

2019 Teachers' and Advisers' Conference Friday 18 January | Newport City Campus

Plenary Session: Student Experience, Student Choice

Delivered by **Dr Ben Calvert, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Learning, Teaching and Student Experience**, this session will offer delegates more information about the National Student Survey (NSS). Hugely important to universities, and increasingly important to prospective students - with TripAdvisor-style student review sites utilised more than ever during the HE decision-making process - delegates will learn more about the key measures and how the University is responding. There will also be further discussion around how prospective students and parents can use NSS results as an effective HE research tool, and where they can find the details about what matters most to them.

Workshops: Session One – Delegates should choose one of the following:

A: Don't fear the Personal Statement

Year-on-year voted the aspect of the application process that students find the most difficult, how can delegates make it easier for students to create a good personal statement (without writing it for them!)? Packed with useful hints and tips and real-life examples, join the University's UK Student Recruitment Team as they attempt to make the whole process a bit less painful for all concerned!

B: Taking the mystery out of Admissions

What really happens when you click 'send'? Delivered by the University's Head of Admissions, delegates will learn more about the journey of a student's application to higher education, and will be offered a real insight into the offer-making process.

C: Starting young: Engaging pre-16 students with HE

It's increasingly important to ensure that students feel more prepared and are better informed about university and the choices available to them. This session will offer delegates ideas for activities to engage with students much earlier in the process, and signpost to the resources available to them.

Workshops: Session Two – Delegates should choose one of the following:

A: Student Finance Update: Wales and England

Separated into Welsh and English groups, delegates will receive the most up-to-date information about higher education funding, and the student finance application process.

B: High fliers: Applying for competitive courses

With insight from Oxbridge and Russell Group institutions, and advice on admission to Medicine, delegates will learn more about supporting students interested in pursuing competitive routes at selecting universities.

C: Supporting students' mental health

With increasing pressures on students studying Level 3 qualifications at school and college, how can delegates identify those who need additional support, and ensure they get the help they need? Delivered by external training provider Elemental Health Ltd, delegates will receive practical advice on supporting these students at school and college, and ensuring that they access services available to them as they apply to university.

Workshops: Session Three – Delegates should choose one of the following:

A: Writing References and getting References right

No matter how big or small the cohort, crafting positive, persuasive references for every student can be difficult. Delivered by UCAS, with real-life examples, and plenty of dos and don'ts, this session promises to suitably prepare delegates for the challenge!

B. Exploring portfolio qualifications

The Faculty of Business and Society will lead a discussion on the value of portfolio qualifications, such as the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate and the Extended Project Qualification, and how the University can support with the delivery of these qualifications within increasingly-stretched school and college timetables.

C: Navigating digital trends

How can schools and colleges engage the digital generation via social media? With practical hints and tips, including best practice examples from universities across the world, even the least tech-savvy delegates will feel inspired to get tweeting and sharing!

Workshops: Session Four – Delegates should choose one of the following:

A: How much do you really know about the Faculty of Creative Industries?

A recent definition of the UK's creative industries indicated that they are worth £92bn a year to the economy (The Guardian, August 2018). The University's 3,000 creative industries students call our vibrant Cardiff Campus their home. In this session, delegates will learn more about the courses on offer – from the obvious eg, drama, graphics and fashion design, to the more unusual eg, TV and film set design, music business and documentary photography - and how our state-of-the-art facilities and impressive industry links ensure that our students are ready to embark on a career in this billion-pound industry after graduation.

B: How much do you really know about the Faculty of Business and Society?

Discover the ground breaking research and professional practice driven by our leaders in Business, Legal and Financial Services and Social Policy which, working collaboratively, creates a compelling story of impact, influence and inspiration in areas such as Graduate start-ups, social justice and the public policy which shapes the design of everyday life.

C: How much do you really know about the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science?

Based across three of the University's campuses, the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science includes three academic schools, two academies and fifteen subject areas, ranging from Applied Cyber Security to Forensic Science, and Aircraft Maintenance Engineering to Mathematics. In this session, delegates will learn more about the Faculty's courses and their entry requirements, and understand how the Faculty is leading the way with degrees in various STEM disciplines. The Faculty's industry-standard facilities and links with employers provide its students with outstanding learning environments, which prepare them fully for the world of work.

D: How much do you really know about the Faculty of Life Sciences and Education?

The Faculty of Life Sciences and Education has a diverse range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses taught across three campus locations. Subject areas range from nursing, health, social work and chiropractic, to education, sport, policing, counselling and psychotherapy. The Faculty's outstanding facilities include on-campus working clinics for Psychology, Counselling and Chiropractic. USW is also the only institution in Wales to have a Hydra Simulation Centre and indoor 3G pitch. The professional nature of our courses, industry links, placements and continued professional development opportunities, ensures our students are career ready for the workplace. This session will give you the opportunity to learn about our exciting suite of Education and Chiropractic courses.

Plenary Session: UCAS – everything you need to know now

UCAS Senior Policy and Qualifications Manager, Ben Jordan, will reflect on patterns and trends from the 2018 End of Cycle Report, before looking forward to the latest developments for teachers and advisers supporting students with Apply 2019 and 2020.