

Summary of Collaborative Projects

Home and Hinterland: An Aberystwyth-led Arts Project (Aber Arts Centre working with Pontio Centre, Bangor, and Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea)

A multilingual, multigenerational arts-based project involving Aberystwyth, Bangor and Swansea universities concentrated on the themes of home and hinterland. The focus of the project will be on building new narratives in a post-Brexit, post-pandemic world, working in particular with students and communities from under-represented groups that do not have regular or sustained access to the arts. The project will engage with students unions and community organizations to encourage student and community working, and develop the civic mission of the three institutions. Key outcomes of this project will be support for freelance artists, improved student retention, and increased partnership working between the institutions and arts communities in the future.

Funding awarded: £175,000

Universities Wales Learning and Teaching Network

A pan-Wales collective project involving all HEIs in Wales, along with the Students' Unions, NUS Wales, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and QAA, focusing on digital learning. The project will support English and Welsh medium digital education to ensure a positive student experience of digital learning during and beyond the current Covid context, with a view to safeguard the sustainability of the digital curriculum and establish Wales as a leading provider of digital education.

Funding awarded: £2,730,000

Supporting the Welsh research base during COVID

An Aberystwyth-led, pan-Wales project to support research students, early career researchers (ECRs) and research activities that have been affected by the pandemic. The main emphasis of the project is to offer funded extensions. The project aims provide stability to the Welsh research base, boost retention of researchers based in Wales and encourage them to stay in Wales in the longer term, boost the competitiveness of the Welsh HE and R&D ecosystem, and to ensure that PhD students and ECRs in Wales will be able to succeed in a competitive UK research landscape.

Funding awarded: £7,580,000

Scoping Joint Provision for Vulnerable Disciplines

A Universities Wales Learning and Teaching Network project, led by Swansea University, this pan-Wales project will identify and support vulnerable disciplines in HEIs in Wales that are struggling to be sustained in some institutions. A gap analysis

will identify areas that will benefit from collaborative teaching provision and other creative solutions to continue to deliver certain subjects to benefit students across Wales in the future and to ensure that subjects can be sustained in Wales. The project will also work with Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to ensure subjects delivered through the medium of Welsh are also safeguarded. The project will lay the foundation for a more collaborative approach to the delivery of subjects in a post-COVID world.

Funding awarded: £251,000

Skills Factory

A collaborative bid between Bangor University, Coleg Cambria and the OU in Wales to establish an academy focusing on employment in the STEM sector in North East Wales. The skills academy, a HE/FE partnership supporting the regional economy, will be inclusive and age-blind, for both traditional and non-traditional groups of learners (including adults interested in upskilling/reskilling). This project will increase skills capacity, and improve links with employers to ensure the skills needs for the region are met.

Funding awarded: £1,600,000

USW/UWTSD partnership: Wales Institute of Digital Information & Employer Engagement Taskforce, Civic Action, Community Upskilling & Entrepreneurship

University of South Wales and University of Wales, Trinity Saint David have created a strategic alliance, and will use their funding from the HEIR fund to support collaborative projects to retain skills in key sectors that are important to the regional economy, with a strong focus on civic engagement through the development of a strong workforce, improving student experience and graduate outcomes (such as through the development of student enterprise and start-ups), and driving economic recovery.

Funding awarded: £2,850,807