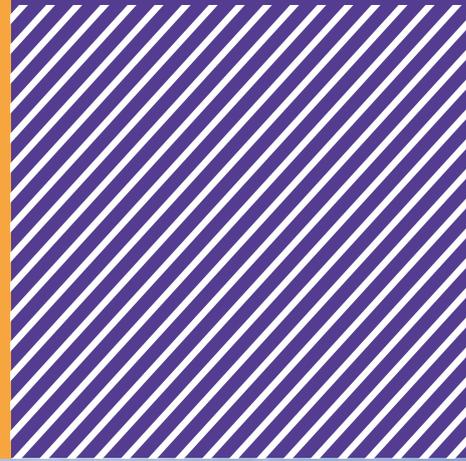




Prifysgolion
Cymru
Universities
Wales

A guide to higher
education in Wales

Powering the Welsh economy



Powering the Welsh economy



In 2019/20 Welsh universities generated over £5.3 billion of output

£661m



£661million of export earnings – equivalent to 11.8% of all Welsh service sector export earnings



£2.8bn



£1.6bn

of Welsh GVA through their expenditure and that of students and their visitors – equivalent to 4.2% of 2019 Welsh GVA.

of their own output, with their activities creating an additional £3.7bn of output for the Welsh economy.

Universities are an integral part of the Welsh economy, providing employment and generating other economic activity.

The teaching undertaken by universities is vital to enhancing the skills base of the nation, and their research and innovation activity supports and enhances business.

All universities in Wales are accredited Living Wage Employers – the only higher education sector in the UK nations to have achieved this status.

Wales also performs well on graduate start-ups. Universities offer support ranging from office space to bursaries to help with setup costs and mentoring from tutors and dedicated enterprise staff. The annual Higher Education Business and Community Interaction survey consistently finds that Wales outperforms the rest of the UK on the number of graduate start-ups we have per capita, and these start-ups are more likely to last three years or more than those elsewhere in the UK. Wales also has the highest rate of active graduate start-ups in the UK with Welsh graduate start-ups accounting for 13.25% of the UK total.

Output

A study undertaken in 2019/20 into the economic impact of universities in Wales found that Welsh universities generated over £5 billion of output - £1.64 billion through their direct activities, and generating a further £2.1 billion of knock-on output for the UK economy, with the majority (£1.57bn) accruing in Welsh industries.

In other words, every £1 million of Welsh University output in 2019/20 generated a further secondary output impact of £0.96 million in Wales plus a further £0.33 million outside Wales, in the rest of the UK.

Jobs

Universities in Wales provided 20,730 jobs, which in turn generated a knock-on 47,887 jobs outside of universities.

The total combined impact on Welsh employment of the universities and their students came to 61,722 jobs. This was equivalent to 4.8 % of all 2018 Welsh employee jobs

GVA

Welsh universities, together with their students and related international visitors, generated Welsh GVA of over £2.8 billion, equivalent to 4.2% of total 2019 Welsh GVA.

Export earnings

In 2019/20 Welsh universities attracted nearly 22,000 students from outside the UK. Tuition fees and off-campus expenditure of international students amounted to £661m, which is equivalent to around 11.8% of all Wales service sector export earnings.

