

BEYOND USW: OUR IMPACT

Better tomorrows start with USW



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**USW SUPPORTS
REGIONAL AND
NATIONAL
ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND
SOCIAL COHESION**

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MAKING AN IMPACT

BETTER TOMORROWS START WITH USW

Driven by our mission to change lives and our world for the better, USW is Wales's leading widening participation university. We change mindsets towards further and higher education, improving individuals' life chances and creating more prosperous communities.

Through our research, which helps shape industries of the future to inform government policy on public services, we are playing our part in building better tomorrows. We are immensely proud of the positive contribution USW makes to the prosperity of our region and nation.

Earlier this year we commissioned Biggar Economics to look at our economic and social impact on our region, Wales, and the UK during the 2019/20 academic year. Their headlines show that USW makes a total economic contribution of £1.1 billion and supports 10,600 jobs in the UK. The Covid-19 pandemic did impact on the results due to lower student spending than typically would have occurred in a normal year. It is estimated that this reduced our impact by over £65 million and 1,550 jobs in the UK for the year. Despite this our positive impact is clear to see.

Partnership and collaboration are in our DNA - we were founded by industry more than 170 years ago. We strive to let the outside in with an industry-led curriculum, real world work experience, and applied research and innovation, co-created with industry to address local and global challenges.

Here we will tell you more about our work and impact, and I hope it inspires you to work or learn with us in the future, so we can maximise our collective impact.



Louise Evans,
Chair of the Board of Governors



OUR IMPACT

ECONOMY

We contribute

£1.1b

to the UK economy



Each £1 of University income generates

£5.30

to the wider economy



TRAINING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

We produce

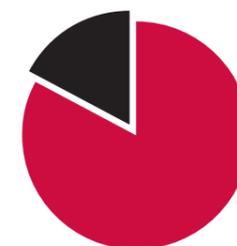
7,500

graduates each year



83%

of graduates were in employment or voluntary work 15 months after graduating



A UNIVERSITY FOR ALL



1 in 3

students from the lowest socio-economic areas of Wales that entered higher education, went to USW



USW delivered

126,149

days of CPD

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION



Active graduate start-ups had an estimated turnover of

£8.9million

Our knowledge exchange generates

£25million

and 370 jobs in the UK



OUR ECONOMIC IMPACT

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

The University of South Wales (USW) group, which includes the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and The College Merthyr Tydfil, is proudly anchored in south Wales, with campuses in Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, and Pontypridd. USW places engagement, collaboration, and partnership working at the heart of everything we do, working alongside business, industry, and the social economy, to address identified needs and achieve the best outcomes for individual learners and organisations.

We aim to support sustainable economic growth and to make this as inclusive as possible. We share these goals with the Welsh Government and the Cardiff Capital Region's Economic Growth Partnership and our deep roots within the local economy offer a vehicle for supporting economic growth and recovery in some of the most deprived parts of Wales.

USW makes a significant economic contribution - £1.1 billion each year - and supports 10,600 jobs in the UK. There are 3,300 people who are directly employed by the University, and every person employed directly supports a further 3.2 jobs throughout the UK. Our income also has far-reaching benefits. With an annual income of £199 million, each £1 received in income generates £5.30 to the wider economy.

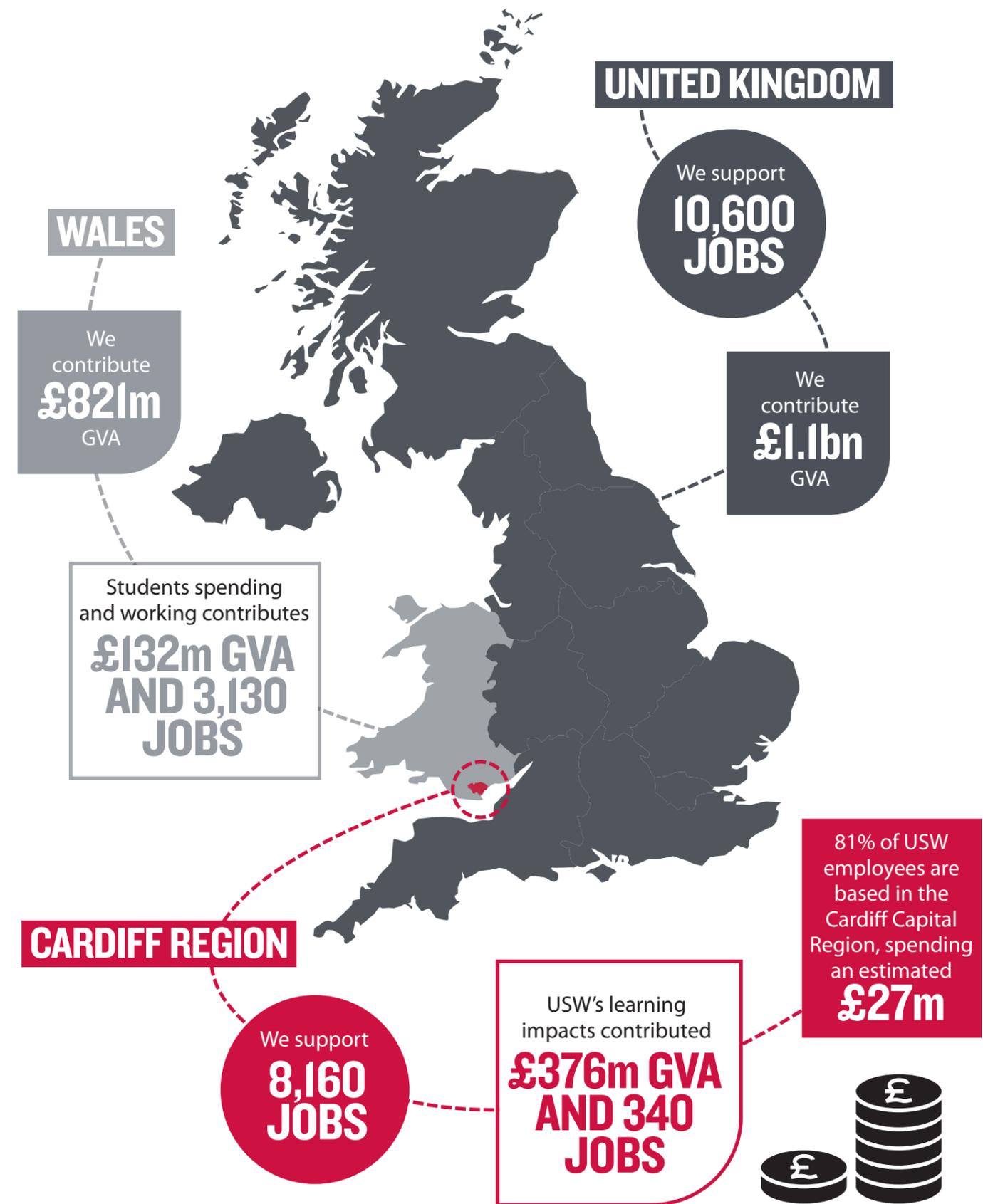
We also contribute to the economy through our expenditure on goods and services - £61 million annually - with 76% of this expenditure in the UK.

Our graduates contribute to the productivity of the economy with the skills and experience they gain during their time at university, from student placements and from continuing professional education. These learning impacts from USW graduates contributed £589 million GVA in the UK.

Training tomorrow's key workers in nursing, care, education, policing, and social work are key examples of how USW is supporting the sustainable delivery of services which are essential for the foundational economy. There are more than 250 graduates alone in these fields from USW each year.

Students at USW also make an economic contribution through their spending which supports turnover and employment in local businesses. Students' spending and working contributes £111 million GVA and 2,740 jobs in the Cardiff Capital Region. Of this, £24 million is spent by international students at USW.

OUR ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION





SCREEN INDUSTRIES

USW PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE SCREEN INDUSTRIES SECTOR - RESEARCHING, CREATING, INNOVATING, COLLABORATING, EDUCATING AND TRAINING, AND SUPPORTING THE VERY BEST SCREEN INDUSTRIES TALENT. THE INWARD INVESTMENT IN THE SCREEN INDUSTRIES SECTOR AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY, WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY USW, IS ESTIMATED TO CONTRIBUTE

£32m GVA AND 650 JOBS IN WALES.

“ WHEN I FIRST STARTED MY COURSE THE ONE GOAL I GAVE MYSELF WAS TO WORK ON SOMETHING I LOVE AND TO GET MY NAME IN THE CREDITS. TICK - DONE THAT!

MJ Hygate, USW Computer Animation Graduate and Pre-Visual Animator, His Dark Materials

PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FILM MAKERS

USW partnered with Screen Alliance Wales and Bad Wolf in 2018 to promote production opportunities and provide students with valuable experience in the film and television industry. Bad Wolf has brought major productions to Cardiff, including His Dark Materials, Doctor Who, and Casualty. By early 2021, around 50 graduates and students had received paid work sourced through the partnership and a further 200 had undertaken work shadowing placements.

“We work closely with USW to identify skills gaps and opportunities for talent development to future-proof the industry. Having this relationship with a university enables graduates and students to have real time, hands-on experience here in the studio. It is a massive step forward for all of us.”

Allison Dowzell, Managing Director, Screen Alliance Wales

DEVELOPING NEW PRODUCTS, SERVICES, AND EXPERIENCES

USW is helping to deliver Clwstwr, a five-year research and development programme, which aims to create new products, services, and experiences to boost the screen industries sector in south Wales. Clwstwr is funded by the UK Industrial Strategy and delivered by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, and the Welsh Government, through Creative Wales. USW works to deliver Clwstwr in partnership with a host of organisations such as BBC, S4C, Arts Council Wales, Ffilm Cymru Wales, and Cardiff City Council with the aim of funding and delivering innovation in the region’s screen and news sectors.

DRIVING INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE MEDIA INDUSTRY

The media.cymru Consortium, a group of 24 organisations including USW, is working to develop a world-leading cluster for media innovation in the Cardiff Capital Region. The consortium, made up of organisations working in education, broadcasting, technology, media production and local leadership, aims to drive inclusive, sustainable economic growth and an additional £236m in Gross Value Added (GVA) to the Cardiff Capital Region by 2026.

“We are thrilled to be drawing on our research and development expertise to support the media.cymru programme, which focuses on making the Cardiff Capital Region a global hub for media innovation. It will give us the opportunity to build on our skills research as part of the Clwstwr programme in order to support an inclusive, skilled screen workforce from classroom to boardroom.”

Professor Ruth McElroy, Co-Director of Clwstwr and Head of Faculty Research at USW

CREATING GROUND-BREAKING IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

USW has helped to create ground-breaking immersive experiences as part of the Audience of the Future programme. The University provided research support and expertise throughout the augmented reality project, working with multi award-winning animation studio Aardman, and Fictioneers, a consortium of British companies including Potato, Sugar Creative, and Tiny Rebel Games, and backed by funding from UK Research & Innovation (UKRI). As part of the programme, USW worked with Aardman on Wallace & Gromit: Big Fix Up, a free app which allows users to step directly into the world of Wallace & Gromit.

TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

USW IS A VOCATIONALLY-FOCUSED UNIVERSITY, PREPARING STUDENTS TO SUPPORT KEY INDUSTRIES NOW, AND IN THE FUTURE.

SKILLED AND RELEVANT WORKFORCE

Employers work closely with USW to co-create curriculum that supports their future needs. This provides them with a skilled and relevant workforce that they can rely on with a large pipeline of graduates coming out of USW and our partner institutions each year. We are generating the workforce that employers tell us they want and need.

A further 83% of students who graduated from USW* found employment or unpaid work within 15 months. This is above the sector average.

A further 11% had become self-employed, which is well above the average level of 8% for all higher education institutions. Overall, nine in every 10 graduates considered their current activity to be meaningful after leaving USW.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR CAREERS

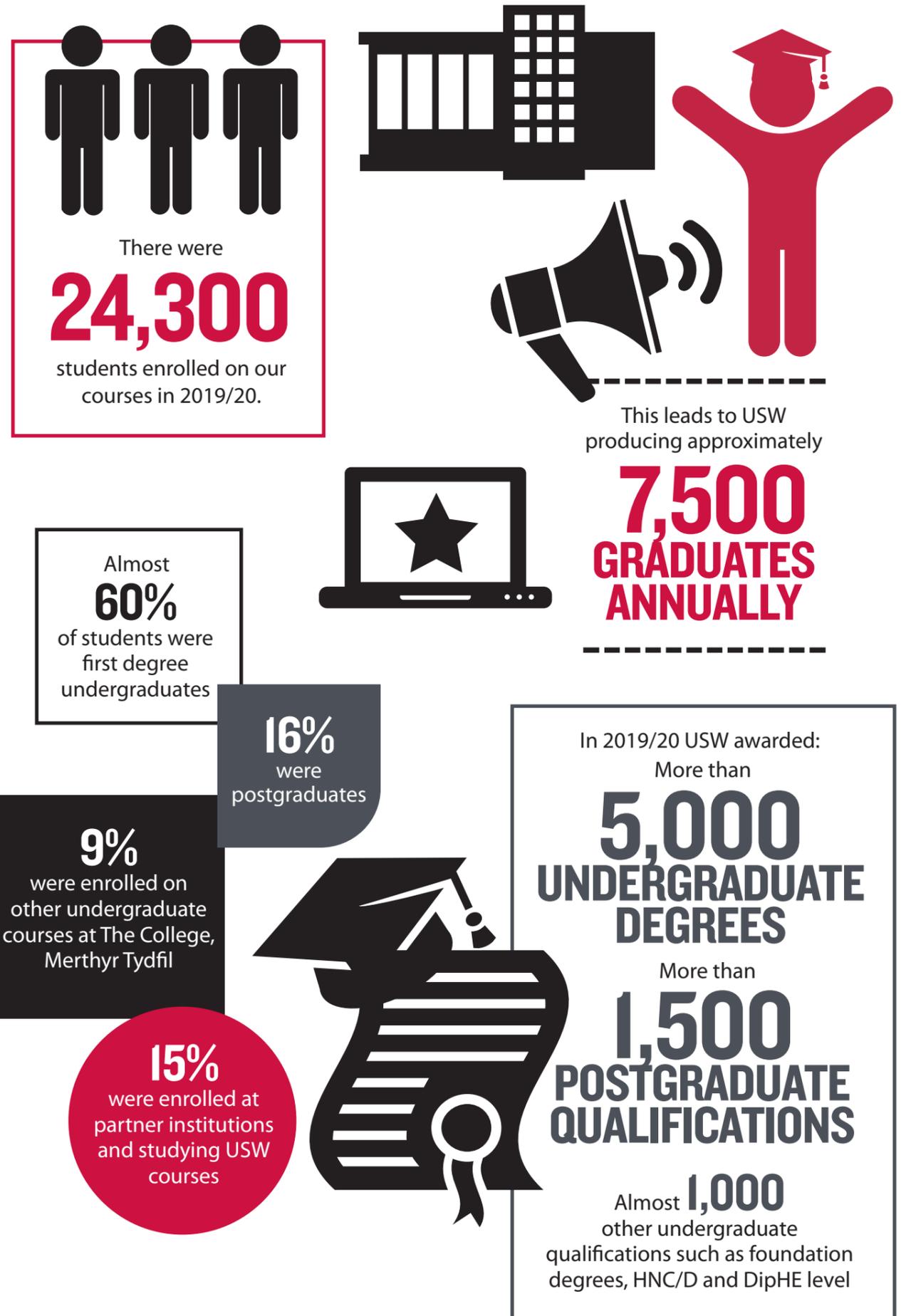
One of the key reasons for USW's success in graduate employment is many of the courses offer simulated learning to help prepare students for their chosen fields, increasing their employability. With a crime scene house, Hydra simulation centre, a court room, aeroplane, flight simulator, primary and secondary school classrooms, a clinical simulation centre with hospital wards and state-of-the-art programmable patient simulators and green screen facilities, as well as a cyber secure operations training centre, students at USW immerse themselves in environments they will face in their careers.

Work placements are another important way for students to gain vital experience and skills, and prepare them for the world of work. There were more than 5,000 student placements in 2019/20, with the average one taking 9-14 weeks. Approximately 90% of the placements took place in Wales, and 75% in the Cardiff Capital Region.

Our courses and assessments include live briefs and challenges, set by industry, giving students first-hand experience of the type of work they will have in their chosen career when they graduate.

USW students also make a social and economic contribution by volunteering their time and skills to local organisations, often enabling charities to undertake activities and provide services that would otherwise not be possible. More than 3,000 students volunteer on average 44 hours per year, mainly within the areas in which they live.

More than half of USW's full-time students - 54% - also have part-time work whilst they are studying, providing an important source of additional labour for companies in their local



ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY

USW NETWORK 75 PROGRAMME

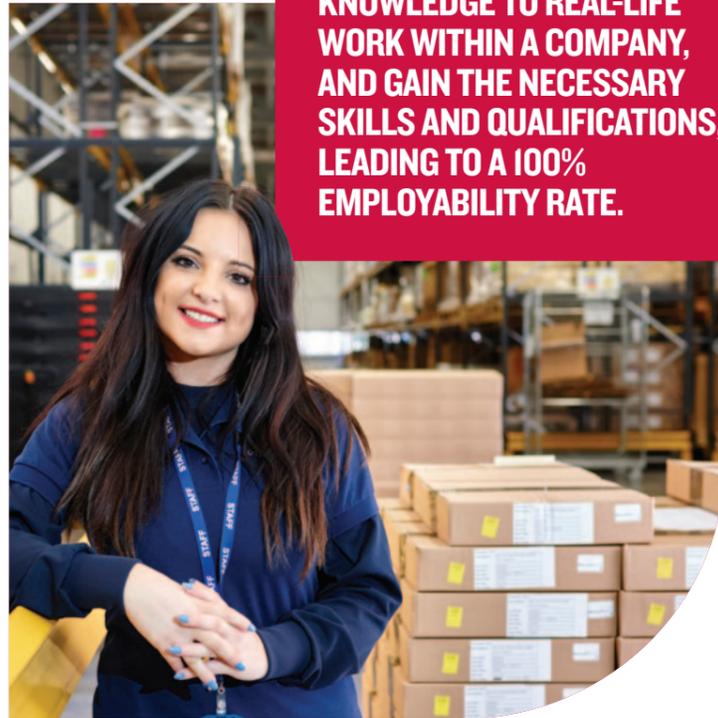
The growing suite of degree apprenticeships and foundation degrees, alongside the continued delivery of USW's Network 75 programme, extends the education offering for students who can earn while they learn, broadening the appeal of studying, and creating graduates who are in touch with business and industry needs.

Companies such as Morgan Sindall Infrastructure have taken part in the scheme since 2007, and they have had a number of graduates who have gone on to work with them permanently.

"The scheme enables us to attract people into our business and the industry as well as supporting and enhancing the local communities where we work by potentially offering employment opportunities to people from the local communities".

Nicola Smith,
Senior Administration Manager
for Morgan Sindall Infrastructure

NETWORK75 IS A COMBINED FIVE-YEAR WORK PLACEMENT AND PART-TIME STUDY ROUTE, ALLOWING STUDENTS TO APPLY THEIR ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE TO REAL-LIFE WORK WITHIN A COMPANY, AND GAIN THE NECESSARY SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS, LEADING TO A 100% EMPLOYABILITY RATE.



FIVE YEARS CAN SEEM DAUNTING AT FIRST, BUT IT FLIES BY AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT YOU HAVE FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE, A DEGREE, AND A GREAT JOB YOU KNOW HOW TO DO.

Lewis Iles, Network75 BEng (Hons) Electrical and Electronic Engineering Trainee

USW'S DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS IN POLICING, ENGINEERING, SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGIES, AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS, ALLOW EMPLOYERS TO DEVELOP HIGHLY-EMPLOYABLE STAFF WITH RELEVANT SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE IN THEIR FIELD. THERE ARE MORE THAN 500 STUDYING DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS AT USW.

FIRST EDUCATION PROVIDER TO ADOPT NEW MODEL FOR PROFESSIONALISING POLICING

USW was the first education provider in England and Wales to adopt a new model for professionalising policing, delivering its programme to five police forces in the UK, and supporting wider entry routes into the force. USW works with Devon and Cornwall Police, Dorset Police, Gloucestershire Constabulary, Wiltshire Police, and Dyfed-Powys Police to deliver the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA), and postgraduate Degree Holder Entry Programme (DHEP), delivered by specialists in USW's Policing and Security department, in collaboration with trainers from the five forces.

Early in 2021, a group of police officers from Dyfed-Powys Police became the first in England and Wales to complete the Degree Holder Entry Programme (DHEP) and gain a Graduate Diploma in Professional Policing Practice, having experienced a combination of university lectures and academic learning with life on the beat.



WE GRADUATE MORE THAN 250 INDIVIDUALS INTO KEY WORKER ROLES EACH YEAR, INCLUDING TEACHERS, POLICE OFFICERS, SOCIAL WORKERS, NURSES, AND MIDWIVES.

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY STUDENTS

USW graduate Tracey James began studying a Bachelor of Midwifery (Hons) degree in 2018 and has undertaken several clinical placements.

"I have had the opportunity to experience lots of different clinical areas at different hospitals. I worked between Prince Charles Hospital and Princess of Wales Hospital on labour wards, pre- and post-natal wards, as well as community placements. Our placements are usually between six and eight weeks long which allows you time to familiarise yourself with the area you are working, and to build relationships. We are always allocated a supervisor who oversees our practice and is there to offer support.

"The placements are extremely valuable and where you learn the most, as it is hands on, and you can apply theory to practice. However, new placements are always challenging due to the change of area, new faces, and new things to learn... I have enjoyed my training and have been supported to try new adventures."

Tracy secured a job as a newly-qualified midwife with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board at the end of her degree.



A UNIVERSITY FOR ALL

USW IS COMMITTED TO WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND WE INVEST OUR RESOURCES IN RECRUITING STUDENTS FROM AREAS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION. WE ALSO EXTEND OUR REACH TO STUDENTS ON FURTHER EDUCATION COURSES, OFFERING PROGRESSION PATHWAYS INTO HIGHER EDUCATION, THROUGH OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH SEVEN COLLEGES IN SOUTH WALES.

IN 2019/20 MORE THAN A QUARTER OF OUR STUDENTS WERE PART-TIME, USING OUR FLEXIBLE AND INCLUSIVE STUDY OPTIONS.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

USW is committed and passionate about addressing social inequalities, be that via recruiting and retaining students from areas of social deprivation, college partnerships, University of Sanctuary status, Gold Award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS), and Stonewall recognition as a Top 100 Employer in 2020.

USW supports and enables its students to achieve the best life outcomes possible with a commitment to support under-represented groups of any age, background, or ethnic group, and ensuring they are given a fair and equal opportunity to study and are supported to do so.

Around one in three students from areas within the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) who entered higher education in 2018/19 went to USW. This represented almost half (49%) of USW's undergraduate Welsh students and is significantly above average for higher education institutions in Wales (39%) and the UK (34%).

USW's retention rate for students from these areas is equal to the average for all Welsh higher education institutions of 86%, with life-changing outcomes for individuals and growth for the region in the longer term.

As well as supporting students, our welcoming campuses and facilities are regularly used by local communities, including local sports teams, as well as by organisations and businesses across the UK.

49,000+

people attended events and conferences at USW. Two-thirds of these came from outside the Cardiff Capital Region.



Our student community includes international students from

124 COUNTRIES



The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama had almost

40,000

people watching more than

330 PERFORMANCES



We have an international workforce, with colleagues coming from

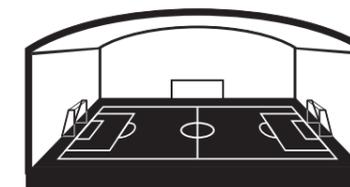
57 COUNTRIES



More than

200,000

people used our Sports Centre facilities at our Treforest Campus and our Sport Park facilities (based on 2018/19 figures)



Outside of the UK, we have

35,139

alumni in

206 COUNTRIES



DEVELOPING PEOPLE

FIRST CAMPUS AIMS TO WIDEN ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION, CREATING INNOVATIVE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AND LEARNING PATHWAYS, TO BUILD CONFIDENCE AND ASPIRATIONS. FUNDED BY THE HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR WALES (HEFCW), AND LED BY USW, THE PROJECT DELIVERED ACTIVITIES TO 5,099 PEOPLE IN ONE YEAR.

First Campus has had a successful partnership with local professional animators Turnip Starfish since 2009.

Young people are invited to take part in an annual series of workshops to develop their own animations and learn how to further their creative ambitions in higher education and beyond. Early evaluations have found that 64% of learners who have completed the Turnip Starfish workshops have gone on to study at university.

Turnip Starfish was due to deliver animation workshops to a group of young people in secondary schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf during Easter 2020. However, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, they worked with us to reimagine the workshops in a digital space. Teaching was moved online, and one-to-one coaching was provided by supervised telephone calls. The pivot to online delivery presented learners with new challenges as they had to learn to use unfamiliar applications and manage their own projects remotely.



OUR USW COMMERCIAL SERVICES TEAM WORKS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATIONS, AND BUSINESSES, TO CO-CREATE AND DELIVER TRAINING PROGRAMMES THAT ALIGN WITH THEIR CULTURE, CONTEXT, AND AMBITION. THE UNIVERSITY DELIVERED 126,149 DAYS OF CONTINUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN 2019/20.



CHANGE MAKER PROGRAMME

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, in early 2020, organisations had to tackle the challenge of moving their workforces offsite to work from home during an international health crisis.

Responding to the urgency of the situation the USW Commercial Services team quickly developed the Change Maker Programme, aimed at supporting senior and middle managers to lead through change, turning the focus inwards on themselves, their teams, and organisation.

Delivered in a virtual learning environment, facilitators led six sessions per programme, with a mixture of theory and practical tasks and activities. Participants also benefited from a blended learning package of blogs and podcasts from leading change experts to help them navigate through the change to become a change maker.

USW EXCHANGE

USW Exchange is the front door for business engagement and partnerships at USW.

Working in collaboration with major organisations such as Barclays, NatWest, FSB Cymru, Business in the Community, Thomas Carroll Group, and Chambers Wales, USW Exchange supports economic prosperity, from start-ups through to high growth/anchor organisations. It also works in partnership with government-funded bodies, including Business Wales and local councils (Newport, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Rhondda Cynon Taf), to encourage access to talent pipeline, Continual Professional Development, and the innovation and research and development capabilities of USW to support economic prosperity amongst the businesses they serve.

“THE COURSE WAS ABOUT CHANGE AND REALLY RELEVANT TO EVERYTHING WE’RE GOING THROUGH RIGHT NOW, IT JUST SPOKE TO ME, THE FACT THAT IT WOULD BE AN ELEMENT OF COACHING BUT ALSO ABOUT THE THEORY, IT WAS A REALLY NICE MIX OF THE TWO.

Gemma Bale, Director of Marketing at Legal and General.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

USW'S RESEARCH IS AIMED AT MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE REAL WORLD, CHANGING LIVES, AND THE WORLD, FOR THE BETTER.

Our research provides solutions to the challenges faced by society and the economy, with researchers working across disciplines to help businesses, communities, and policy makers benefit from their research outputs. Valuable contributions are made to many aspects of the economy, the environment, culture, and wider health and well-being.

The last Research Excellence Framework in 2014 rated half of USW's research as world leading or internationally excellent. USW's world-leading and internationally-excellent research across the range of the creative industries is ranked top in the UK for its impact. USW's research in social policy and criminology is ranked 8th in the UK, and in the field of sports and exercise science, our research is ranked as 15th overall in the UK.

In 2019/20 we attracted £8.48million in research grants and we continue to work in collaboration with other universities, and industries, to try to address some of society's biggest challenges.

In the field of health and social care, our influence extends to shaping the delivery of public services which improve the quality of lives, both within Wales and beyond its borders. In computing, science, and engineering we are helping to create industries and technologies of the future, and in creative industries we are raising the profile of Welsh culture, history, and language on a national and international stage. In lots of areas, we have taken a collaborative approach, to maximise the result of our work and create tangible impacts on industrial development, professional practice, and government policy.

USW also facilitates knowledge exchange through the services we provide to businesses, which includes consultancy work, contract research, and providing access to facilities.

In total, our knowledge exchange contributed £25 million GVA and 370 jobs to the UK, of which £7 million GVA and 120 jobs were in Wales, and £4 million GVA and 70 jobs were in the Cardiff Capital Region.

Committed to nurturing and guiding entrepreneurs, we have invested in instilling entrepreneurial skills in our students and graduates to encourage start-up businesses, as well as supporting innovation and business creation. The University has four active spin-outs and nine active staff start-ups with an estimated employment of 37 people. In 2019/20 USW had the highest number of new graduate start-ups registered of all Welsh universities.

In total our commercialisation activities generated £9 million GVA and 400 jobs in the UK - of that £5 million GVA and 210 jobs were in the Cardiff Capital Region.



**USW'S RESEARCH
IN SOCIAL POLICY
AND CRIMINOLOGY
IS RANKED TOP IN
WALES**



USW TAKES PART IN THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY SKILLS SCHOLARSHIPS (KES2) PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE RESEARCH MASTERS IN COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS, WITH A STUDENT EMBEDDED IN A BUSINESS. USW HAS 80 ONGOING KES2 PROJECTS, AS WELL AS 21 WHICH HAVE BEEN COMPLETED IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

BETTER TOMORROWS

RESEARCH WITH INDUSTRY MAKING LONG-LASTING BENEFITS

USW works with TATA Steel to make its processes greener and cheaper - it hosts 16 PhD students from USW, who are being funded by more than £700,000 from the European Social Fund.

"Working with TATA helped me to become familiar with the barriers facing large companies when trying to reduce their impact on the environment. TATA are proactive in their approach to finding solutions to huge problems, such as carbon dioxide emissions, which made collaborating with them easy and enjoyable."

"My PhD research has been so rewarding and has opened up so many opportunities. I wanted my PhD to make a difference to our planet, and USW gave me a chance to do that."

Dr Rhiannon Chalmers-Brown, who worked with TATA Steel as part of her KES2 PhD.

"Over the last five years we have built up our work with the University of South Wales and have a number of active PhD and research projects underway. We were initially looking to work with experts in hydrogen, but that has now progressed to working together on a wider range of project areas within the Sustainable Environment Resource Centre at the University, as well as with experts in data science.

"The University has also helped us to expand our network of contacts, which has already seen us work with new suppliers, and use novel equipment for our industry that is helping us to improve our ways of working."

Dr Gareth Lloyd, Process Engineering Manager, TATA Steel

OUR RESEARCHERS WORK ACROSS DISCIPLINES WITH BUSINESSES, COMMUNITIES, AND POLICY MAKERS. THEY ATTRACT FUNDING FROM THE UK RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUNDING COUNCILS, GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES, AND ORGANISATIONS TO CARRY OUT PRACTICAL AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH THAT WILL MAKE A BETTER TOMORROW. IN 2019/20, USW RECEIVED £8.48MILLION IN RESEARCH GRANTS.

CREATING A RAPID TEST FOR COVID-19

The test can be purchased through spin-out company Llusern Scientific.

Lead scientists Dr Emma Hayhurst, Dr Jeroen Nieuwland and Dr Ali Roula created the test, which can detect whether people are actively infected with the underlying SARS-CoV-2 virus within 20 to 30 minutes. The team was awarded a grant from the Welsh Government's Covid Response, Research, Development, and Innovation Solutions fund to validate the test device and kits in collaboration with manufacturing partners, Public Health Wales, and NHS Wales.

"The beauty of this test is that it is quick and portable. It doesn't need to be processed in a lab and so when businesses, organisations, or industries need to, for example, quickly test their workforce, the results can be available in less than 30 minutes, rather than 24 hours or more. There are so many possibilities for how this test can be used, for example, in care homes, hospitals, airports, dental labs, and GP practices – even cruise liners."

Dr Emma Hayhurst, Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biology at USW and Llusern Scientific CEO.



USW IS COMMITTED TO NURTURING AND GUIDING ENTREPRENEURS. ACTIVE GRADUATE START-UP COMPANIES EMPLOY APPROXIMATELY 330 PEOPLE, WITH AN ESTIMATED TURNOVER OF £8.9 MILLION. 54% ARE BASED IN WALES AND 47% ARE IN THE CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION.

SUPPORTING GRADUATE ENTREPRENEURS TO FLOURISH

USW opened the Startup Stiwdio in Cardiff in 2019.

The Stiwdio delivers practical advice and business accommodation to graduates in the early stages of business start-up, with financial support from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales' (HEFCW) Civic Engagement Fund. When it opened, it was the first dedicated graduate enterprise incubator in Wales, and initially attracted 19 graduate businesses, mainly from creative, IT, and sports science courses. The local business community supply free legal and accountancy advice to the graduate entrepreneurs and they also receive mentoring support through the Founder Fridays programme.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, the Stiwdio staff continued to deliver services, which included highlighting potential emergency funding for entrepreneurs and providing support for them to remodel their businesses to ensure survival. The Stiwdio reconfigured its incubator bootcamp for online delivery in 2020 to allow continued support for graduates who wished to start a business in the new and challenging environment. USW plans to open further incubators in Newport and Treforest.



WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

We have always been an institution that has made education accessible and attainable for everyone who wants to progress. From our founding institution, the Newport Mechanic's Institute almost 200 years ago, the focus has always been on addressing societal needs, not just by widening access into higher education, but by using research for real industrial solutions. That history is still present today in who we are and what we achieve - it is the lifeblood of USW. It is core to our vision to change lives and our world for the better. Our USW 2030 strategy sets our roadmap for the next decade and how we will work in partnership with industry, communities, and government to play our part in addressing the economic and social recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our strategy places digital learning and innovation at its heart, which is something that we have made great strides with during the Covid-19 pandemic. Coupled with our attention to a challenge-based and relevant curriculum, we are continuing to evolve our provision so that it remains at the cutting edge of what industry needs.

We are very fortunate to work with so many talented partners across the public and private sector, in designing and delivering our courses, in researching and innovating, and in making a real difference that impacts our communities. From health and well-being, policing and security, to the creative industries and sustainable environment. As another core element of our 2030 strategy, these partnerships provide our students with opportunities and insight, to enable them to succeed in their chosen careers.

As an institution, USW has much more to give. We are committed to working with our partners, our communities, our alumni, our staff, and our students to strengthen our social and economic impact to make a real difference for our local communities, region, and country, to make a better tomorrow.

Dr Ben Calvert,
Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Wales



OUR FOCUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON ADDRESSING SOCIETAL NEED, NOT JUST BY WIDENING ACCESS INTO HIGHER EDUCATION, BUT BY USING RESEARCH FOR REAL INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS.

