

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru



University of South Wales

RESEARCH, LEARNING, TEACHING & INNOVATION CONFERENCE

29 June - 3 July 2026

Newport • Treforest • Cardiff

WELCOME

Welcome to the University of South Wales' first Research, Learning, Teaching and Innovation Conference: a new week-long event that, for the first time, brings these connected strands of our work together in one shared programme.

Across five days in Newport, Treforest and Cardiff, colleagues and partners will come together to showcase how research, innovation, learning and teaching reinforce one another in practice. The programme reflects the breadth of our academic community, combining disciplinary and interdisciplinary research presentations with sessions on pedagogy, civic and community engagement, challenge-based learning, commercialisation, publication, doctoral study and partnership working.

This conference matters because it recognises something fundamental about USW: our strongest work happens when discovery, creativity, external engagement and student learning are brought into closer relationship. By combining learning and teaching with research and innovation in a single conference for the first time, we are creating space not only to share excellent practice, but also to strengthen connections across disciplines, campuses and professional communities.

Throughout the week you will see clear evidence of that approach: accelerator-themed days, research showcases, pedagogy sessions, poster displays, celebration and recognition activity, networking opportunities and practical workshops that support colleagues at every stage of their academic and professional journey. Together, these proceedings demonstrate our commitment to addressing real-world challenges, enriching student experience and extending the impact of our work across our region, Wales and beyond.

The week also highlights the momentum we are building through our Research and Innovation Groups, our challenge-based curriculum and our growing partnerships with external stakeholders. What makes this conference distinctive is not simply the range of topics on display, but the way it brings them together as part of a coherent institutional conversation about how we generate knowledge, apply it, teach through it and learn from it.

Whether you are presenting, convening, supporting sessions, sharing posters or joining discussions, thank you for being part of this important first step. I hope you find the week stimulating, welcoming and full of opportunities to make new connections, exchange ideas and celebrate the collective strengths of our university community.

Thank you for joining us, and welcome to a conference that marks an important milestone for USW.

Professor Martin Steggall
Pro Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation

DAY 1: NEWPORT CAMPUS

Monday 29 June 2026

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
8:45 – 9:15	Coffee and networking		Ground Floor
9:15 – 9:20	Welcome and Introduction to the day's activity • Fire drills • Scan QR code for full agenda	Professor Martin Steggall / Professor Louise Bright	A15
9:20 – 9:30	Official Opening speech	Professor Osama Khan	A15
9:30 – 11:00	Pedagogy • Securing Live Industry Cyber Projects: A Strategic Approach to Aligning Practice with the CBC Model: Rhys Driscoll • Think Like a Recruiter: A Challenge-Based Approach to Computing Student Employability Rebecca Richards; Paul Jarvis • Choose Courage: Building Creative Confidence Through Industry-Engaged Learning, A Longitudinal, Practice-Informed Perspective: Sarah Carter • Implementing enhanced entrepreneurship delivery in the context of a new challenge-based curriculum at the University of South Wales, 2024-25 - Nick Lambert; Jonathan Jones	Convenor: Professor Sandra Esteves	A15
11:00 – 11:30	Refreshments and networking		Ground Floor
11:30 – 12:30	Hydra • Hydra Research and Innovation Centre Culture and Conduct improvement across public services – case study South Wales Fire and Rescue Service; Claire Parmenter; Rebecca Newton • Declining Trust and Confidence in the Police: Exploring the generational gap; Gina Dolan; Becky Nicholls Criminology, Policing and Security / Pedagogy RIGs • Co-Creating Forensic Education with Industry: Developing Immersive, Practice-Led Learning Through Challenge-Based Collaboration – Rhian Kinsella	Convenor: Professor Sandra Esteves	A15

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch, networking and posters Plus the following ‘Lunch & Learn’ sessions from 12:45 – 13:30 (please collect your lunch and make your way to the room) • Preparing for publication • Unlocking Intellectual Property in Academic Research: From Identification to Impact • Resourcing and funding a project • Options for doing a PhD • Using Microsoft Copilot agents	Nicholas Roberts Sofya Danilova Stuart Payne Elaine Huntley Simon Read	Ground Floor Room C14 Room C15 Room C07 Room C18 Room C24
13.30 – 15.00	Business • The Promotion Puzzle: Why Wales' Working Women Need More Support; Lauren Josie Thomas/Jayde Howard/Shehla Khan • Urban Air Mobility and the Low-Altitude Economy: A Practice-Based Case Study of Research, Teaching and Industry Impact; Tiansheng Yang Pedagogy and Business • Bridging the AI literacy gap: Co-designing and embedding an AI credential meeting the needs of students, staff & employers: Liam Newton • One Business School: Embedding Industry Through Advisory Boards and Business Pulse; Aylwyn Yafele; Catherine McCluskey	Convenor: Karl Luke	A15
15.00 – 15.15	Comfort break		
15.15 – 16.15	Award and recognition event	Presentation by Professor Khan	Ground Floor
16:15	Closing address	Professor Martin Steggall	

DAY 2: NEWPORT CAMPUS

Tuesday 30 June 2026

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
8:45 – 9:15	Coffee and networking		Ground Floor
9:15 – 9:20	Welcome and Introduction • Fire drills • Scan QR code for full agenda	Professor Martin Steggall / Professor Louise Bright	A15
9:20 – 9:30	Official Opening speech	Professor Osama Khan	A15
9:30 – 11:00	Sport and Exercise • Neurovascular Evidence to National Guidelines: Transforming Concussion Safety in UK Sport - Damian Bailey • Creating World-Class Coach Education and Development through Research Informed Evidence - Brendan Cropley • Defining the Pathway to Success: WRU Schools and Colleges Testing Project -Kate Williams Pedagogy and Sports • Pax in Igne: Thriving in the Fire: A Case Study of Successful Challenge-Based Curriculum Implementation - Ioan Paval • Exploring Learner Development on Sport Degree Programmes - Chris Emsley	Convenor: Dr Gina Dolan	A15
11:00 – 11:30	Refreshments and networking		Ground Floor

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
11:30 – 12:30	Applied Psychology • Trauma-informed Psychological Support with Long-Acting Injectable Buprenorphine: Evaluation of the Buprenorphine Psychological Support Service (BPSS) Pilot in Wales; Gareth Roderique-Davies • Period Dignity in Grass Roots Sport; Deborah Lancaster • Power to the dads: Mixed Methods Exploration of Dads' Voice, Participation, Understanding of Children's Rights and Support; Klara Price	Convenor: Dr Gina Dolan	A15
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch, networking and Posters		Ground Floor
13:30 – 15:00	Pedagogy RIG– widening participation • The Impact of Working-Class Status on Professional Identity Formation: A Narrative Study of Student Teachers in Wales ; Jamie James • Access Is Not Enough: Foundation Years as Reparative Spaces Supporting Belonging, Engagement and Success: Emma Chivers • Supporting Positive Outcomes for Contextual Offer Students – Early Intervention - Lynda Jones and Mark Davies • Reframing Learning Environments for Neurodivergent Student Inclusion in Higher Education; Stuart Bunston	Convenor: Karl Luke	A15
15:00 – 15:20	Refreshment break		Ground Floor

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
15:20 – 16:45	Health and wellbeing • “I was going into it blind”: Nearest Relatives, Legal Literacy and the Mental Health Act 1983; Kev Stone • It has to be Win, Win': Co-production to Transform Challenge-Based Learning, Service Provision, and Policy; Anna Playle • A multilingual, decolonial approach to language education for adult refugees and migrants: bridging policy, practice and theory across the devolved UK nations (MDLE); Mike Chick • Nomadic Epistemic Agency: Decolonizing Knowledge through Afghanistan's Kochi Mobility; Zulfia Abawe	Convenor: Dr Gina Dolan	A15
16:45	Closing address	Professor Martin Steggall	A15

DAY 3: TREFOREST CAMPUS

Wednesday 1 July 2026

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
8:45 – 9:15	Coffee and networking		B Block entrance
9:15 – 9:20	Welcome and Introduction • Fire drills • Scan QR code for full agenda	Professor Martin Steggall / Professor Louise Bright	B001
9:20 – 9:30	Official Opening speech	Professor Osama Khan	B001
9:30 – 11:00	SERC Circular Bioeconomy and Resource Recovery • BIO-VISTA: Low- Temperature Biorefining from Laboratory Discovery to Industrial Deployment; Jaime Massanet-Nicolau • VFASense: Real-Time Monitoring and Control for Advanced Bioprocessing Systems; Rodrigo Fernandez-Feito • E-HANCE: Using Electrochemistry to Enhance Wastewater Treatment and Green Chemical Production; Richard Dinsdale • Use of HyDigest and SIFER Research to Inform Postgraduate Teaching in SERC; Christian Laycock • OFWAT Innovation Project: Transforming Wastewater Treatment into a Resource Recovery Platform; Sandra Esteves • IUK/DEFRA Farming Futures (WASE): Developing Next Generation Organic Waste Treatment Systems for Low Emissions Farming; Adam Henley	Convenor: Dr Gina Dolan	B001
11:00 – 11:30	Refreshments and networking		B Block entrance

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
11:30 – 12:30	Engineering • Advancing battery technology for wearable and implantable devices, the current challenges and future directions; Darren Haines on behalf of Hammad Nazir • From abstract workers to inclusive leaders: Dismantling the masculine norms in Civil Engineering; Rhiannon Jones • Real-Time Expert-System to Predict Complications during Renal Dialysis Treatment; Jill Stewart • Optoelectronics at USW: A Decade of Research and Real-World Impact; Kang Li	Convenor: Dr Gina Dolan	B001
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch, networking and posters Plus the following 'Lunch & Learn' sessions from 12:45 – 13:30 (please collect your lunch and make your way to the room) • Preparing for publication • Unlocking Intellectual Property in Academic Research: From Identification to Impact • Resourcing and funding a project • Options for doing a PhD • Using Microsoft Copilot agents	Nicholas Roberts Sofya Danilova Stuart Payne Llinos Spargo Simon Read	B Block entrance Room B011 Room B107 Room B010 Room B111 Room B118

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
13:30 – 15:00	Civic/community engagement Showcase • Community Science Festival: Inspiring Curiosity Through Hands-On Science: Dr Josie Bradley • South East Wales Reaching Wider; Andrew Kirby • 'The impact on children and young people's wellbeing through creativity and parades' Emily Bull • Amplifying Voices: Creativity, Mental Health, and Community Wellbeing; Anna Playle • Caerphilly Uniform Exchange x USW Fashion Design; Torunn Kjolberg • Space, Skills and Creativity: An innovative STEAM approach to inspiring the next generation of the Space workforce; Leshan Uggalla, Ian McNish, Michael Carklin	Convenor: Professor Louise Bright	B001
15:00 – 15:20	Refreshment break		B Block entrance
15:20 – 16:45	Earth, Ecology and Environment • The Development of a Colorimetric Rapid Test for Cannabinoid Detection via 3D Printing Techniques; Emanuele Alves • Food for thought: Understanding taxonomic and cultural variation around wildlife provisioning; Tracie McKinney • Evidence-informed policy: Developing national biodiversity targets and indicators; David Lee • Conservation Technology in Practice: Integrating Digital Tools, International Partnerships, and Cross-Faculty Collaboration to Advance Ecological Monitoring and Student Experience; Emma Higgins	Convenor: Dr Gina Dolan	B001
16:45	Closing address		B001

Thursday 2 July 2026

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Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
11:30 – 12:30	Computing, Cybersecurity, Mathematics and Informatics • Upskilling Medical Professionals in Uganda using VR; Andrew Ware • Teaching at the Edge: Challenge-Based Learning in AI for Robotics and Aerospace; Carl Jones • Low-Cost Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for Monitoring South Wales Coal Tips; Joseph Griffiths • The impact of industry-linked research for undergraduate students: A collaboration between USW Cyber Security and DHCW ; Richard Ward and Naveen Madhavan.	Convenor: Karl Luke	B001
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch, networking and posters		B Block entrance
13:30 – 14:45	Social policy • Navigating the global political economic environment to gauge investment decisions; Filippas Proedrou • Refugee Crises and humanitarian governance; Palash Kamruzzaman Pedagogy RIG (focussed on AI) • Designing Learning for Everyone: Inclusion, Clarity and the Future of AI' Amy Giles + Guests (panel) • Introducing GrASP: The Group Assessment Support Platform; Alun King	Convenor: Professor Sandra Esteves	B001
14:45 – 15:00	Refreshment break		B Block entrance

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
15:00 – 16:45	SERC Hydrogen and Net Zero Energy Systems / Sustainable Materials and Future Technologies • H2SHIFT: Open-Innovation Test Bed Network for Hydrogen Production Technologies; Jon Maddy • Innovation in Council Led Hydrogen Project Development: Collaborative work with Caerphilly County Borough Council through the GW-SHIFT project; Steve Carr • HYDROLOOP: Integrating Wastewater Treatment with Green Hydrogen Production; Iain Michie • WHEY2BUILD: Converting Dairy Waste into Sustainable Construction Materials; Rhys Jon Jones • Recovery of Battery Critical Minerals and Battery Diagnostic Tools; Nildo Costa • South Wales Centre for Sustainable Future Technologies: A New MSc and PhD Platform for Net Zero Skills and Innovation; Gareth Owen	Convenor: Dr Gina Dolan	B001
16:45	Closing address		B001

DAY 5: CARDIFF CAMPUS

Friday 3 July 2026

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
8:45 – 9:15	Coffee and networking		Ground Floor Street
9:15 – 9:20	Welcome and Introduction • Fire drills • Scan QR code for full agenda	Professor Martin Steggall / Professor Louise Bright	Cinema
9:20 – 9:30	Official Opening speech	Professor Martin Steggall / Professor Louise Bright	Cinema
9:30 – 11:00	Creative Industries • Media Cymru and Sustainability Responding to creative industry needs through partnership and engagement: Media Cymru: Skills and Training; James Davies • Litcraft: Bringing the Text to Life Through Collaborative World Building; Rebecca Hutcheon • From Trust to Collaboration: Creative Practice Research and Partnership Across Borders; Florence Ayisi Pedagogy and Creative Industries • Designing for Tensions: An approach to communicating interdisciplinary challenges; Philip Harfield • What Happens When Industry Takes Over the Curriculum?; Emma Jones	Convenor: Professor Lisa Lewis	Cinema
11:00 – 11:30	Refreshments and networking		Ground Floor Street

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
11:30 – 12:30	Pedagogy RIG • The need for reflection in curriculum design - Louise Pennell • Belonging, Bilingualism and enhancing student success - Bronwen Rickard • Exploring Stakeholder Perspectives on Integrated Programmatic Assessment Across UK Higher Education - Lewis Fall • CCBC: Compassionate Challenge Based Curriculum - Marie Clifford	Karl Luke	Cinema
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch, networking and posters Plus the following 'Lunch & Learn' sessions from 12:45 – 13:30 (please collect your lunch and make your way to the room) • Preparing for publication • Unlocking Intellectual Property in Academic Research: From Identification to Impact • Resourcing and funding a project • Options for doing a PhD • Q&A Drop in Session: Engaging with commercial activity • Using Microsoft Copilot agents	Nicholas Roberts Sofya Danilov Stuart Payne Elaine Huntley Lee Jenkins Simon Read	Ground Floor Street Room CAD202 Room CAD301 Room CAD201 Room CAD306 Room CAD305 Room CAD308
13:30 – 14:45	Humanities • Histories of Hate: Othering and Marginalisation in Early Modern Europe; Ruth Atherton • History on Trial: Challenging Injustice from Historical Perspectives; Chris Hill, Alan Owen • Classics and the canon: challenging gender inequality through women's writing; Diana Wallace	Convenor: Professor Lisa Lewis	Cinema

Time	Activity	Delivered by	Location
14:45 – 15:00	Refreshment break		Ground Floor Street
15:00 – 16:00	Business • How Does Time Affect Consumer Behaviour in Circular Fashion Markets?; Lauren Josie Thomas • From Taith Mobility to Published Impact: Advancing Metaverse Marketing Research through International Collaboration with Jordan; Ahmed Abdullah	Professor Martin Steggall	Cinema
16.00 – 16.45	Refreshments and Celebration (tea party) Susy Rogers: 50 Years at USW	Professor Martin Steggall	Ground Floor
16:45	Closing address	Professor Martin Steggall	

FURTHER INFORMATION

We welcome the opportunity to discuss current or new research partnerships and collaborations.

Further information is available via our website:
pure.southwales.ac.uk/en/organisations/
or through our Research and Innovation Services office:
rise@southwales.ac.uk

For further information about learning and teaching enhancement, educational development and professional recognition opportunities and support, please contact the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT):
celt@southwales.ac.uk