

News release

Date: Friday, 9 June 2017

Title: Funding for higher education in 2017/18

The body which funds and regulates higher education in Wales will allocate £99.3 million of public funding to universities and other higher education providers in the next academic year.

HEFCW's allocations for academic year (AY) 2017/18 break down as follows:

| Funding Category | Funding Available for Allocation (£M) | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| | Academic Year | |
| | 2016/17 | 2017/18 |
| Research | 79.2 | 80.6 |
| Full-time teaching | 15.1 | 15.0 |
| Part-time teaching | 26.4 | 27.0 |
| Strategic Funding ¹ | 31.4 | 5.2 |
| Baseline allocation prior to funding adjustment | 152.1 | 127.8 |
| Funding Adjustment | -24.5 | -28.5 |
| Funding allocation after adjustment | 127.6 | 99.3 |

¹ For AY 2016/17 this includes £20M Strategic Change Fund, £5.4M for the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and £1.1M Supplementary Funding for Performance Element included in revised remit letter for financial year (FY) 2016-17.

The £99.3 million funding is being provided in support of the following strategic priorities:

Research

This comprises three elements of funding, for **Quality Research, Postgraduate Research Training** and support for the Welsh Government's **Sêr Cymru** programme.

- **Quality research (QR)** funding is based on the outcomes of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF2014), where almost a third of submitted research by Welsh universities was considered 'world-leading'. Funding has been calculated using the same formula applied in AY 2016/17.
- **Postgraduate Research Training (PGR)** funding is provided to support the development of highly-skilled researchers.
- **Sêr Cymru** funding is provided as HEFCW's contribution to this Welsh Government programme, whose overall objective is to provide additional investment to boost research capacity in selected areas of science in Wales, and to increase levels of external research grant income secured.

Full-time teaching

The majority of this funding is provided as an Expensive Subjects Premium - an additional resource per student to support higher-cost full-time undergraduate courses in medicine, dentistry and performing arts. The premium has been held at the same level as last year. The remainder of the provision comprises per capita funding relating to full-time undergraduate/PGCE and postgraduate taught students.

Part-time teaching

The majority of this funding is intended to provide a subsidy to help stabilise the cost to students of part-time courses. It includes premium (supplementary) funding to recognise providers' successes in recruiting and retaining students from disadvantaged areas, disabled students and those receiving their tuition in Welsh. It also includes some per capita funding in support of part-time postgraduate taught provision.

Strategic funding

These are various amounts of funding provided in support of a number of strategically important initiatives, including Reaching Wider, the Learning and Teaching Fund and GO Wales.

Funding adjustment to AY 2017/18

For AY 2017/18, a net funding reduction of £28.5m has had to be applied compared to the original baseline allocations in order to accommodate the reduced budget available for FY 2017-18.

The required funding adjustment for AY 2017/18 has been calculated for each institution by applying a pro-rata reduction across their total funding for QR, PGR, part-time credit-based teaching and the Expensive Subjects Premium. This approach reflects the view of the HEFCW Council, and of Welsh Government, that each of these areas is of equal strategic priority. However, it is a matter for each individual

higher education provider to determine how to apply the funding reductions in their own institutions.

The Welsh Government has confirmed that it intends to implement from AY 2018/19 the recommendations from the Diamond Review Report published in September 2016 (<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/161117-response-to-recommendations-en-v2.pdf>). It also confirmed in HEFCW's remit letter 2017-18 that future financial settlements for HEFCW can be expected to increase in each financial year for the lifetime of the current Assembly Government. Consequently, the need to make a funding adjustment to this year's allocations is expected to be a short-term measure.

Dr David Blaney, Chief Executive of HEFCW, said:

“Our funding allocations for AY 2017/18 reflect the fact that HEFCW has had to respond to significant reductions to the overall resources available to it for two successive academic years. However, these reductions need to be seen in the broader context of changes to the balance of income in Welsh higher education over the past few years, and also in terms of the transition to a new funding regime as announced this year by the Welsh Government in its response to the Diamond Review.

“Since the introduction of the revised fees and funding regime, HEFCW funding has represented a smaller proportion of the total income of higher education providers. HEFCW funding comprised just below 10% of the total income of Welsh higher education providers in AY 2015/16, and this proportion will continue to reduce by AY 2017/18 as a consequence of the reductions in HEFCW funding. In addition to

receiving tuition fees of up to £9,000 for each full-time undergraduate student recruited from Wales, the rest of the UK and the EU, higher education providers' income also reflects their successes in achieving additional earnings from competitive grant capture, a range of commercial activities and recruitment of international students.

“Earlier this year the Welsh Government confirmed its intention to implement from AY 2018/19, with only minor modification, the full set of proposals included in the Diamond Review Report published in September 2016. We look forward to working with Welsh Government as required to assist it in the implementation of these new reforms. We welcome in particular the confirmation received in our remit letter 2017-18 that early implementation of the Diamond proposals would be secured without negative effect on the higher education budget, and that HEFCW can expect its future financial settlements to increase in each financial year for the lifetime of the current Assembly Government.

“Government expenditure on higher education is a valuable investment in the future of Wales. Higher education providers are employers, educators, influencers and investors, and their success is an essential part of a strong and prosperous nation. In the spirit of this conviction, we are continuing to invest the resources available to us in priority areas that will hopefully support Welsh higher education to build on its excellent performance in research and innovation, and continue to provide a high quality student experience that is accessible to all and which produces highly skilled and employable graduates.”

Ends

Tables below (taken from circular W17/11HE)

Table 1 Overall funding allocations for 2017/18

The allocations presented in Table 1 have been structured to show:

- The baseline funding originally modelled for allocation to each strategic priority area, before the funding adjustment has been applied. The baseline allocation reflects the funding position to which the HEFCW Council expects to be able to return prior to the commencement of the Diamond proposals for additional investment.
- A single budget line adjustment of £28.5m, to balance back to the available £99.3 m budget for the year.

Table 6 Funding comparison AY 2016/17 and AY 2017/18

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| Overall Funding Allocations 2017/18 | | | | | Table 1 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | FY | AY | FY | AY | FY |
| | 2016-17 | 2016/17 | 2017-18 | 2017/18 | 2018-19 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Grant in Aid (GIA) FY allocation 1 | 355,318,000 | | 104,056,000 | | 115,000,000 |
| Less - Fee grant transfer | -257,800,000 | | | | |
| Budget Adjustments 2 | 24,178,335 | | -3,665,000 | | |
| Less - Depreciation | -82,000 | | -90,000 | | -90,000 |
| Less - Running Costs | -3,296,540 | | -3,407,432 | | -3,640,507 |
| Contribution from prior year reserves | 805,540 | | | | |
| | 119,123,335 | | 96,893,568 | | 111,269,493 |
| 50.7% of 2017-18 | | | | 49,135,407 | |
| 45% of 2018-19 | | | | 50,071,272 | |
| | | 124,785,836 | | 99,206,679 | |
| Cash Balance brought forward from previous year | | 3,851,573 | | 1,050,966 | |
| Available Resource for Allocation | | 128,637,409 | | 100,257,645 | |
| Research | | | | | |
| Quality Research (QR) | | 71,077,344 | | 71,077,344 | |
| Postgraduate Research (PGR) | | 5,170,336 | | 5,170,336 | |
| Sêr Cymru | | 2,961,253 | | 4,317,696 | |
| | | 79,208,933 | | 80,565,376 | |
| Part-time Undergraduate (PT UG) Funding | | | | | |
| <i>PT UG Teaching</i> | | 21,487,583 | | 20,244,374 | |
| <i>Per capita</i> | | 116,120 | | 107,080 | |
| <i>Welsh Medium premium</i> | | 130,562 | | 204,432 | |
| <i>Access and Retention premium</i> | | 5,311,812 | | 5,233,186 | |
| <i>Disability premium</i> | | 195,900 | | 156,900 | |
| Total | | 27,241,977 | | 25,945,972 | |
| OU Mitigation funding | | 1,655,490 | | 1,655,490 | |
| PT adjustment for under recruitment in 14/15 and 15/16 | | -2,620,062 | | -857,956 | |
| Part-time Fee Waiver | | 30,000 | | 150,000 | |
| Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Funding | | | | | |
| <i>Per capita PT</i> | | 40,025 | | 38,830 | |
| <i>Per capita FT</i> | | 17,200 | | 17,525 | |
| <i>Disability premium PGR</i> | | 27,000 | | 30,000 | |
| Total | | 84,225 | | 86,355 | |
| Full-time Undergraduate (FT UG) and Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) funding | | | | | |
| <i>Per capita</i> | | 327,815 | | 334,850 | |
| <i>Expensive subjects premium</i> | | 14,754,735 | | 14,637,880 | |
| Total | | 15,082,550 | | 14,972,730 | |
| Strategy and Initiative Allocations | | | | | |
| including: | | | | | |
| Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (CCC) | | 5,435,549 | | 0 | |
| Supplementary funding to support Expensive Subjects Premium (ESP) performance arts training | | 1,100,000 | | 0 | |
| Reaching Wider | | 1,731,920 | | 1,864,089 | |
| GO Wales | | 420,000 | | 900,000 | |
| Strategic Development Fund | | 21,349,649 | | 906,000 | |
| Learning and Teaching Fund | | 627,014 | | 780,879 | |
| Widening Access Fund | | 128,501 | | 0 | |
| Other Strategy and Initiatives | | 607,853 | | 838,043 | |
| Total | | 31,400,486 | | 5,289,011 | |
| Sector Agency Contribution | | | | | |
| Jisc | | 2,001,470 | | 2,001,470 | |
| L&T Fund Sector Agency Contribution - | | | | | |
| - NSS | | 155,000 | | 155,000 | |
| - Wise Wales | | 20,000 | | 20,000 | |
| Equality Challenge Unit | | 61,987 | | 61,987 | |
| International Initiatives | | 80,364 | | 80,364 | |
| Leadership Foundation | | 40,000 | | 40,000 | |
| National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) | | 6,201 | | 5,893 | |
| RCUK Vitae | | 1,235 | | 2,437 | |
| The Conversation | | 30,000 | | 15,000 | |
| National Council for Universities and Business (NCUB) | | 30,000 | | 30,000 | |
| HEI contribution to sector agency costs | | -2,423,413 | | -2,412,151 | |
| Total | | 2,844 | | 0 | |
| Adjustment as a result of changes to HEFCW budget | | -24,500,000 | | -28,500,000 | |
| Total Allocations | | 127,586,443 | | 99,306,978 | |
| Balance | | 1,050,966 | | 950,667 | |
| NOTES | | | | | |
| 1 - GIA details taken from remit letters (all non-GIA items, including CCC Scholarships are now in separate non-GIA budget) | | | | | |
| 2 - Budget Adjustments are: 2016-17, £20m Strategic change fund and £4.178m in additional resources in revised remit letter; in 2017-18, £3.665m SLC contribution expectation | | | | | |

Table 6: Funding comparison AY 2016/17 and AY 2017/18

| HE institutions | Allocations 2016/17 ⁽¹⁾ (£) | | | | | | | | | | Allocations 2017/18 ⁽¹⁾ (£) | | | | | | | | | Change 2016/17 to 2017/18 | Percentage change 2016/17 to 2017/18 |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | PT UG credit based funding (£) | PT and PGT per capita and premium funding ⁽²⁾ (£) | FT UG/PGCE per capita and premium funding ⁽³⁾ (£) | QR (£) | PGR (£) | Mitigation funding ⁽⁵⁾ (£) | Strategic Change fund (£) | Total 2016/17 (£) | Funding adjustment (£) | Total 2016/17 with funding adjustment ⁽⁴⁾ (£) | PT UG credit based funding (£) | PT and PGT per capita and premium funding ⁽²⁾ (£) | FT UG/PGCE per capita and premium funding ⁽³⁾ (£) | QR (£) | PGR (£) | Mitigation funding ⁽⁵⁾ (£) | Total 2017/18 (£) | Funding adjustment (£) | Total 2017/18 with funding adjustment ⁽⁴⁾ (£) | | |
| University of South Wales | 6,514,654 | 1,856,848 | 1,785,180 | 1,530,192 | 134,671 | | 1,760,000 | 13,581,545 | -2,155,867 | 11,425,678 | 5,927,310 | 1,730,735 | 1,846,560 | 1,530,192 | 140,130 | | 11,174,927 | -2,405,468 | 8,769,459 | -2,656,219 | -23% |
| Aberystwyth University | 525,507 | 72,745 | 33,835 | 7,010,422 | 389,820 | | 1,409,000 | 9,441,329 | -1,726,204 | 7,715,125 | 469,871 | 62,518 | 31,065 | 7,010,422 | 372,155 | | 7,946,032 | -2,013,812 | 5,932,220 | -1,782,905 | -23% |
| Bangor University | 292,262 | 69,285 | 30,070 | 7,218,736 | 578,720 | | 1,440,000 | 9,629,073 | -1,761,916 | 7,867,157 | 292,275 | 52,799 | 31,375 | 7,218,736 | 536,966 | | 8,132,151 | -2,063,956 | 6,068,195 | -1,798,962 | -23% |
| Cardiff University | 1,214,158 | 479,876 | 10,587,350 | 39,796,996 | 2,946,699 | | 9,685,000 | 64,710,079 | -11,864,204 | 52,845,875 | 1,095,874 | 391,966 | 10,595,560 | 39,796,996 | 2,995,943 | | 54,876,340 | -13,953,907 | 40,922,433 | -11,923,442 | -23% |
| University of Wales Trinity Saint David | 2,653,859 | 477,646 | 30,785 | 298,936 | 8,028 | | 523,500 | 3,992,754 | -644,858 | 3,347,896 | 2,634,856 | 508,043 | 30,585 | 298,936 | 7,297 | | 3,479,717 | -754,262 | 2,725,455 | -622,441 | -19% |
| Swansea University | 699,523 | 432,596 | 2,563,900 | 13,749,083 | 1,008,299 | | 3,200,000 | 21,653,401 | -3,915,315 | 17,738,086 | 699,532 | 397,376 | 2,384,575 | 13,749,083 | 1,044,951 | | 18,275,517 | -4,572,068 | 13,703,449 | -4,034,637 | -23% |
| Cardiff Metropolitan University | 458,723 | 135,657 | 35,530 | 1,065,119 | 104,099 | | 289,000 | 2,088,128 | -354,561 | 1,733,567 | 414,827 | 140,315 | 36,990 | 1,065,119 | 72,893 | | 1,730,144 | -398,236 | 1,331,908 | -401,660 | -23% |
| Wrexham Glyndŵr University | 2,632,935 | 280,366 | 13,415 | 214,955 | | | 509,000 | 3,650,672 | -620,262 | 3,030,410 | 2,264,986 | 541,603 | 13,320 | 214,955 | | | 3,034,865 | -635,997 | 2,398,868 | -631,542 | -21% |
| Open University in Wales | 6,001,447 | 1,878,630 | | | | 1,655,490 | 1,067,000 | 10,602,567 | -1,307,097 | 9,295,470 | 6,001,602 | 1,799,374 | | | | 1,655,490 | 9,456,466 | -1,539,150 | 7,917,316 | -1,378,154 | -15% |
| Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies | | | | 192,904 | | | 34,000 | 226,904 | -42,014 | 184,890 | | | | 192,904 | | | 192,904 | -49,471 | 143,433 | -41,457 | -22% |
| Total ⁽⁴⁾ | 20,993,068 | 5,683,648 | 15,080,065 | 71,077,344 | 5,170,336 | 1,655,490 | 19,916,500 | 139,576,451 | -24,392,298 | 115,184,153 | 19,801,134 | 5,624,728 | 14,970,030 | 71,077,344 | 5,170,336 | 1,655,490 | 118,299,061 | -26,386,327 | 89,912,734 | -25,271,419 | -22% |
| FE Institutions | Allocations 2016/17 ⁽¹⁾ (£) | | | | | | | | | | Allocations 2017/18 ⁽¹⁾ (£) | | | | | | | | | Change 2016/17 to 2017/18 | Percentage change 2016/17 to 2017/18 |
| | PT UG credit based funding (£) | PT and PGT per capita and premium funding ⁽²⁾ (£) | FT UG/PGCE per capita and premium funding ⁽³⁾ (£) | QR (£) | PGR (£) | Mitigation funding ⁽⁵⁾ (£) | Strategic Change fund (£) | Total 2016/17 (£) | Funding adjustment (£) | Total 2016/17 with funding adjustment ⁽⁴⁾ (£) | PT UG credit based funding (£) | PT and PGT per capita and premium funding ⁽²⁾ (£) | FT UG/PGCE per capita and premium funding ⁽³⁾ (£) | QR (£) | PGR (£) | Mitigation funding ⁽⁵⁾ (£) | Total 2017/18 (£) | Funding adjustment (£) | Total 2017/18 with funding adjustment ⁽⁴⁾ (£) | | |
| Grŵp Llandrillo Menai | 436,979 | 119,848 | 2,345 | | | | 77,000 | 636,172 | -95,173 | 540,999 | 385,704 | 137,517 | 2,460 | | | | 525,682 | -98,916 | 426,766 | -114,233 | -21% |
| Grŵp NPTC Group | 44,189 | 12,024 | 140 | | | | 8,000 | 64,353 | -9,624 | 54,729 | 44,189 | 10,426 | 240 | | | | 54,855 | -11,333 | 43,522 | -11,207 | -20% |
| Gower College Swansea | 13,347 | 23,099 | | | | | 2,300 | 38,746 | -2,907 | 35,839 | 13,347 | 15,282 | | | | | 28,629 | -3,423 | 25,206 | -10,633 | -30% |
| Total ⁽⁴⁾ | 494,515 | 154,971 | 2,485 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 87,300 | 739,271 | -107,704 | 631,567 | 443,240 | 163,225 | 2,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 609,166 | -113,672 | 495,494 | -136,073 | -22% |
| Total HEIs and FEIs ⁽⁴⁾ | 21,487,583 | 5,838,619 | 15,082,550 | 71,077,344 | 5,170,336 | 1,655,490 | 20,003,800 | 140,315,722 | -24,500,002 | 115,815,720 | 20,244,374 | 5,787,953 | 14,972,730 | 71,077,344 | 5,170,336 | 1,655,490 | 118,908,227 | -26,499,999 | 90,408,228 | -25,407,492 | -22% |

⁽¹⁾ Allocations shown here place ITT (QTS) provision at the delivering institution.

⁽²⁾ Premiums consist of the access and retention premium (PT UG), the Welsh medium premium (PT UG) and the disability premium (PT UG and PGR).

⁽³⁾ FT UG/PGCE premium allocation is the expensive subjects premium.

⁽⁴⁾ Totals may not sum exactly due to rounding.

⁽⁵⁾ Mitigation funding is allocated to the Open University in Wales because of their unique position in receiving part-time funding only and no income from increased full-time fees under the new regime. See paragraphs 54 to 57 of the circular text.

Technical notes

1. Full allocations are on the HEFCW website under [Publications – Circulars – HEFCW’s Funding Allocations 2017/18 \(Circular W17/11HE\)](#).

Welsh Government budget and funding adjustments

2. The Welsh Government allocates its budget to us on a financial year (FY) basis. We distribute funding, however, by academic year (AY). Allocations to higher education institutions and further education colleges can be subject to in-year adjustments if our own budget from the Welsh Government changes.

3. Last year’s circular announcing funding allocations for AY 2016/17 (W16/16HE) indicated that the allocations were provisional due to the possibility of in-year adjustments. HEFCW received from the Welsh Government a revised remit letter for 2016-17 in October 2016, and a further revised remit letter in March 2017, each of which included a number of funding adjustments to the FY 2016-17 budget. Some of these adjustments resulted in a transfer of funding from HEFCW to Welsh Government to cover additional required expenditure on the Tuition Fee Grant, while other adjustments provided additional funding to HEFCW to address specific Welsh Government priorities (*further details are set out in paragraphs 8 -12 of the Funding Allocations 2017/18 circular, W17/11HE*). The net effect of these in-year changes was an overall funding reduction of £24.5m against the original AY 2016/17 allocations.

4. The budget for AY 2017/18 is based on a proportion of the confirmed budget for FY 2017-18, and a proportion of the indicative budget for FY 2017-18. The total funding allocation for AY 2017/18 is £99.3 million. This represents a net funding reduction of £28.5m compared to the adjusted allocations for AY 2016/17.

5. The funding adjustment has been made by applying a pro-rata reduction across QR, PGR, part-time credit-based teaching and the Expensive Subjects Premium. This approach reflects the view of the HEFCW Council, and of Welsh Government, that each of these areas is of equal strategic priority.

6. The funding allocations in this press release and [associated circular](#) do not reflect any potential in-year funding adjustments that might be made by the Welsh Government to HEFCW’s budget for FY 2017-18. Should any such in-year funding adjustments be

made they will result in a revision to the individual allocations for AY 2017/18. Also, if the FY 2018-19 budget is different to the amount assumed for this allocation, there will be an impact on the resource available in AY 2017/18 and the associated allocations.

7. HEFCW's remit letter for 2017-18 states that future financial settlements for HEFCW can be expected to increase in each financial year for the lifetime of the current Assembly Government.

Funding allocations and priorities

8. HEFCW's funding of £99.3 million to higher education providers for research and teaching continues to be allocated according to Welsh Government priorities. HEFCW targets activities (such as protecting part-time provision, rewarding excellence in research and recruiting and retaining students from low-participation backgrounds) that a funding system which relies on full-time undergraduate tuition fees alone would not deliver.

9. HEFCW is particularly targeting funding in the following areas:

- Quality research (QR) funding, which focuses on supporting research at the highest levels of performance, in order to maintain Wales's competitiveness at the leading edge.
- The protection, as far as possible, of part-time undergraduate teaching funding at a sector level. HEFCW continues to fund through the credit-based funding method for part-time courses for the 2017/18 academic year.
- HEFCW continues to pay a higher rate expensive subject premium at 2016/17 levels for full-time undergraduate clinical medicine/dentistry and conservatoire performing arts courses. This is in addition to the fees of £9,000 per student that institutions receive for these courses. Institutional allocations for expensive subjects are subject to a maximum payment which is based on quotas or previously agreed funding arrangements. The combination of £9,000 fees plus our expensive subject premium provides resources per student comparable to the amounts provided in 2011/12 (after taking account of efficiency gain adjustments).

This premium is the only remaining funding available for full-time undergraduate and PGCE students through HEFCW's funding allocations apart from "per capita" funding of £5 for every enrolled student.

Funding Quality Research

10. The funding for quality research (QR) takes account of the quality and volume of research in Wales, as reported in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF).

There is more about research funding on our website:

www.hefcw.ac.uk/policy_areas/research/funding_research.aspx

11. The AY 2017/18 QR allocations by university are in Table 2 of the [circular](#) and are based on the same formula as AY 2016/17.

12. The Research Excellence Framework (REF2014) is the UK-wide system for assessing research in UK higher education institutions using panels of experts in individual academic subject areas which assess the quality, impact and environment of institutions' research submissions. It is carried out jointly by all four UK higher education funding bodies. The first REF was completed in 2014 (replacing the former Research Assessment Exercise (RAE)). www.ref.ac.uk/

13. Table 6 provides a comparison with AY 2016/17 recurrent funding allocations by institution.

Strategic funding

14. HEFCW has monitored the overall impact of our funding reductions on the Open University (OU) in Wales, given that the OU has no full-time undergraduate fee income (or full-time postgraduate courses) to offset any reductions in other budget lines. This year HEFCW will provide funding of £1.655 million to the OU, the same amount as provided last year, in recognition of lost strategy funding, lost premium funding and lost part-time postgraduate funding.

15. The list of strategic funding investments included in Table 1 reflects that from FY 2017-18 the Welsh Government will be responsible for administering the funding for the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

About HEFCW

16. The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales – HEFCW – is the public body that sits between universities and the Welsh Government. We regulate fee levels at higher education providers, ensure a framework is in place for assessing the quality of higher education and scrutinise the performance of universities. We distribute resources for higher education teaching and research, and help to deliver Welsh Government priorities for higher education for the wider benefit of society and the economy.