

**University of
South Wales**
Prifysgol
De Cymru

Annual Review 2014/15



Sixth form students from across the UK attended a model NATO summit at the University's Newport City Campus.

The University of South Wales Group

The University of South Wales

As one of Britain's most exciting new universities and a major player in higher education, the University is among the top 10 campus universities in the UK by student number and attracts a cosmopolitan mix of students from 120 countries. With over 30,000 students across five campuses, it was rated top for student support in the Times Higher Education Awards 2012.

The University of South Wales is unique in combining the broadest range of provision with the widest access to education. It offers a full range of qualifications, from PhD study to foundation degrees. The breadth of subjects includes the full range of STEM subjects, from aircraft engineering and mathematics to computing and surveying. The University is also an experienced provider of teacher training.

The University of South Wales is recognised as a powerhouse in applied research that is used to shape key decisions. As a public policy think-tank, the University offers independent advice to government, industry and employers across the UK on health, education, economic growth, social policy, and governance. This enables it to provide a platform for ideas and debate with bodies such as the CBI, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and NESTA.

The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama

The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama is the National Conservatoire of Wales and a leading UK provider of specialist practical and performance-based training in music, drama and other related professions. The College provides training that enables students to discover their own artistic individuality and helps to shape the future of their chosen careers.

The College Merthyr Tydfil

The College makes a major impact on the economy of the Heads of the Valleys region by providing access to basic and higher level skills and qualifications. The vocational nature of its courses reflects the current practices and conditions of the professional world. The new £33m College building was officially opened in October 2013.

Building on our first year

If 2013 was the year in which we made the first steps into University of South Wales's existence, 2014/15 is the year in which we made major progress in mapping the University's future.

Our Strategic Plan was developed with the input of staff, governors, and external partners. It sets out the University's core values and principles, with the commitments that we make to our students, engagements, and applied research and innovation and the key performance indicators against which we will measure our success. Fundamentally, proud as we are of our heritage as a university founded by business and the professions, we aim to build on that inheritance as we seek to make University of South Wales the university of choice for students, organisations, and communities who value vocationally-focused education and applied research, which provides solutions to problems that affect society and the economy. 2014/15 was also the year in which we took strategic but sentimentally difficult decisions on how to prioritise future investment in the University's estate, taking a long term view that will concentrate the University of South Wales's presence and future development in three campuses offering distinctive packages of courses in Pontypridd and in the city centres of Newport and Cardiff.

Our summer graduations in 2014 were the first at which the University's new Chancellor the Rt Hon Lord Rowan Williams presided over our ceremonies. Every University has ceremony and ritual that bind us as an academic community. It is an affirmation of our new identity and inherited traditions, not just as an individual university but as part of the longer continuum of learning and teaching that runs through the first incarnation of university education in the classical civilisations of the ancient world, through the vocational theology-based scholarship of the middle ages, to the expansion of higher education in the

19th century. The role of our Chancellor, the formal head of the University who in many senses personifies its values, is key to this sense of shared purpose, robust inquiry, and academic rigour. We can describe Rowan Williams no more effectively than the citation that introduced him formally to a congregation of students, staff, and key partners from across Wales's intellectual and cultural life, which described our Chancellor as "A poet and scholar, a linguist and a peacemaker, a theologian and a philosopher, a leader in people's thoughts and a servant in so many of their lives, a citizen of the world and one of our own."

At our Installation Ceremony, we also took delivery of the new University Mace. A fine symbol in industrial steel, designed by award-winning University of South Wales academic Jeremy Spencer, a sculptor in his own right, the Mace was manufactured by apprentice James Benson and the engineering team at GE Aviation Wales, a physical demonstration in its creation and its double-helix design of the living partnership with employers and industry that runs through this University's DNA.

Other distinguished honorands recognised at our degree ceremonies through the year included political leaders, stars of the performing arts, distinguished academics, and leading scientists.

As the eyes of the world turned to Newport in September 2014, we welcomed 100 schoolchildren from across the UK to our Newport City Campus for an intensive summit of their own with personal contributions from visiting leaders including the UK's Deputy Prime Minister, the US Ambassador to Britain, and a young NATO simulation in partnership with the British International Studies Association and the next generation of young leaders from across the NATO diaspora, in Britain as guests of HM Government with the Atlantic Council.



USW physiologist Damian Bailey published groundbreaking research into links between rugby players suffering multiple concussions and being at risk of developing early onset dementia.

The subsidiaries within the University of South Wales Group continued to thrive. Wales's National Conservatoire, the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, continued to establish its growing reputation as a serious competitor within the conservatoire sector, and played a vital role in bringing major film and television investment to Wales. The College Merthyr Tydfil has settled well into its superb new campus, continuing to provide major advances in progression into further and higher education in our key communities in the Heads of the Valleys. It complements the continued success of the Universities Heads of the Valleys Institute, UHOVI, the nationally recognised

initiative in partnership with the Welsh Government that is doing so much to bring learners into higher education.

Our sense of the communities we serve remains at the heart of what we do. As an international scholastic community we welcome students from over 120 countries, of every background and creed, and of all faiths and none.

Rooted in the communities of South Wales, we make an impact not just to the individual students we educate from every part of our region, but in the contribution we and they make to the

University of South Wales lecturer Jeremy Spencer designed a new Ceremonial Mace for the University, which was unveiled at the installation of our Chancellor, Rowan Williams.



public services, city region boards, local authorities, hospitals, businesses and schools. Our partnership with the five Further Education colleges of the region is just one example. The work of University of South Wales health research experts, at Welsh Government's request, informing hospital provision in Mid Wales and resulting in a study endorsed by stakeholders across the viewpoints, is another.

Although 2014/15 was a year in which we developed the University's long term horizon, there were individual successes that stood out in their own right. Our rating in the Research Excellence Framework highlighted applied research strengths across diverse fields such as social policy, creative industries, and sport science.

As a University founded by industry and the professions, we have continued to bring our students to the world of work through placements, and exposed them directly to the leading thinkers in their chosen fields. Speakers at the University have

ranged from former cabinet ministers at the heart of Britain's foreign policy to the conditioning coach of the All Blacks, from the sound engineer of the Beatles and Pink Floyd to the leading talent developer of Dreamworks animation, and David Hurn, founder of the University's documentary photography tradition and original stills photographer to James Bond.

In conclusion, as we look back at the year, we are very aware that it is not enough to be one of the UK's largest universities, for all that this critical mass allows us to meet the needs of employers and students with a very much enhanced capability. We remain firmly focused on flexibility and high performance that allows us to thrive in a rapidly changing environment for all universities, recruiting students, attracting leading academics, and adding value to our communities through the excellence of what we do and the growing reputation we are establishing as a major modern, professional university of which Wales and the UK can be proud.

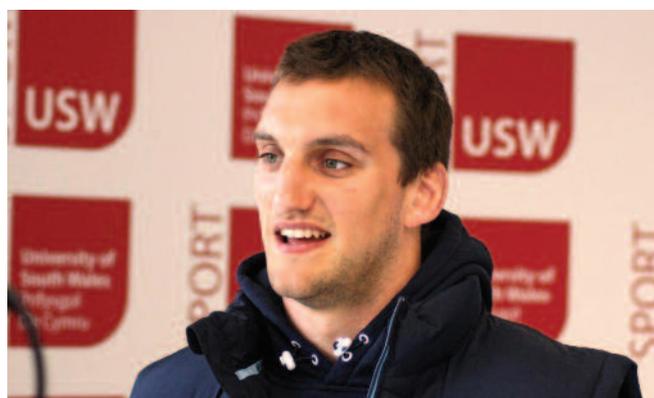


Professor Julie Lydon OBE
Vice-Chancellor



Gareth Williams
Chairman of the Board of Governors

A Year at the University



Rugby star Sam Warburton and Welsh Government Minister Ken Skates AM teamed up to launch a unique international collaboration between the University and Setanta College in Ireland



The University celebrated world-leading research in the REF (Research Excellence Framework), including studies by criminologist Professor Fiona Brookman, which have provided new insights into the nature and circumstances of homicide.



Sport students met Nic Gill, strength and conditioning coach for the New Zealand All Blacks, during his visit to the University. The All Blacks trained at USW's Sport Park ahead of their autumn international clash with Wales.



The University hosted the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Winifred Raphael memorial public lecture for its first time in Wales. The lecture explored the quality of nursing care and welcomed Professor Linda Aitken from the University of Pennsylvania.



Open for Business, an exhibition of some of the world's finest photographers, came to the University's City Campus in Newport. The exhibition was opened by former University lecturer and Magnum photographer David Hurn.



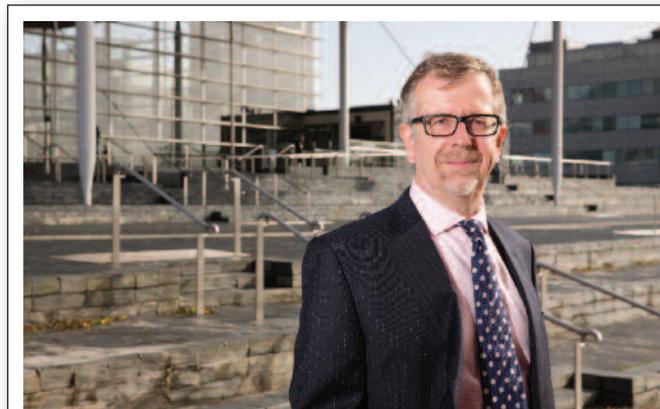
Horror film *The Devil's Vice*, made by staff and students at the University of South Wales film school, was aired on BBC One Wales. The hour-long film was directed by BAFTA award-winning Peter Watkins-Hughes and featured five graduates in production roles.



Dr Ali Wardak was presented with the Radzinowicz Memorial Prize, awarded by the British Journal of Criminology, in recognition of his unique research into war and crime in Afghanistan.



Law student Annie Devine was part of the gold medal-winning UK wheelchair rugby team at the first ever Invictus Games, which was championed by Prince Harry and saw 400 injured ex-servicemen and women compete in a variety of sports.



A new report published by University of South Wales's Professor Marcus Longley, Director of the Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care, recommended that three Mid Wales health boards needed to form a partnership in order better to serve their patients.



Accounting students Lucy Whittington and Farzana Ahmed were joint winners of the Sir Julian Hodge Prize at the ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) Cymru Wales conference, in recognition of their outstanding performance in their studies.

Financial statement

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 July 2015

Income:	Notes	Year to 31 July 2015 £'000s	Year to 31 July 2014 £'000s
Funding Body Grants	2	35,419	45,037
Tuition Fees and Education Contracts	3	121,682	108,987
Research Grants and Contracts	4	15,102	17,025
Other Operating Income	5	23,867	24,228
Endowment and Investment Income	6	871	626
Total Income		196,941	195,903
Expenditure:			
Staff Costs	8	109,304	109,650
Other Operating Expenses	10	63,013	60,510
Depreciation	13	12,259	13,690
Interest and other finance costs	9	3,283	4,470
Total Expenditure		187,859	188,320
Surplus before loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets		9,082	7,583
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	7	3	(223)
Surplus after disposal of fixed assets before exceptional items: continuing operations		9,085	7,360
Exceptional items: Continuing operations	11	(12,524)	(827)
Surplus on continuing operations after depreciation of assets		(3,439)	6,533
Taxation	12	-	-
Surplus on continuing operations after depreciation of assets and tax		(3,439)	6,533
Transferred (from)/to accumulated income in endowment funds	22	(3)	(5)
Surplus for the year retained within General reserves		(3,442)	6,528

NOTE OF HISTORICAL COST SURPLUSES AND DEFICITS for the Year Ended 31 July 2014

	Year to 31 July 2015 £'000s	Year to 31 July 2014 £'000s
Surplus on continuing operations	(3,439)	6,533
Difference Between Historical Cost Depreciation Charge and the Actual Depreciation Charge for the Year Calculated on the Revalued Amount	10,074	438
Historical Cost Surplus after Tax	6,635	6,971

Of the consolidated retained surplus £5,105,000 (2013, £3,101,000) has been dealt with in the accounts of the University. The consolidated income and expenditure of the University and its subsidiaries relate to continuing operations.

Our students 2014/15

Where they study (31,919 Total Students)



28,419 USW Group HE

2,000 The College Merthyr Tydfil FE

1,500 Welsh Adults

Our HE students | How they study



82.3% Taught undergraduate

14% Taught postgraduate
1.6% Research postgraduate
2% Other

Our HE students | Where they come from



68.6% Wales

17.5% Rest of UK
5% EU non UK
8.9% International

Our HE students | Their age



32.9% Under 21

24.9% 21-24

12.6% 25-29

29.5% 30+