender accommodation
- Private or shared bathrooms
- Self-catered or part-catered
- A variety of social and sporting facilities
- A limited supply of residences suitable for couples or families (please note that this cannot be guaranteed).

Affordable
A self-catered residence costs between £117 and £165 per week, whilst a room in part-catered residences typically costs £161 per week (2022/23 prices for single occupancy residences). Rent is payable by Direct Debit in three instalments across the year.

Private accommodation
There is a good supply of accommodation available from private landlords in Cardiff. Our Students’ Union also operates its own professional letting agency, Cardiff Student Letting, which provides student houses suitable for a range of budgets and does not charge agency fees.

Most affordable UK city for students
(NatWest Student Living Index 2022)
With an extensive range of clubs and some outstanding sports facilities across campus, Cardiff is consistently ranked amongst the top UK universities for sport.

Sports clubs
Are you keen to get involved in a sport alongside your postgraduate studies? We have fantastic opportunities to take part, whether you’re an elite, competitive or recreational participant. There are more than 60 Athletic Union clubs to try out, ranging from athletics, hockey and rugby to martial arts, ultimate frisbee and sailing.

Many of our Athletic Union clubs take part in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) competition, travelling across the UK to compete against other universities. For students looking for a more recreational sport offer, we have an extremely popular and vibrant intra-mural games (IMG) programme, with over 100 teams competing weekly in netball, football and rugby social leagues.

Sport facilities
As a Cardiff University student, you’ll have access to four main sport facilities spread across our campus:

- At our Sports Training Village, which is conveniently located at Talybont, our largest student residences site, you’ll find a wide range of indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Our multi-purpose sports halls and floodlit artificial pitches accommodate training and matches for most of the University sports clubs, with a fitness suite, squash courts and cricket nets also available here.
- Our centrally-located Fitness and Conditioning Centre features a state-of-the-art strength and conditioning suite, with an extensive range of cardio, resistance and weights equipment spread across three floors. On-site instructors offer fitness classes, personal training, individual programme design and nutrition advice.
- Located just a few doors down from the Students’ Union, Studio 49 hosts a range of fitness classes such as yoga, Pilates, studio cycle and Zumba.
- Our newly upgraded outdoor sports complex located in Llanrumney comprises of five floodlit artificial pitches alongside grass pitches and is one of the largest outdoor sports facilities in the UK.

High performance sports programme
Our high performance programme provides elite athletes with a comprehensive support programme to help them excel in both their academic and sporting careers while studying at Cardiff University. The support programme includes areas such as physiotherapy, strength and conditioning, sports psychology, free sports facility membership and the potential for financial award.
Why study a postgraduate taught course?
Cardiff University has a thriving and innovative research culture that connects our academics to industry, business, government and the third sector in Wales, the UK and internationally.

Our research has real impact and is making a positive difference to the world. From advancing our understanding of dementia to discovering the chemical composition of the Earth’s mantle, our community of researchers is helping to create a stronger, healthier and more sustainable world.

We are a member of the Russell Group - the UK’s ‘Ivy League’ of leading research universities. We are also a member of the GW4 alliance, which brings together the South West and Wales’ four leading, research intensive universities.

90% of research at Cardiff University is officially world-leading or internationally excellent, according to the latest independent assessment of research quality across UK higher education institutions. (REF 2021).

The impact of our research continues to reach far beyond the journals in which it is published, our research teams have been awarded seven Queen’s Anniversary Prizes for work of outstanding excellence, and we’re proud to list two Nobel Prize winners as members of staff. Our expertise puts us in demand with policymakers, non-governmental organisations and industry alike.

Innovation institutes, research institutes and research networks
Our innovation institutes, research institutes and research networks undertake research and innovation aligned to key societal challenges. They include:
- Digital Transformation Innovation Institute
- Neuroscience and Mental Health Innovation Institute
- Net Zero Innovation Institute
- Security, Crime and Intelligence Innovation Institute
- Systems Immunity Research Institute
- Materials Research Network
- Neurodevelopmental Research Network
- Planetary Health Research Network
- Plastic Research Network
- Resilient Cities in Fragile Contexts Research Network
Changing our world

Breakthrough in discovery of ice age on Earth

Working in conjunction with scientists across the globe, a team from our School of Earth and Environmental Sciences has found the ‘missing link’ in the process that leads to an ice age on Earth. It has long been known that ice age cycles are paced by periodic changes to Earth’s orbit of the sun, which subsequently change the amount of solar radiation that reaches the Earth’s surface. However, up until now it has been a mystery as to how small variations in solar energy can trigger such dramatic shifts in the climate on Earth.

In their study, the team discovered that when the orbit of Earth around the sun is just right, Antarctic icebergs begin to melt further and further away from Antarctica, shifting huge volumes of freshwater away from the Southern Ocean and into the Atlantic Ocean. As the Southern Ocean gets saltier and the North Atlantic gets fresher, large-scale ocean circulation patterns begin to dramatically change, pulling CO2 out of the atmosphere and reducing the so-called greenhouse effect. This in turn pushes the Earth into ice age conditions.

Hints of life on Venus

Leading an international team of astronomers, researchers from our School of Physics and Astronomy have discovered a rare molecule - phosphine - in the clouds of Venus. On Earth, phosphine is only made industrially, or by microbes that thrive in oxygen-free environments.

Astronomers have speculated for decades that high clouds on Venus could offer a home for microbes - floating free of the scorching surface, but still needing to tolerate very high acidity. The detection of phosphine molecules, which consist of hydrogen and phosphorus, could point to this extra-terrestrial ‘aerial’ life.

The team first used the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) in Hawaii to detect the phosphine, and were then awarded time to follow up their discovery with 45 telescopes of the Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array (ALMA) in Chile. Both facilities observed Venus at a wavelength of about 1 millimetre, much longer than the human eye can see.

The team are now eagerly awaiting more telescope time to establish whether the phosphine is in a relatively temperate part of the clouds, and to look for other gases associated with life. New space missions could also travel to our neighbouring planet and sample the clouds in situ to further search for signs of life.

Discovery of new T-cell raises prospect of ‘universal’ cancer therapy

Researchers from our School of Medicine and School of Biosciences have discovered a new type of killer T-cell that offers hope of a “one-size-fits-all” cancer therapy. T-cell therapies for cancer, where immune cells are removed, modified and returned to the patient’s blood to seek and destroy cancer cells, are the latest paradigm in cancer treatments.

The most widely-used therapy, known as CAR-T, is personalised to each patient but targets only a few types of cancers and has not been successful for solid tumours, which make up the vast majority of cancers. Our researchers have now discovered T-cells equipped with a new type of T-cell receptor (TCR) which recognises and kills most human cancer types, while ignoring healthy cells. This TCR recognises a molecule present on the surface of a wide range of cancer cells as well as in many of the body’s normal cells but, remarkably, is able to distinguish between healthy cells and cancerous ones, killing only the latter. The researchers said this meant it offered exciting opportunities for pan-cancer, pan-population immunotherapies not previously thought possible.

Flexible working could give greater access to the legal profession

An increase in remote and flexible working since the COVID-19 pandemic could make the legal profession more accessible for disabled people.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, many law firms, legal businesses and in-house teams began allowing all staff to work from home – a reasonable adjustment which many disabled lawyers had requested before the pandemic.

A survey of over 100 disabled lawyers by the Legally Disabled research team based at Cardiff University, in partnership with the Law Society of England and Wales, found working from home during the COVID-19 outbreak enabled the majority of respondents to manage their disability more effectively. Its results show 70% of those surveyed would prefer to continue working remotely in the long-term.

Changing our world
Getting here

Excellent transport links with other major UK cities - along with our close proximity to two international airports - ensure that Cardiff is a truly accessible destination.

By air
Cardiff International Airport offers regular direct flights to 25 worldwide locations, and connects to a further 150 onward destinations through Qatar Airways.

Located just an hour away by car, bus and rail, Bristol International Airport serves a further 80 cities across the globe.

By car
Cardiff is served by the M4 and is easily accessible from all areas of the UK. As the city is so compact, it’s unlikely you’ll need a car to get around.

By train
Cardiff is located on the South Wales Mainline with fast, direct trains to London leaving every half an hour, up to 30 times a day. Frequent rail and coach services also connect Cardiff with major towns and cities across the UK:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Travel time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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www.cardiff.ac.uk
Supporting you
Our Centre for Student Life, an iconic building at the heart of the Cathays Park Campus and a one-stop hub for all of your student needs. Whether you’re looking for advice on health and wellbeing, preparing for your future, managing money or living in Cardiff, our expert, dedicated support staff and teams will be on hand to support you.

Supporting your student life

Cardiff University offers more than just outstanding taught courses and research programmes. We want to help you make the most of your experience as a postgraduate student, by ensuring you can access any additional help you may need. From enrolment to graduation and beyond, we’re here to support you every step of the way.

Advice and money

Our Student Funding and Advice team offers free, impartial, non-judgemental and confidential advice. Whether you’re a current or prospective student, you can contact us for expert advice on issues such as funding, access to government benefits, housing matters, academic processes and general welfare issues that may be affecting your ability to study.

Our Bursaries, Scholarships and Money team offers a hardship fund to support students during their studies when they experience unexpected short-term financial crises, as well as administering and awarding most of the university’s postgraduate bursaries and scholarships.

Emotional support

Our Counselling, Health and Wellbeing team offers confidential counselling and emotional support to students who wish to discuss matters of a personal or emotional nature. Help is provided on an individual or group workshop basis, supported by self-help material. The service is accredited by the British Association for Counselling (BACP).

The Counselling, Health and Wellbeing team provides a variety of support options including self-help resources, workshops, courses and groups, one-to-one counselling and wellbeing appointments and a wellbeing drop-in service. You can also receive support from our wellbeing champions: student volunteers who are trained to provide peer-to-peer support, as well as resources and information to signpost you to other services who can help you.

Support for disabled students

Our Student Disability Service offers information, advice and specialist support, including study skills, mental health mentoring and support workers, to current and prospective disabled students on all disability related matters. We can help to identify your support needs, and will liaise with your academic school and other departments to put any reasonable adjustments which are required in place.

We also offer a screening and assessment service for students who think they may have a specific learning difficulty. The Student Disability Service operates an assessment centre where students applying for the Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA) can be assessed and advised on equipment and support available to assist with their studies.

World faiths

Our multi-faith University Chaplaincy offers advice, support and care to students of all faiths and none. Our Chaplains provide a range of services including confidential pastoral listening, quiet spaces for prayer or meditation, opportunities for worship and communal prayer, information about local faith communities and places of worship, as well as social inter-faith events to encourage dialogue between members of different religions.

Student visa support

Our Student Visa Support team offers confidential advice and support for students from outside the UK on immigration, visas and employment regulations for international students.

Award-winning childcare

Our award-winning Little Scholars Nursery provides full facilities to students with children aged 10 weeks to five years. Located in the heart of the Cathays Park Campus, the nursery offers care through the primary medium of English, alongside basic Welsh. Early application is advisable.
Whatever the stage of your career journey, our team of professional careers advisers is here to help you achieve your goals. We offer a wide range of services to support you with your career development during your time at Cardiff University and beyond.

Preparing you for your future
Our expert careers professionals in Student Futures are all linked to academic schools and can provide you with personal, subject-specific guidance on everything from skills development and job searches to interview preparation and practical help. We will work with you to help you plan your career and prepare you for the recruitment process in your desired industry.

Our online platform provides 24/7 support to help you with self-development, career planning and research and, as a postgraduate student, you will have access to a Student Futures account where you can book appointments and events, and search for graduate employment opportunities with organisations recruiting directly from Cardiff University.

Commercial start-ups
Got an idea for a new business, social enterprise or freelancing opportunity? Student Futures can help you unlock your creativity and achieve your potential. You can access tailored personalised support to help establish or grow your business with 1:1 mentoring, skills development sessions and funding opportunities to bring your ideas to life.

Employer connections
The Student Futures jobs board gives you direct access to more than 6,000 live jobs from over 1,000 registered employers. You can also attend our frequent careers fairs, employer presentations and specialist panel events.

We have hundreds of employers on campus throughout the year who are actively looking to recruit our talented students.

Our postgraduates have secured employment with a wide range of high-profile organisations including Admiral, BAE Systems, BBC, Bloomberg, Cap Gemini, Citibank Group, Deloitte, Eversheds, GE Healthcare, HSBC, IBM, Microsoft, the NHS, the Office for National Statistics, PwC, Sky News, TATA Steel and the UK Government. We also have strong links with a wide variety of third sector and SME organisations, providing you the opportunity to engage with a huge range of employers.

International students
Our careers advisers are on-hand to provide support, resources and coaching to help you research career pathways and opportunities in the UK and your home country.

We were ranked 11th in the UK in the Times Higher Education Global University Employability Ranking 2020.
First-class facilities

A massive £600m capital investment programme across the university, including £260m in student facilities, will help us ensure that we can give you the best student experience possible.

Investing in your future

From elegant Portland stone buildings to contemporary study centres, being a postgraduate student here means that you’ll be learning in a dynamic and inspiring educational environment. No matter what you study, you’ll find everything you need to get the most from your course: state-of-the-art recording studios and performance theatres, Europe’s most powerful brain scanner, a £2m dentistry simulation suite, Wales’ largest stock exchange trading floor and a range of outstanding research facilities as part of our Innovation Campus.

Some of our recent projects include:

• Abacws, a purpose-built joint development for our School of Journalism, Media and Culture. Located in the city centre next door to the new BBC Cymru Wales headquarters, the building features six state-of-the-art newsrooms and four editing suites, two TV studios and an innovation and engagement lab. The relocation is supporting the School of Journalism, Media and Culture in building stronger industry links and boosting student employability through direct access to major media organisations.

• Two Central Square, a new home for the School of Computer Science and Informatics. Featuring flexible teaching spaces to encourage interaction, IT workshops and a cybersecurity lab, the six-storey Abacws building has been designed in collaboration with students and staff to create interdisciplinary, creative and adaptable workspaces.

• The £18m Cochrane Building, located at our Heath Park Campus and used by students studying medicine and healthcare courses, is equipped with a range of resources including a clinical skills centre, a high-tech medical simulation centre and a library.

• The Welsh School of Architecture’s Grade II listed Bute Building has recently been refurbished to incorporate a wide range of bespoke facilities, including a dedicated zone for craft and digital fabrication, a hybrid studio and a Living Lab: a facility with high-end AV equipment and an observation room which will be used for studies, presentations and workshops with external collaborators.

• Our brand new £50m Centre for Student Life provides a central hub for our student support services as well as offering modern, flexible social learning spaces and a 550-seat lecture theatre.

The relocation is supporting the School of Journalism, Media and Culture to enrich your learning. We also have many resources and services to support your study and research.

The university-wide wireless network covers university buildings, university-managed residences and the majority of Cardiff and Vale university Health Board sites. The network provides access to software applications, digital and collaboration tools, online resources, and services such as email and file storage. A range of services is available to support research, including a specialist research data store, file transfer, survey tools and other applications.

Libraries

Our libraries are welcoming, comfortable and offer a broad range of information resources. With study spaces to suit all learning needs and extended opening hours, including evenings, weekends and 24/7 access in our two main sites (the Arts and Social Studies Library and Health Library), you can work at times that suit you best. There are two Postgraduate Study Zones, one on Cathays Park Campus, the other on Heath Park Campus. They provide individual, group study and social spaces, and kitchen facilities. Your ID card will be automatically enabled for entry. Our libraries provide over 1.1 million printed books and access to more than 1.5 million online books, journals and resources to support your learning. We also have many treasures and unique collections held within our Special Collections and Archives to enrich your research.

There’s never been a more exciting time to be a postgraduate student at Cardiff University. We are currently investing hundreds of millions of pounds to provide our students with world-class facilities as part of our largest campus upgrade in a generation.
As soon as you enrol as a student, you automatically become a member of Cardiff University Students’ Union, one of the biggest, best and most active in Britain.

Cardiff Students’ Union was recently voted 2nd place in the UK in the WhatUni Student Choice Awards 2022 for best Students’ Union and consistently graded in the top 5 for student satisfaction in the UK by students.

Spanning the Cathays and Heath Park Campuses, the SU operates a purpose-built facility in the centre of Cardiff that houses cafés, shops, bars, a letting agency, a post office and 24-hour flexible study spaces for students to meet, relax and make the most out of their time at university.

The SU is led by an elected full-time student officer team who provide dedicated representation and support for the needs of postgraduate students and researchers. They shape all the activities and services we deliver for students; we’ve outlined these below.

**Your student communities**

As soon as you enrol as a student, you automatically become a member of the postgraduate community at Cardiff Students’ Union, one of the biggest, best and most active in Britain.

There is something for everyone to get involved in across our 200 societies and 65 sports teams. Our student groups are a force for good on campus and in the local community, running events, fundraising activity, and volunteering projects that around 15,000 of you get involved with each year.

**Your student voice**

The SU also works with you in all aspects of your academic life, giving you what you need to shape your education and providing care should things go wrong. This includes recruiting and training over 1,000 Academic Reps each year, who serve as a valuable link between the university, the Students’ Union and the student body, to ensure that your voices are taken seriously at every level.

**Your student experience**

The SU is also about creating unforgettable student experiences, striving to deliver exceptional events and services based on what you want from your time at university. The SU has worked hard to strengthen the postgraduate community in Cardiff, including hosting events specifically for postgraduate students. From fun social activities like brunch meetups and quiz nights to day trips visiting locations across the UK, it’s a great chance to get to expand your network and meet fellow postgrads.

**Your wellbeing and future**

The activities the SU provides empower you to look after your own and each other’s wellbeing, supporting you to gain the skills, knowledge, and resilience to find your place in the world. From helping students find part-time work through the Jobshop service, to providing a free, independent, and confidential advice service whenever you need support, it’s well worth exploring all the services the SU has to offer.
Postgraduate taught study
Whether you’re looking to boost your prospects after graduation, change direction to follow a new career path or make sure you get ahead of the competition in a challenging jobs market, a postgraduate taught course can help you achieve your goals.

**Enhance your career prospects**
Undertaking a postgraduate taught course is one of the most effective ways to advance your career to a higher level. The variety of skills and expertise gained from your course can improve your job prospects, maximise your chance of securing work in a specific field and increase your earning potential.

**Achieve professional accreditation**
If you need to gain professional accreditation to reach the next stage of your career, a postgraduate taught course can help you achieve this. We offer a variety of courses leading to professional accreditation, some of which can be studied part-time alongside your employment.

**Change your career path with a conversion course**
If your undergraduate degree is not the field you want to work in, a conversion course allows you to upskill in a different area so that you can follow a new career path. You’ll find all of our conversion courses marked within the course directory.

**Further explore a subject you are passionate about**
If you’re coming to the end of your undergraduate studies but you still have the desire to learn or carry out research, a postgraduate taught course can satisfy your intellectual curiosity by allowing you to explore a subject in more depth.

**Develop expert knowledge in a specialist area**
Postgraduate taught study gives you the chance to really specialise in your field and advance your knowledge of a particular subject area.

**Prepare for postgraduate research study**
Studying a postgraduate taught course can give you the opportunity to continue to enhance your general subject knowledge and experience advanced independent research projects on a smaller scale from what would be expected for a PhD. This can help prepare you and bridge the gap between your undergraduate studies and a postgraduate research programme.
Choosing your taught course

Deciding which postgraduate taught course is right for you will depend on a number of factors including your areas of interest, current level of study and future career ambitions.

Master’s courses (including MA, MSc, MScEcon, MBA, MTh, LLM and MDA)

Taught master’s courses enable you to develop specialist knowledge and expertise of a specific subject area. The structured teaching programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials and directed reading, alongside independent and practical work. Teaching is followed by the preparation and submission of an individual dissertation or final project. Some courses may also include industrial or work-related placements. A full master’s course is usually studied across 12 months full-time or 24 months part-time, and is comprised of 180 credits.

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) and Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)

Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates are postgraduate-level taught courses structured in a similar way to master’s courses but don’t normally involve a written dissertation. These courses are often accredited and can be used to build credit towards a master’s qualification.

A PgDip is usually studied across 9 months full-time or 18-21 months part-time and is comprised of 120 credits. A PgCert is less extensive than a PgDip and is normally studied across 6-9 months full-time or 12 months part-time. A PgCert is comprised of 60 credits. You can also choose to study a range of individual modules on a standalone basis.
There are many benefits to studying a postgraduate conversion course:

**Fast-tracking a career change**
If your undergraduate degree is not the field you want to work in, a conversion course allows you to upskill in a different area so that you can follow a new career path.

**Continuing your study at a higher level**
A conversion course allows you to acquire additional skills to go alongside those gained on your undergraduate degree.

**Pursuing a vocation that matches your interests and that you find more fulfilling**
If you’ve developed an interest in a new area, a conversion course allows you to explore the subject in more depth.

**Increasing your prospects of securing employment in a specific field**
The variety of skills and expertise gained from your conversion course could allow you to significantly improve your job prospects and increase your chance of securing work in a specific field.

**Growing your skillset**
To help further your career aspirations, a conversion course enables you to develop skills and knowledge in a new subject.

We offer a diverse range of conversion courses that allow you to study a subject unrelated to your undergraduate degree or career, to support you with a change of direction.

Subject areas include:
- Archaeology and Conservation
- Business and Marketing
- Computer Science and Informatics
- Creative Writing
- Geography and Planning
- Journalism, Media and Culture
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Welsh
We understand that advancing your education to postgraduate level is a significant financial commitment. That’s why, if you’re considering a postgraduate course, it’s a good idea to consider your funding options as soon as possible. If you need help from the experts, our Student Funding and Advice team can provide you with free, impartial advice on all aspects of funding your study.

Funding your taught course

Funding sources are subject to various conditions and some are highly competitive. You should research your funding options early to ensure that you can meet application deadlines.

Master’s Excellence Scholarships
Our competitive Master’s Excellence Scholarship scheme has been designed to support high calibre UK students in funding your postgraduate study. We are investing up to a total of £500,000 in the scheme for entry in September 2023, with each scholarship worth a minimum of £3,000 tuition fee discount. Conditions apply.

I applied for a Master’s Excellence Scholarship and this cut my fees, which really helped relieve financial pressure during my degree.

Matilda, MSc Computing

Alumni Discount
The Alumni Discount is available for Cardiff University graduates who are planning to start an eligible masters programme in September 2023. Only complete full-time and part-time postgraduate taught programmes that lead to a master’s degree are included within the Alumni Discount scheme.

The Alumni Discount was the biggest factor in choosing to study my specific master’s. Being able to reduce my fees was a huge help.

Tom, MSc Spatial Planning and Development

What does my course cost?
Tuition fees vary depending on the course you choose and whether you’re a UK or international student. You can find full details of tuition fees on the individual postgraduate taught course pages on our website.

UK Government postgraduate funding for master’s study
Postgraduate loans from the UK government are available to support UK students who fulfils the eligibility criteria. Different loans apply depending on where you are domiciled in the UK.

For entry in 2022, students from Wales could receive up to £18,430 of funding (comprising both a loan and grants), while students from England could receive a loan of up to £11,836. Government funding amounts for entry in September 2023 will be published on our website as soon as they are confirmed.

International scholarships
We have a range of highly prestigious scholarship programmes to support exceptional international students, including our Vice Chancellor’s International Scholarship scheme.

Additional funding sources
• If you’re an international student, make sure you investigate funding opportunities offered within your home country via the British Council and other external funding providers.
• Our Unistaff Jobshop can help you secure part-time, casual or regular employment within both the university and external organisations.
• Numerous charities, trusts and foundations may offer funding for postgraduate taught study.

We’re committed to helping you fund your studies. For further information, please visit our website at www.cardiff.ac.uk.

www.cardiff.ac.uk
How to apply for a taught course

Before you apply

Before you apply you should check the entry requirements on the website for your chosen course and gather your supporting documentation.

To help us make a decision you will usually need to provide:

- a copy of your degree certificate and transcripts (including certified translations if not in English or Welsh)
- interim transcripts and the course end date should be provided if you’ve not yet graduated
- a personal statement - some courses require this in a specific format so you should check the website for details
- references if stated in the entry requirements - these should be signed and dated
- for applicants who need a Student Visa, evidence of an acceptable English language qualification or test

Some courses will have additional requirements such as professional registration, and this will always be stated. Where we can’t make a decision we will either get in touch to ask you to provide additional information or make you a conditional offer.

If you can’t supply the required documents when you apply, you can provide them at a later date.

Applying for a taught course

You can submit an application directly using our online application service, which allows you to save your progress and return at a later time. You will receive an automatic acknowledgement of your application when submitted and be granted access to the online applicant portal, where you can track your application, upload any additional supporting documents and update your contact details.

Your offer

You can track the progress of your application in our online applicant portal. You will also receive an email containing the details of your offer, including information on if you have to pay a deposit by a certain deadline.

Most applicants will receive an offer within four weeks, although some may take longer.

Your offer could be:

- Conditional
  - You need to submit additional evidence, usually where a qualification or test is still pending completion.
  - The deadline for providing these documents is two weeks before the course starts.

- Unconditional
  - You may still need to provide evidence of the qualifications claimed on your application and these should be provided at least two weeks before the course starts but, in most cases, all you will need to do to secure your place is to accept your offer and pay a deposit, if a deposit is required.

You can apply for most of our postgraduate taught courses directly through our website. Once you have identified your area of interest and course of study, use our step-by-step guide to help navigate through the process.
Why study a postgraduate research programme?

Our postgraduate research programmes provide you with the opportunity to prepare for both academic and non-academic careers, immerse yourself in your specific area of interest, acquire new transferable skills and make a valuable contribution to new knowledge.

Academic and non-academic career preparation

Embarking on a postgraduate research programme is an excellent way to improve your employment prospects, with the dedication, skills and knowledge needed to complete these programmes, providing the perfect career preparation. A PhD is usually one of the main requirements for a career in academia, demonstrating that you have the necessary expertise to succeed in this field, while the skills, knowledge and expertise obtained will also really help you stand out from the crowd for positions outside of academia.

Immerse yourself in your specific area of interest

If you’re coming to the end of your undergraduate or postgraduate taught studies but you still have the desire to explore your area of interest further, postgraduate research study can provide this opportunity to immerse yourself more than before, providing the platform for you to become an expert in your area of interest.

Acquire new transferable skills

Postgraduate research study involves more than writing a dissertation and completing your viva. It can also offer additional benefits including the opportunity to acquire new transferable skills such as public speaking, teaching, networking and time management.

Make a valuable contribution to new knowledge

Studying a postgraduate research programme provides the unique opportunity to make a valuable contribution to new knowledge in your specific area of interest. This sets these programmes apart from other qualifications, enabling your work to potentially become a point of reference for academics and students in the future.
Choosing your research programme

A research programme at Cardiff University gives you the opportunity to investigate a specific topic in real depth amongst field-leading researchers with first-class facilities.

**Research programmes**
*(including PhD and MPhil)*

Research degrees involve the in-depth study of a specified field over an extensive period.

The results of this research are written in the form of a thesis or dissertation, demonstrating an original contribution of knowledge or practice to a chosen discipline.

Opportunities for supervised research are available in all our academic schools.

We encourage you to explore opportunities in academic schools outside your original degree subject, as you may find that many of them offer research areas that link with your area of interest.

The type of research you are engaged in and your experience of undertaking postgraduate research will differ depending on whether you are studying a lab-based research programme or one within the arts, humanities and social sciences.

**Research programmes with taught element**
*(including MRes and Professional Doctorates)*

Increasingly, institutions offer research programmes that contain some structured teaching, such as our Master of Research (MRes) programme in Biosciences, Professional Doctorates including the DClinPsy Clinical Psychology and our PhD in Economics.

There is also the EPSRC CDT in Compound Semiconductor Manufacturing programme in which the first year is comprised of a taught programme based upon either the MSc Compound Semiconductor Physics (optoelectronics) or the MSc Compound Semiconductor Electronics.

These programmes provide advanced research training and specialist knowledge before you embark on your specific research project.
Our research-intensive profile and reputation enables us to secure funding for doctoral study from a wide range of sources, including UKRI’s Research Councils, charities and trusts, governmental bodies and industry.

We are currently leading or participating in a range of specific doctoral training initiatives, such as UKRI’s Research Councils sponsored Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) and Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs). These span many of our areas of academic and research strengths. DTPs and CDTs bring together diverse areas of expertise which aim to train doctoral researchers with the skills, knowledge and confidence to become successful researchers and who are able to tackle today’s big questions and future challenges.

We are currently participating in the following doctoral training initiatives:

**Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences**
- AHRC South, West and Wales DTP
- ESRC Wales DTP

**Biomedical and Life Sciences**
- BBSRC South West Bioscience DTP
- MRC GW4 BioMed DTP
- NERC CDT in Ecotoxicological Risk Assessment Towards Sustainable Chemical Use (ECORISC)
- NERC GW4+ DTP in Environmental Sciences
- Wellcome Trust Partnership

**Physical Sciences and Engineering**
- EPSRC DTP
- EPSRC Compound Semiconductor Manufacturing CDT
- EPSRC CDT Resilient Decarbonised Fuel Energy Systems
- NERC GW4+ DTP in Earth and Environmental Sciences
- UKRI CDT in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Advanced Computing
The Doctoral Academy is an interdisciplinary hub for postgraduate research students at Cardiff University. It provides a central source for accessing personal, professional and research skills development workshops, as well as a range of interdisciplinary community events and funding opportunities, both online and within a dedicated space.

Our aim is to help you, the researcher, to have an outstanding student experience and to benefit from being part of a postgraduate community where you can develop research excellence and enhance your employability. We work in partnership with the university’s Student Life services to ensure that you are fully equipped to succeed.

Undertaking postgraduate research is intellectually stimulating, challenging and unlike any other form of university study. For that reason, the Doctoral Academy runs ‘Starting Out’ induction sessions in October and at each additional enrolment point. These events will introduce you to the nature of a research programme, to the support available for your research and career development and to other research students, who will become your friends, colleagues and perhaps even collaborators.

Supporting the Researcher Journey
We offer a comprehensive programme which encompasses several elements: formal training workshops, wellbeing and careers activities, online learning, community events and student-led activity. This enables us to help you on your journey as a new researcher, helping build confidence, skills, persistence and a fulfilling career.

Interdisciplinary and Funding Opportunities
We also enable researcher development by providing opportunities and funding for involvement in student-led conferences, and interdisciplinary activities. This funding enables researchers to gain experience and develop skills by running their own events and initiatives.

Access to GW4 Resources
Cardiff University is part of the GW4 Alliance, which brings together four of the most research-intensive and innovative universities in the UK: Cardiff, Bath, Bristol and Exeter. Being part of this alliance enables us to offer you access to specialist, flagship equipment and opportunities to build your wider network.

Our Community
- Join a nurturing community of postgraduate research students, helping you develop links outside of your specialist
- Regular interdisciplinary activities offering a stimulating research environment and opportunities to network with your peers
- Annual student-led conferences and other research showcase events including our Images of Research exhibition and Three Minute Thesis competition
- Regular Writers’ Retreats offering support and encouragement for writing your thesis
- Dedicated spaces including seminar rooms, study and social areas, and hot-desking facilities
- A vibrant Twitter community offering a virtual space to discover and engage with other researchers
- The Doctoral Academy Blog, where you can showcase your research and discover the diversity of our research community

The Doctoral Academy offers so many opportunities to acquire new skills and sharpen existing ones. I appreciate that the Doctoral Academy is not just about making us better scholars, but genuinely more well-rounded and happy individuals. The world of academia can be harsh and isolating, but the Doctoral Academy is an oasis where students from different academic backgrounds can come together and realise that we aren’t alone in this, not by a long shot. I have made friendships with people I cherish that I would have never encountered had it not been for the common ground of hands-on workshops, inspiring seminars and interdisciplinary conferences.

Adelle, School of History, Archaeology and Religion
There are a wide range of funding options available for you to consider and explore. These include funding from Research Council studentships and doctoral loans, independent charities and a wide range of other PhD scholarships. If you need help from the experts, our Student Funding and Advice team can provide you with free, impartial advice on all aspects of funding your study.

**Doctoral Training Initiatives (UK Research Council funding)**
UK Research Council funding available through these initiatives normally includes full UK tuition fees, stipend and research training support grant. For 2022 entry the value of the annual stipend was £16,062. These opportunities tend to be open for applications between October - November and January - February.

**UK Government doctoral loans**
Doctoral loans from the UK government are available to support UK students who fulfil the relevant eligibility criteria. For entry in 2022, all UK students could receive a loan of up to £27,892. Different loans apply depending on where you are domiciled in the UK.

**Additional funding sources**
- Throughout the year, we advertise a range of funded PhD projects on our website.
- If you’re an international student, make sure you investigate funding opportunities offered within your home country via the British Council and other external funding providers.
- Our Unistaff Jobshop can help you secure part-time, casual or regular employment within both the university and external organisations.
- Numerous charities, trusts and foundations may offer funding for postgraduate research study.

**What does my programme cost?**
Tuition fees vary depending on the programme you choose and whether you’re a UK or international student. You can find full details of tuition fees for your research programme on our website.
How to apply for a research programme

Before you apply
Before you apply you should check the entry requirements on the website for your chosen programme and gather your supporting documentation.

To help us make a decision you will usually need to provide:

- a copy of your degree certificate and transcripts (including certified translations if not in English or Welsh) - interim transcripts and the course end date should be provided if you’ve not yet graduated
- a personal statement - some programmes require this in a specific format so you should check the website for details
- references if stated in the entry requirements - these should be signed and dated
- for applicants who need a Student Visa, evidence of an acceptable English language qualification or test
- details of your proposed topic/research area.

Some programmes will have additional requirements such as professional registration, and this will always be stated. Where we can’t make a decision we will either get in touch to ask you to provide additional information or make you a conditional offer. If you can’t supply the required documents when you apply, you can provide them at a later date.

Applying for a research programme
It’s important that you conduct some background research to help you identify the research programme that can support your interests and career goals.

OPTION 1: Apply to a pre-defined research project
Our academic schools advertise research projects that have been proposed by supervisors, many of which are funded. To apply for these projects, you usually do not need to submit a research proposal. However, you should discover more about the potential supervisor and project before you apply.

OPTION 2: Apply with your own idea and find a supervisor
Before submitting your application, we recommend that you discuss your proposal with the school and a potential supervisor. They may be able to suggest improvements, direct you to a more suitable supervisor and help you identify funding opportunities.

OPTION 3: Apply to a Doctoral Training Initiative
We are currently leading or participating in a range of funded specific doctoral training initiatives. Each of these has its own application process and deadlines.

Writing your research proposal
A research proposal should outline your proposed area of study and what you hope to achieve through your research. You should contact the academic school that your area of interest is based within so they can provide you with specific requirements. As a general guide, a research proposal may include:

- Title for the proposed research project
- Literature review
- Significance of research
- List of key academic publications
- A concise summary of the research project
- Aims and questions to be addressed
- Methodology and design
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T = Taught | R = Research | ☭ = Conversion Course | FT = Full-Time | PT = Part-Time | DL = Distance Learning | BL = Blended Learning

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- Part-time Study Excellence Discount
- www.cardiff.ac.uk/Scholarships
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