

USW IN ACTION



IMPACTING COMMUNITIES

SHAPING LIVES, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

At the University of South Wales (USW), our vision is to change lives and shape a better world. From our founding institutions, we have been driven by a commitment to addressing societal needs – not only by widening access to higher education, but by applying research to deliver real-world industrial and social solutions.

Civic engagement is at the heart of everything we do. We work hand-in-hand with communities, policymakers, and partners to tackle pressing social challenges, reduce inequality, improve health and wellbeing, and support inclusive economic growth across South Wales. Our initiatives span local outreach and mentoring schemes, regeneration partnerships, and services that deliver lasting social impact. Guided by the Welsh Government's civic mission priorities, we are dedicated to building stronger, fairer, and more resilient communities across Wales and beyond.

Firmly rooted in South Wales, USW plays a pivotal role in the prosperity and wellbeing of the Cardiff Capital Region – economically, socially, and culturally. Our impact goes far beyond the numbers: we create and sustain jobs, equip graduates with in-demand skills, and strengthen communities through meaningful partnerships. We support vital public services by training nurses, teachers, social workers, and police officers, and we drive innovation through applied research. We create, collaborate, and lead, responding to today's challenges and helping shape a brighter future for generations to come.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT IN SOUTH WALES



81%
of USW
employees are
based locally



£27m
of staff
spending in
the region



Students
generate
£11m
GVA



2,740
jobs supported
by USW
students

OUR RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Highest-ever Guardian ranking:

In 2026, USW achieved its best-ever position in the Guardian University Guide, ranking 43rd in the UK and third in Wales, with five subjects in the UK top 10.



Biggest rise among Welsh Universities: USW climbed 18 places in the Complete University Guide to 77th, marking the biggest rise among Welsh universities, with improvements across 19 subject areas.

2



3



Calon STEM facility milestone:

Construction of Calon, USW's cutting-edge STEM building, reached its highest point with a topping out ceremony at the Pontypridd Campus. Scheduled to open in autumn 2026, Calon will feature 40+ specialist teaching and research spaces, including robotics labs, flight simulators, and innovation hub.

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Entrepreneurial excellence:

USW ranked in the UK's top three for graduate start-ups and retained its title as Wales's leading university for new graduate businesses for the fifth consecutive year.

REALISING ASPIRATIONS AND EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The University of South Wales broadens the pathway into higher education more than any other university in Wales, offering an inclusive and accessible approach that caters to a diverse range of learners.

Through its extensive outreach programmes, flexible entry requirements, and strong partnerships with schools, colleges, and employers, the University actively removes barriers to participation. Whether through foundation degrees, part-time study options, or tailored support for underrepresented groups, USW ensures that higher education is not just a privilege for a few, but an opportunity for many. This commitment to widening access reflects the University's core mission to empower individuals, strengthen communities, and contribute meaningfully to the social and economic development of Wales.

RECENT HIGHLIGHT

Top in Wales and top 20 in the UK for Value Added, which is a measure of how the University's teaching and support enables students to exceed their expected academic performance during their time with us.

(Guardian University Guide 2026)



67%
of USW graduates in employment work in Wales, compared to 48.8% of graduates from other Welsh HEIs
(Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022/23)



More than **51%** of our Welsh domiciled students come from the two lowest socio-economic areas of Wales (WIMD Q1 and Q2) - more than 10% above the Welsh sector



We have nearly **6,000** part-time students - the highest number of any Welsh university, apart from the Open University

REACHING WIDER

USW plays a leading role in the South East Wales Reaching Wider Partnership, working with Cardiff Metropolitan University and Cardiff University to improve social mobility and widen access to higher education. The partnership supports underrepresented learners, including those from deprived communities, care-experienced young people and carers, through activities that raise attainment, build confidence and support progression into further and higher education. In 2024/25, the partnership engaged more than 7,500 learners across South East Wales, delivering 1,600 hours of activity.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

USW works in partnership with five further education colleges to create clear, flexible progression routes into higher education aligned to regional skills needs. This long-standing FE/HE alliance supports thousands of learners each year, enabling local study, smooth transitions and access to higher-level qualifications. Together, we deliver pathways in priority sectors including healthcare, creative industries and technical subjects, supporting workforce demand across South Wales.

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES FOR SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

USW works across South Wales to raise aspirations and widen participation through targeted outreach for schools and colleges. Activities include talks, workshops, campus visits and application guidance, delivered bilingually and tailored to local need. Our STEM Outreach Programme complements this work with hands-on, curriculum-linked activities. In 2024/25, USW delivered 690 outreach activities with more than 90 schools and colleges, engaging nearly 20,000 learners.

WORK-BASED LEARNING PATHWAYS

USW delivers work-based learning through Degree Apprenticeships and Network75, combining academic study with paid employment. These programmes widen access to higher education, strengthen education-industry links and support skills development in key sectors including engineering, digital and construction. Learners gain qualifications alongside substantial professional experience, helping address regional skills gaps and improve employability.

SOUTH WALES CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP (SWCEP)

Launched in 2023, the South Wales Civic Engagement Partnership brings together five universities and five colleges across the Cardiff Capital Region to strengthen collaboration between education, communities and civic partners. Supported by Welsh Government, the partnership focuses on addressing regional challenges through place-based, collaborative civic projects. USW plays a leading role in SWCEP, helping to drive initiatives that support skills development, social inclusion and community engagement across South Wales.



CASE STUDIES USW SUMMER SCHOOL

The annual USW Summer School provides individuals from underrepresented backgrounds with a free, immersive introduction to university life. The programme aims to break down barriers to higher education by building confidence, fostering peer connections, offering subject-specific taster sessions, and showcasing USW's support services.

Co-funded by Reaching Wider South East Wales, the Summer School has grown significantly since its 2020 launch. The 2025 programme ran for seven days across all campuses and subject areas, featuring workshops with support services and collaborative sessions with industry partners. This year, more than 200 applications were received, with nearly 80 participants attending – demonstrating the programme's increasing reach and success. In September 2025, 17 former Summer School participants enrolled as full-time undergraduates, highlighting its impact on progression to higher education.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

USW delivered the Youth Engagement Programme from February to April 2024 to help young people in Newport identify and secure job opportunities. Funded by HEFCW's Research Wales Innovation Fund and delivered with the Newport Yemeni Community Association, the programme included CV and LinkedIn workshops, role model panels, and one-to-one coaching by USW academics.

These sessions equipped participants with the tools, confidence, and networks to pursue employment and explore higher education pathways. The programme engaged young people from local minority communities, boosting employability awareness and confidence while helping them build professional networks and clearer routes into work and study.

IMPACTING LIVES THROUGH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

USW is committed to supporting a greener future through research, education, and community engagement. We lead and support projects that raise environmental awareness, encourage sustainable behaviours, and deliver tangible climate and biodiversity benefits across Wales.

DEVELOPING NET-ZERO BUILDINGS

USW is a key partner in the £5m “Switch to Net Zero Buildings” project, accelerating development of buildings that generate, store, and release their own energy. Led by Swansea University with partners including Cardiff University, Neath Port Talbot Council, Welsh Government, and Net Zero Industry Wales, the initiative supports decarbonisation, economic growth, and local supply chains – reducing emissions from buildings and advancing South Wales’s transition to net zero.

DRIVING HYDROGEN INNOVATION

USW is a key partner in GW-SHIFT, a major cross-sector project unlocking the hydrogen potential of South West England and South Wales. Working with universities and industry, USW is helping develop hydrogen skills, infrastructure, and technology to support decarbonisation – boosting regional resilience and contributing to net-zero goals, with potential to support 100,000 jobs by 2050.

RECYCLING WASTE

USW’s Wales Centre of Excellence for Anaerobic Digestion is transforming organic waste recycling in the UK and beyond. Its research has enabled carbon savings of 660,000 tonnes annually across seven Welsh food waste hubs and improved fertiliser quality at 93 UK plants. The process captures biogas and nutrients, supporting sustainable energy and agriculture.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INNOVATION

USW works hand-in-hand with communities to co-design solutions that address real-world challenges. From digital tools supporting vulnerable groups to creative wellbeing projects and sustainability initiatives, our research and partnerships turn local insight into lasting impact.

AI INNOVATION SUPPORTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

USW and Cardiff-based Goggleminds have launched an AI partnership to support professionals working with domestic violence survivors. Combining USW’s trauma-informed ANA chatbot with Goggleminds’ AVA training tool, the collaboration improves survivor support and communication. Strengthened by USW AI graduates, it showcases impactful research and knowledge exchange tackling critical social challenges.

CREATIVE WELLBEING SUPPORT AT ABERBEEG’S HAPPY CAFÉ

USW’s Therapeutic Studies team partnered with Happy Café in Aberbeeg to offer creative, community-led workshops that support mental health and reduce isolation. In collaboration with housing provider Linc Cymru, these workshops use hands-on, expressive methods to help participants articulate emotional experiences, inform future wellbeing interventions, and offer real-world learning opportunities for USW students placed in the community.

CASE STUDY LOCAL VOICES SHAPE £25M HEALTH AND WELLBEING HUB IN NEWPORT

USW placed community voices at the heart of plans for the new £25 million 19 Hills Health and Wellbeing Centre, ensuring it meets real local needs. Commissioned by 19 Hills Community Interest Company and supported by the USW Civic Activity Fund and Newport City Council, the project trained residents as community researchers to lead focus groups and interviews. Their insights informed proposals for services such as an on-site pharmacy, minor injury care, youth clubs, social spaces for older people, and better transport links – creating a blueprint for meaningful engagement in public service planning across Wales.

USW’s research and innovation is rooted in collaboration with communities, public services, and industry to tackle real-world challenges and improve lives. From advancing crisis response and supporting vulnerable individuals to promoting environmental action and mental wellbeing, our work delivers practical solutions and lasting impact. By combining academic expertise with lived experience, we’re helping to shape stronger, more resilient communities across Wales and beyond.

IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Our students and researchers work alongside communities to improve physical and mental health, expand access to care, and build a more resilient health and care workforce. Through clinics, innovation in digital health, social prescribing, and targeted research, USW is tackling key challenges facing the Welsh health system while improving community wellbeing.

TACKLING CONCUSSION IN RUGBY AND SPORT

USW research led by Professor Damian Bailey links repeated rugby head injuries to reduced brain blood flow and increased risk of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. The findings informed the UK’s first grassroots Concussion Guidelines, helping safeguard players’ health and ensuring safer, more inclusive participation in contact sports across all levels.

STREAMLINING CANCER DIAGNOSIS WITH AI

USW researchers, along with Cardiff and Vale UHB, are developing an AI app to support faster, more accurate skin cancer diagnosis in primary care. Led by Dr Janusz Kulon, the project uses anonymised NHS data to aid GP referrals – improving early detection, easing pressure on hospitals, and supporting fairer healthcare across Wales.

EMPOWERING HEALTH LEADERS THROUGH DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The Intensive Learning Academy, led by USW, equips Welsh health and care professionals to lead digital transformation through people-focused leadership and innovation. Thousands have benefited, reshaping services and team dynamics. This ripple effect is improving healthcare experiences and outcomes for patients and staff across communities in Wales.

DELIVERING SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

USW plays a key role in regional economic growth by supporting local businesses, driving innovation, and developing a skilled, inclusive workforce. We work closely with employers, communities, and government to tackle inequalities, create jobs, and build economic resilience across South Wales.

POWERING WALES'S PUBLIC SERVICES

USW plays a vital role in sustaining and strengthening public services by training a significant share of the workforce that communities across Wales depend on. From classrooms and hospitals to policing and social care, we prepare professionals who deliver essential services every day, ensuring a pipeline of skilled graduates ready to serve across health, education, justice, and community sectors.

FROM 2020-2024, USW TRAINED:



1,820
NEW NURSES
AND MIDWIVES



313
TEACHERS



182
YOUTH,
COMMUNITY,
AND SOCIAL
WORKERS



1,547
POLICE
OFFICERS



CYBER SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

USW is a UK leader in cyber education, developing the next generation of cyber professionals through partnerships with industry and government. At the National Digital Exploitation Centre (NDEC) in Ebbw Vale, USW works with Thales and the Welsh Government to support local SMEs and inspire young people, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds and underrepresented groups, to pursue careers in cyber. As lead partner in CyberFirst Wales, USW also introduces school and college students to digital skills and career pathways, helping schools gain CyberFirst status and strengthening the talent pipeline for Wales's growing cyber sector.



CASE STUDY HYDRA RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTRE (HRIC)

USW's HRIC, the UK's first immersive crisis training centre, uses VR and simulation to enhance leadership and decision-making in public services. In partnership with the Hydra Foundation, anonymised data informs research into organisational culture. Backed by Welsh Government SMART Flexible Innovation Support funding, USW now leads a major research programme aimed at tackling workplace conduct across public services in Wales and improving the way public service organisations respond to deep-seated issues such as sexism, racism, and toxic working environments.



INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND LOCAL ECONOMIES

USW drives inclusive economic growth by supporting businesses, nurturing entrepreneurs, and creating pathways for innovation. As the top University in Wales for Graduate start-ups, we embed enterprise and inclusion into everything we do, helping communities and enterprises thrive through hubs like USW Exchange and programmes integrated across our curriculum. This approach boosts skills, creates jobs, and strengthens local economies, ensuring South Wales remains a vibrant, resilient region for the future.

USW EXCHANGE — A GATEWAY FOR COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS COLLABORATION

USW Exchange is the University's hub for business and community engagement, with spaces in Newport and Treforest. It offers free co-working, meeting, and networking facilities, connecting more than 350 organisations to university expertise through events, diagnostics, and collaborative support. Since 2017, it has hosted 2,500+ visits and supported regional regeneration through civic consultations and initiatives like the Newport Place Programme. Working with partners across sectors, Exchange strengthens enterprise, talent development, and innovation across South Wales.

ENTERPRISE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT SCALE

Enterprise is embedded across our curriculum and culture, equipping students with the skills to innovate and lead. Through initiatives like Startup Stiwdio and Exchange, we provide tailored support for freelancers, start-ups, and growing ventures – strengthening regional partnerships and stimulating economic growth.

CASE STUDIES DELIVERY OF THE ACADEMIC-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

USW played a key role in the Academic-Industry Partnership Programme for Cardiff Capital Region, funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund. Working with HE and FE partners, USW supported innovation by connecting businesses to academic expertise, facilities, and collaborative delivery. The programme created or retained 69 jobs, forecast £10m investment, and projected £16m economic growth. Expert-led events across priority sectors laid the groundwork for future innovation-led growth, helping regional enterprises tackle real-world challenges and accelerate development.

TACKLING BARRIERS TO FEMALE LEADERSHIP IN WELSH BUSINESSES

USW researchers, in partnership with CBI Cymru, conducted a national survey to explore barriers to women's progression in leadership roles. The study highlights challenges such as the impact of motherhood, unconscious bias, and limited access to flexible working. The report offers data-driven recommendations for businesses and policymakers to foster inclusive leadership, support working parents, and unlock women's potential – boosting gender equality and economic growth across Wales.

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY (BITC) PLACE-BASED PROJECTS

USW is a founding member of the BITC Place Programmes in RCT and Newport, which tackle social and economic inequalities in some of Wales's most deprived areas. USW contributes expertise, research, and community engagement to support initiatives that improve education, skills, and employment, build community resilience, and promote environmental sustainability. By working with businesses, public services, and community organisations, the programme is raising aspirations, enhancing wellbeing, and creating stronger, more sustainable communities.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

TOP 3 IN UK FOR GRADUATE BUSINESSES

TOP IN WALES FOR NEW GRADUATE START-UPS (5 YEARS RUNNING)

120 START-UPS LAUNCHED

199 STARTUP STIWDIO MEMBERS

2,320 ALUMNI ENTREPRENEURS



HELPING TO BUILD INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

At the University of South Wales, inclusion is more than a value – it’s a commitment. Through partnerships, research, and community-led initiatives, USW works to amplify underrepresented voices, foster belonging, and create opportunities that strengthen social cohesion across Wales and beyond.

UNIVERSITY OF SANCTUARY

USW is one of only two Welsh universities recognised as a University of Sanctuary, reflecting its strong commitment to welcoming and supporting people seeking sanctuary. In line with the Welsh Government’s Nation of Sanctuary plan, USW leads a range of initiatives that promote access to education, social inclusion, and cultural understanding.



EMPOWERING FUTURES

Led by USW in collaboration with Cardiff University, Cardiff and Vale College, and community partners, Empowering Futures provides tailored mentoring, coaching, and career development for minority ethnic women and girls across Wales. The programme breaks down structural barriers, builds confidence, and enhances employability and leadership potential. Culturally sensitive, research-informed mentoring not only empowers individuals but also contributes to shaping national policy, including Wales’s Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan.

SUPPORTING WOMEN IN STEM AND INSPIRING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

USW is committed to advancing gender equality in underrepresented sectors through practical support and targeted programmes. The Wales Women in STEM Network offers mentoring, development opportunities, and advocacy to support women from school to senior leadership in science, technology, engineering, and maths. In April 2025, the network launched Reprogramming the Future – a roadmap tackling women’s underrepresentation in tech, where they make up just 25% of Wales’s workforce and 5% of UK tech leaders – by breaking barriers from early education to senior roles.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS WITH URBAN CIRCLE

USW’s partnership with Newport-based youth arts organisation Urban Circle supports community inclusion through events, mentoring, placements, and anti-discrimination workshops. The collaboration has been praised for its impact on student recruitment, community engagement, and equality outcomes across the region.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Athena Swan Bronze Award

In November 2025, USW achieved renewal of its Athena Swan Bronze Award, recognising the University’s ongoing commitment to advancing gender equality in higher education. The award reflects progress in creating inclusive policies, improving representation, and supporting career development for staff and students across all disciplines.

USW and RWCMD achieve Race Equality Charter Bronze Award

USW and RWCMD have achieved the Advance HE Race Equality Charter Bronze Award, recognising their commitment to improving the representation, progression, and success of Black, Asian and minority ethnic staff and students in higher education.



CASE STUDY UNDERSTANDING AND TACKLING RACIAL TRAUMA

In November 2025, USW co-authored Do You See My Trauma?, a report examining how racial trauma affects minority ethnic communities in Wales. Drawing on insights from 147 participants, the study calls for anti-racism and trauma-informed practice across public services to improve trust and wellbeing. It highlights how racism and cultural barriers limit access to health, education, and policing, and recommends leadership accountability and community involvement.

The findings are shaping Wales’ Anti-Racist Action Plan and reinforce USW’s role in advancing equity and social justice.



OPENING OUR SPACES TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Across Newport, Cardiff, and Treforest, USW's campuses are more than places of study – they are active hubs for community connection, inclusion, and regeneration. From legal and health clinics to creative studios and enterprise spaces, USW opens its facilities to support local people, schools, businesses, and civic partners. These spaces deliver practical support, widen access to opportunity, and help tackle regional challenges through education, innovation, and collaboration.

“The Community Science Festival was amazing. My daughters got to experience real-life science in a hands-on, fun, and engaging way. From using real CSI tools when investigating fingerprints, to making seed balls for conservation, through to meeting a real AI robot, my daughters were absolutely buzzing with excitement over all of the ways that they could be scientists.”

Feedback from a parent who attended

RECENT HIGHLIGHT

Community Science Festival

In summer 2025, USW opened its Pontypridd Campus to the local community for the Community Science Festival, attracting around 300 attendees from the local area. The event offered interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, and hands-on activities such as DNA experiments, fossil hunts, and conservation crafts. By welcoming families and schools to engage with real scientists and explore science in an accessible way, the festival highlighted USW's commitment to making its spaces inclusive and inspiring for all.



OPENING OUR DOORS

USW actively opens its campuses and facilities to support and engage local communities across Wales, creating spaces that foster inclusion, collaboration, and opportunity. Our Sport Park in Treforest, a first class facility, serves both elite athletes and grassroots clubs, and hosts professional teams and national squads. It also provides safe, high-quality spaces for youth, women's, and disability sport, encouraging participation and social inclusion.

Across South Wales, our campuses offer creative and civic spaces that connect people with opportunity. In Cardiff, studios, theatres, and screening rooms are opened to the public, supporting inclusive arts projects with partners like Hijinx Theatre and Screen Alliance Wales. In Newport, the refurbished Engagement Hub provides free access to meeting rooms, innovation pods, and business support

services, helping address local inequalities and nurture entrepreneurship. Flexible event spaces are also available for community groups, public services, and local businesses, reinforcing USW's role as a civic University committed to regional growth and social impact.

To make these spaces even more accessible, USW has piloted Community Space Usage Vouchers, enabling charities, social enterprises, and NGOs to host events and workshops on campus. As a result, 15 events led by 13 organisations, including Newport Women's Forum, Interlink, Barbers Collective, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, and Women's Archive Wales, benefited from this initiative, strengthening community connections and widening access to opportunity.

ACCESSING OUR EXPERTISE

USW embeds community service into education by giving students practical experience that directly benefits local people. Through initiatives like the Welsh Institute of Chiropractic and the USW Legal Advice Clinic, students apply their learning in real-world settings that improve public wellbeing. Each year, chiropractic students deliver around 25,000 treatments at our on-campus clinic, enhancing access to musculoskeletal care, while law students provide free legal advice to individuals and small businesses - supporting vulnerable groups and improving access to justice.

This commitment has been strengthened with the opening of a new £6 million Chiropractic Clinic at our Treforest Campus in October 2025. The state-of-the-art facility brings together all aspects of chiropractic education and clinical training under one roof, featuring 26 treatment rooms, seminar spaces, DXA (bone density) and diagnostic ultrasound facilities. Almost 100 students are taught at the clinic each year, delivering high-quality, evidence-based care under the supervision of qualified practitioners. This investment reflects USW's dedication to combining hands-on learning with services that make a tangible difference across South Wales.



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE

USW collaborates with community, cultural and heritage organisations to celebrate Welsh identity, amplify underrepresented voices, and support creative careers. Through storytelling, arts projects, and Welsh-medium education, we foster cultural participation and pride across diverse communities. Below are examples of how we bring this commitment to life through impactful projects and partnerships.

SUPPORTING WELSH LANGUAGE LEARNING AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

USW plays a leading role in promoting the Welsh language and cultural identity across the region. Students in subjects such as Education, Policing, and Performance can study through the medium of Welsh, submit assignments in Welsh, and access financial support via Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and USW scholarships. The “Welsh Skills and Your Career” module enhances bilingual employability, while Learn Welsh Glamorgan delivers community-based and online courses across South Wales. Staff also benefit from flexible Welsh language training. Through these initiatives, USW actively supports Cymraeg 2050 and strengthens the civic and linguistic fabric of Welsh communities.



USW AT THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

USW welcomed hundreds of visitors to its stand at the National Eisteddfod in Pontypridd, showcasing its research, teaching, and community engagement. Activities ranged from subject workshops and live music to exhibitions on refugee stories and valleys life. As co-sponsors of the Science and Technology Village, USW also led popular STEM sessions and AI discussions, highlighting its role in shaping Wales's future.



BIOLOGY IN THE PARK — UNCOVERING MICROBIAL LIFE AT CYFARTHFA

Led by USW, and supported by the South Wales Centre of Excellence in Public Engagement, Biology in the Park is a community-focused project exploring the hidden biodiversity of Cyfarthfa Park. Working with local FE partners, USW staff and students use DNA sequencing to map fungi, bacteria, and other microbes, creating a publicly accessible microbial map and guidebook with artistic and scientific insights. Through outreach sessions, guided tours, and community events, the project connects science, art, and education to promote environmental awareness, strengthen community engagement, and inspire interest in scientific careers.



BAWSO PROJECT

USW's George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling joined forces with Amgueddfa Cymru (Museum Wales) and specialist domestic abuse support service Bawso to preserve 64 digital stories from ethnic minority women, now part of national collections. The project fosters education, research, and inclusion – amplifying underrepresented voices, redefining Welsh heritage, and empowering participants through skills, confidence, and access to cultural spaces.



STATION TO STATION — CAPTURING LIFE IN THE VALLEYS

USW Documentary Photography students travelled the Treherbert and Rhymney Valley train lines to document everyday life in South Wales. In partnership with Transport for Wales and local councils, the Station to Station project captures portraits, landscapes, and street scenes that reflect contemporary valley communities. Now in its fifth year, the work will feature in Railway 200, celebrating 200 years of passenger rail travel.

VIRTUAL ACCESS TO CYFARTHFA CASTLE

USW experts supported The Cyfarthfa Foundation's bicentenary exhibition by creating immersive digital access to areas of Cyfarthfa Castle closed to the public. Using 3D laser scanning, drone footage, and VR walkthroughs, the team brought the site's rich history to life. The project blends heritage and innovation, enhancing public engagement and supporting future restoration plans.



WORK WITH US

Working in partnership to deliver impact across Wales

The University of South Wales works with businesses, public bodies, community organisations and partners to tackle local challenges, support inclusive growth and create positive social, economic and cultural impact. Whether you are looking to collaborate on a project, access expertise, or use our spaces, we are keen to explore how we can work together.



How we can work with you

Community and skills support

We collaborate with communities and organisations on projects that support skills development, wellbeing, inclusion and opportunity. This includes outreach, volunteering, research, and community-led initiatives.

Access our spaces and facilities

Our campuses in Cardiff, Newport and Pontypridd offer meeting rooms, innovation hubs, creative spaces and event facilities that can be used by community groups, public services and businesses.

Research, insight and expertise

Our academics work with partners to provide research, evaluation, evidence and expert insight across areas including health, education, sustainability, digital innovation and the creative industries.

Education, training and workforce development

We deliver degree apprenticeships, professional training and tailored programmes designed with employers and partners to address skills needs and support workforce development.

Events and engagement

We host and support a wide range of public events, workshops and festivals, and welcome opportunities to connect communities, partners and expertise.

Get in touch

If you would like to explore working with the University of South Wales, please contact us at:

uswexchange@southwales.ac.uk