

Education and Students

Our Ambition:

We will build on current good practice to provide a positive and enriching student experience that will be supported through an effective and innovative Education and Student Strategy. We will ensure a strong emphasis on supporting students through the transition to independent learning and recruiting students from all strata of society, where at least a quarter of our students are post-graduate and 20% are international.



Students

We will:

- Recruit the best candidates from Wales, the UK, EU and across the World and provide opportunities for them to realise their potential
- Provide students with opportunities to learn from and engage with inspirational academic scholars and researchers and be part of an internationally inclusive and diverse student experience
- Work in partnership with our students and engage with the Student Voice at all levels
- Regularly update the Student Charter, in collaboration with representatives of all our students, to clarify expectations and responsibilities of both the University and students as part of a joint learning community in a thriving city
- Embed widening access and participation within admissions processes as well as enhance contextual admission procedures to support those from low HE participation backgrounds and provide appropriate support to enable successful progression
- Ensure learning and teaching is research-led and provides students with stimulating, flexible and intellectually challenging learning opportunities supported by a wide range of excellent library and IT facilities
- Ensure all Schools provide opportunities for work or placement based experience and embed skill development within and across the curriculum so that students at all levels appreciate the skills needed for employability
- Provide high level training and skills development for our post-graduate students, ensuring they contribute to the growth of the knowledge economy, as a driver for productivity and economic growth
- Grow our active alumni activity to increase the benefit of their experience for our existing students
- Actively encourage students to undertake at least 4 weeks study/work/ volunteering overseas (17% of undergraduates by 2017) and provide the appropriate support to enable such experiences to be enhancing
- Increase and enhance Welsh medium provision at all levels
- Support the Students' Union to provide a full programme of extra-curricular activities

Enhancement Activities

We will:

- Enhance the Personal Tutor scheme to ensure it provides a clear and consistent framework for academic support, preparation for employment and pastoral care
- Regularly review and enhance our academic and professional services supporting students, always aiming to provide an excellent service, to ensure they meet the needs of our increasingly diverse and international student body
- Complete the implementation of the Assessment Matters and Proving Excellence projects, and begin a new programme of education enhancement with a strong focus on partnership and the student experience
- Ensure Continual Professional and Personal Development (CPPD) provision is cost-effective with access to high quality research-led short courses, and provide credit bearing opportunities leading to flexible admissions and access to part-time post-graduate degree/professional programmes
- Enhance opportunities for language learning and intercultural awareness to facilitate outward mobility and enhance the employability of our undergraduate students, and develop the research skills and employability of our post-graduate students
- Ensure that curriculum design is developed and refined within the context of diversity and inclusion, international mobility and appropriate work experience



Assurance Activities.

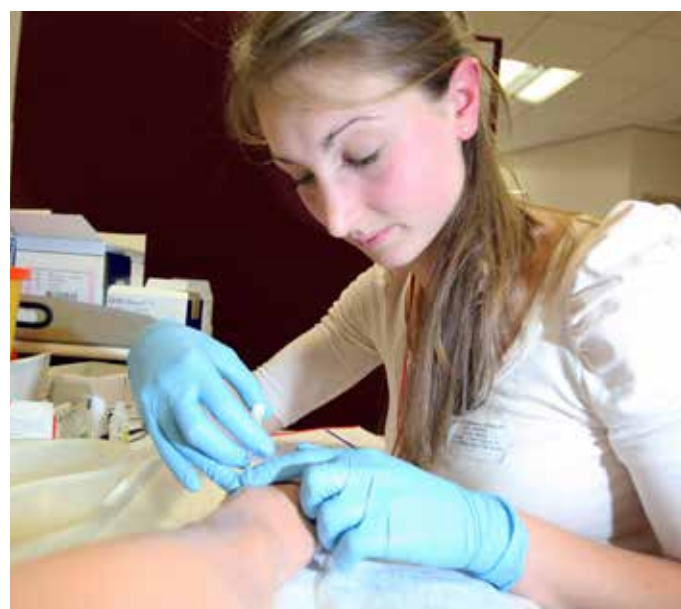
We will:

- Review the portfolio of provision at UG, PGT and PGR level annually and periodically to ensure courses and programmes are in line with educational and employment needs, based on a sound business case and developed through active partnerships with students and relevant stakeholders, e.g., employers, professional and statutory accreditation bodies
- Develop a coherent approach to managing collaborative provision as defined by the UK Quality Code: develop appropriate assurance and review mechanisms to ensure that the collaborations provide a high quality experience in line with that experienced at Cardiff University
- Continuously enhance our Quality Assurance and Enhancement processes to ensure they are in line with the UK Quality Code
- Build a culture of quality moving from a purely functionalist approach to one of continuous improvement and enhancement that provides a clear articulation of how these processes are managed centrally, at College and School level

Staff development

We will:

- Develop a new CPPD framework for enhancing opportunities to support staff development (including PGR) in the leadership, management and delivery of education through a dynamic, service orientated model through the establishment of a Learning Enhancement Unit
- Ensure excellence in learning and teaching is formally recognised and rewarded consistently through criteria for promotion
- Provide development opportunities to provide a consistent culture of 'meetings with purpose' and more efficient administrative systems to support learning and teaching



Facilities

We will:

- Enhance the quality and range of learning and social spaces to ensure they are continually fit for purpose
- provide learning spaces for all disciplines that allow for flexible use and learning experiences using blended methods of delivery
- ensure our Virtual Learning Environment provides an integrated, streamlined, dynamic technological learning experience, and develop an ambitious programme to realise the potential for an enhanced e-learning environment available to students anywhere in the world
- invest in data management systems to capture key data and reduce errors, enabling better use of data sets in the annual review of all provision
- provide high quality Student Accommodation that offers a sense of community for students,
- provide affordable, appropriately equipped and maintained housing for all first year undergraduate students and ensure international students are given appropriate support for their accommodation needs.

Performance

Progress in achieving the ambitions outlined above by 2017 will be measured by the following key performance indicators:

1. At least 90% overall satisfaction in NSS for every school
2. At least 80% satisfaction in NSS assessment and feedback category for every school
3. At least 90% of our postgraduates are satisfied with their experience as recorded in PTES and PRES
4. At least 25% of students (FTEs) to be post-graduate (PGT and PGR)
5. Increase Postgraduate Research student numbers by 30% in total, with 95% submission in four years in all schools for full time students
6. 50% of UG students to have employment related experience: consistently record 80+% in Graduate Track Employment
7. Annually benchmark our Learning and Teaching performance against the Russell Group, aiming to be in the top quartile on KPIs

In addition, we will ensure that we meet the targets set out in our Fee Plan each year, as further important markers of our success in delivering the overall ambition that drives this strategy.