



Higher Education: Investing in Partnership

Case studies of Higher and Further Education partnership working across Wales

February 2008

Higher Education Wales (HEW)

Higher Education Wales represents the interests of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Wales and is a National Council of Universities UK.

HEW's Governing Council consists of the Vice-Chancellors and Principals of all the HEIs in Wales and is chaired by Professor Merfyn Jones, Vice-Chancellor of Bangor University. HEW provides an expert resource on all aspects of Welsh higher education.

Higher Education: Investing in Partnership

Higher Education is one of Wales' success stories. It provides our most highly skilled people. It generates the ideas on which our future prosperity will depend. It is fundamentally about providing opportunities to all, including those who are most disadvantaged for individual or societal reasons. It is an important part of the country's high international reputation. It has much to contribute to help Wales transform itself in the years ahead.

Opportunities for learners to gain experience of higher education are provided through a variety of flexible learning and teaching mechanisms across Wales, with partnerships between higher and further education institutions being a major source of provision. The importance and quality of HE/FE partnership working arrangements has been evidenced in two recently published independent reports – the HEFCW commissioned study of the role of Foundation Degrees in Wales, undertaken by SQW Ltd (published in March 2007), and the Assembly Commissioned Further Education Review, known as the “Webb Review”, led by Professor Sir Adrian Webb, published in December 2007. Both reports comment on the quality of relationships between HE and FE institutions across Wales in relation to Foundation Degrees (Fds).

The SQF report identified:

“Many current Foundation degree (Fd) programmes in Wales were being delivered through HE/FE partnerships. In general, HEIs valued the professional expertise of FE partners and FEIs valued the academic quality and standards brought to the Fd by the validating HEI.”

Furthermore, the Webb report stated:

“Evidence presented by providers suggested that good partnerships are exemplified by: a shared mission for the delivery of higher education in further education, progression routes for learners, provision carrying the HE brand and offering learners membership of the university's student population and, the management of quality by the HEI.

Recommendation 84: “The Department should, working with HEFCW, establish and fund a programme of new Foundation Degrees in key areas of the economy. These should be developed and delivered by consortia of employers, HEIs and FEIs, with an employer chair”.

This document has been published to provide a range of case studies on the ways HE and FE institutions work effectively, via partnership arrangements, to offer innovative opportunities to learners and employers across Wales.

HE/FE Partnerships contributing to Wales' future

Wales needs the best possible people

Productivity increases in Wales will be driven largely by higher levels of skills among the population. In advanced economies it is degree-level education and above which has the most significant effect on productivity.

This is particularly true of emerging industries, and as most net new jobs in the Welsh economy will be at degree level or above, we must make sure that we develop the labour force our economy will need. Whether it is for economic growth or the best public services, getting the people of Wales to maximise their intellectual potential is key.

Universities already work hard to generate high-quality learning and discovery for Wales and its people. But if Wales is to transform itself, we know that more is needed of us. We are ready to deliver.

We can help more people to be the best they can. The top-quality well motivated staff of universities nurture over 118,000 students. We are ready to deliver more graduates and postgraduates for Wales every year. We want to attract more talented people from around the world to study and work in Wales.

The contributions of HE/FE collaborations

If we are to meet the Leitch Review 40% target for higher level skills in the workforce, then improvements in basic and intermediate attainment levels will be needed to prime demand at the higher level.

Experience suggests that permissive and flexible approaches to HE/FE partnership models deliver the best results. The existing system of franchising between FECs and HEIs in Wales provides strong support for progression. **Table 1** outlines the range of HEFCW funded franchised HE/FE partnerships 2005/06, in addition to some examples of wider HE/FE partnership workings. **Table 2** outlines the enrolments of all franchised out higher education courses between 2001/02 and 2005/06. **Table 3** outlines a sample of the wide range of courses that are offered through HE/FE partnerships in Wales.

In forming partnerships, institutions and colleges remain cognisant of geography (spread of provision and spatial planning priorities), subject specialisms across FE and HE which will extend learning pathways, and needs arising from cross Wales sectoral clustering (in line with Welsh Assembly Government sector priorities).

A number of existing bodies provide catalysts for partnership development between HE and FE including 14-19 Learning Pathways, Reaching Wider Partnerships, and Spatial Plan Partnerships. The Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) also provides a structure for progression between FE and HE. The CQFW allows providers to respond more flexibly to employer requirements, by combining new and existing modules to create new courses and provides the opportunity for a common academic year to enable partnership working. It also facilitates accreditation of learning in the workplace.

Table 1: Examples of Partnership Workings between Further and Higher Education Institutions including those funded by HEFCW through Franchised Arrangements 2005/06

FEI	HEI	
Barry College	University of Glamorgan	University of Wales, Newport
Bridgend College	University of Glamorgan	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)
	University of Wales, Newport	
Coleg Ceredigion	University of Wales, Newport	
Coleg Glan Hafren	Cardiff University	University of Wales, Newport
Coleg Gwent	University of Glamorgan	University of Wales, Newport
Coleg Harlech	Bangor University	
Coleg Llandrillo	North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI)	University of Glamorgan
	Bangor University	University of Wales, Newport
Coleg Llysfasi	Bangor University	
Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor	Aberystwyth University	University of Wales, Newport
	Bangor University	
Coleg Menai	Bangor University	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)
	University of Glamorgan	North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI)
	University of Wales, Newport	
Coleg Morgannwg	University of Glamorgan	University of Wales, Lampeter
	University of Wales, Newport	
Coleg Powys	University of Glamorgan	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)
	University of Wales, Lampeter	University of Wales, Newport
Coleg Sir Gâr	University of Glamorgan	Aberystwyth University
	University of Wales, Newport	Swansea Metropolitan University
Deeside College	North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI)	
Gorseinon College	University of Wales, Newport	Trinity College, Carmarthen
	Swansea University	
Merthyr Tydfil College	University of Glamorgan	University of Wales, Newport
Neath Port Talbot College	University of Glamorgan	University of Wales, Newport
	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)	Trinity College, Carmarthen
	Swansea University	Swansea Metropolitan University
Pembrokeshire College	Cardiff University	University of Glamorgan
	University of Wales, Newport	North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI)
	Aberystwyth University	University of Wales, Lampeter
	The Open University in Wales	
Pen-Coed College	University of Glamorgan	
St David's Catholic College	The Open University in Wales	
Swansea College	University of Glamorgan	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)
	Swansea University	University of Wales, Newport

	Trinity College, Carmarthen	Swansea Metropolitan University
Welsh College of Horticulture	Cardiff University	University of Glamorgan
	North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI)	Swansea Metropolitan University
Yale College	North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI)	
Ystrad Mynach College	University of Glamorgan	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)
	University of Wales, Newport	

Table 2: All Franchised out Higher Education Courses 2001/02 to 2005/06

Academic Year	Enrolments		
	Part Time	Full Time	Total
2005/06	5,210	1,108	6,318
2004/05	5,238	1,289	6,617
2003/04	5,171	1,318	6,489
2002/03	5,194	1,074	6,268
2001/02	4,916	1,080	5,996

Table 3: HEFCW funded provision delivered through Franchised Arrangements between Further and Higher Education Institutions in 2005/06

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

<p>BSc SAIL AND POWERBOAT STUDIES BSc, HNC & HND COASTAL ZONE AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT STUDIES HNC & HND AGRICULTURE HNC & HND ANIMAL STUDIES HNC & HND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT HNC & HND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES HNC & HND EQUINE STUDIES HNC & HND FIRE ENGINEERING HNC & HND FLORISTRY HNC & HND LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN DESIGN HNC & HND LANDSCAPE TECHNOLOGY HNC & HND ORGANIC HORTICULTURE HNC & HND TURF MANAGEMENT HNC ENVIRONMENTAL AND APPLIED CHEM HNC NURSERY PRODUCTION HNC PLANT ENGINEERING HNC WOOD MANAGEMENT & ARB. HND MARINE STUDIES (PROFESSIONAL CREW/SKIPPER)</p>
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BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

<p>ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS (PARTS 2, 3 & 4) BA BUSINESS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT BA IT AND MANAGEMENT BA MANAGEMENT OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM BA, FDA MARKETING BA, HNC & HND BUSINESS STUDIES CIM CERTIFICATES & DIPLOMAS</p>

CIPD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME QUALIFICATIONS
FDA BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTING
FDA MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS
HNC & HND HOSPITALITY AND FOOD MANAGEMENT
HNC BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTING
HNC BUSINESS AND MARKETING
HNC, HND & PG DIP MANAGEMENT OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM
HND LEGAL STUDIES
HND PUBLIC AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
LEVEL 4 PROFESSIONAL HIGHER DIPLOMA IN LAW
LLB LAW
MASTERS OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
MSc MANAGEMENT

ENGINEERING, IT & CONSTRUCTION

BSc & HNC COMPUTER AIDED ENGINEERING
BSc & HNC ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING
BSc & HNC MECHANICAL AND MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING
BSc & HNC COMPUTER SCIENCE
BSc CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
BSc INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
FD & HNC COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN
FD INDUSTRIAL DESIGN
FD MULTIMEDIA
FOUNDATION DEGREE & HNC COMPUTER AIDED ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY
HNC APPLIED COMPUTER NETWORKING
HNC AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING
HNC BUILD TECH MGT
HNC BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING
HNC BUILDING STUDIES
HNC CIVIL AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING
HNC CIVIL ENGINEERING
HNC MEASUREMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS
HNC MECHANICAL AND MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS
HNC MECHATRONICS

EDUCATION, YOUTH & COMMUNITY WORK

BA COMMUNITY STUDIES - YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WORK
BA EARLY YEARS
BA EDUCATION AND TRAINING
BA SOCIAL STUDIES
BA SOCIAL WORK
BA SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS
BA, CERT & PG CERT POST COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING
BA, MA & MED EDUCATION
BSc CARE STUDIES
BSc & FD CHILDHOOD STUDIES
CERT & DIP HE YOUTH STUDIES
CERT HE (CHILD PROTECTION)
CERT HE WORKING WITH VULNERABLE ADULTS
CERT HE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY (MG TRAINING)
DIP HE PUBLIC AND SOCIAL POLICY
DIP HE SOCIAL WORK
DIP HE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WORK
FD & HNC EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES

FD & HNC CARE PRACTICE
FD EARLY YEARS CARE & EDUCATION
FD HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
HNC CARE MANAGEMENT

ART, DESIGN & HUMANITIES

BA ART & DESIGN
BA & HND DESIGN
BA ENGLISH AND HISTORY
BA FASHION
BA FINE ART
BA HISTORY
BA POPULAR MUSIC (PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION)
CERT HE VISUAL MEDIA MAKE-UP
HND ART AND DESIGN (ANIMATION)
HND ART AND DESIGN (COMPUTER ANIMATION)
HND ART AND DESIGN (DIGITAL VIDEO PRODUCTION)
HND ART AND DESIGN (PHOTOGRAPHY)
HND BROADCAST MEDIA
HND COMMUNITY THEATRE
HND CONTEMPORARY DESIGN CRAFT
HND GRAPHIC DESIGN

HEALTH, FITNESS & WELLBEING

BSC PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE FOR MIDWIVES
BSC PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE FOR NURSES
BSC SPORTS SCIENCE (ADVENTURE SPORTS)
FD HEALTH, FITNESS & HOLISTIC THERAPY MGT
HNC & HND COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES
HNC & HND HEALTH & SOC CARE
HNC & HND SPORTS SCIENCE (COACHING SCIENCE)
HNC EXERCISE SCIENCE WITH BUSINESS
HNC FOOD SCI & TECH
HNC SPORT DEV & COACH
HND BEAUTY THERAPY AND SPA MANAGEMENT
HND LEISURE & SPORT MGT
HND LEISURE AND TOURISM
HND LEISURE BOAT DESIGN
HND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
HND SPORTS COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT
HND SPORTS SCIENCE

HE/FE partnerships help Wales achieve social justice objectives.

The more people are introduced to learning, the more they become aware of how their behaviour affects their health, the environment and their community.

Effective HE/FE partnership working helps encourage a wide range of learners to be healthier, more engaged and informed. HE/FE partnerships provide opportunities to lifelong learners across the spectrum - primary/secondary school children through to adult learners - to have an experience of higher education. This engagement provides an opportunity for children to raise their career and life aspirations, and provides adult and continuing learners the means to improve their education, their employment prospects and their standing in the community, ensuring that young people and adults are provided with opportunities to increase their capacity to be informed citizens.

HE/FE partnerships also produce the people and the technologies which will improve our health service, help us to better look after the environment and develop better social policies and practices. HE/FE partnerships are one of the variety of methods used by HEIs in Wales to embed our widening access and outreach work.

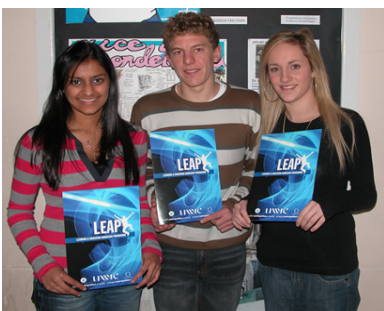
Case Studies:

Expanding Horizons - West and Mid Wales Widening Access Partnership



Expanding Horizons has been designed and developed as a partnership between Aberystwyth University, University of Wales, Lampeter, Coleg Ceredigion, Coleg Sir Gar, the Open University in Wales, Careers Wales and Pembrokeshire College and 33 schools and colleges within the West and Mid Wales region. It aims to raise the skills and confidence of young people in Year 11 by providing intensive GCSE revision support for those who are predicted not to achieve a C grade in their core subjects without additional support, in order to enable them to continue in education or training post 16. In 2007 about 300 pupils took part in the programme and the evaluation forms reveal that all the participants both enjoyed and benefited considerably from the provision. During the six years that the scheme has been operating several thousands of pupils have participated, and data collected from the partner schools and colleges reveal that over 70% achieve higher than predicted grades in the relevant subjects.

Cardiff Youth University, LEAP



A groundbreaking new scheme has been developed by the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC) to give Welsh sixth form students from economically deprived areas a greater opportunity to successfully attain a university qualification. Working in collaboration with over 30 secondary schools and colleges throughout South Wales as well as various local organisations such as the Cardiff Youth University, LEAP (Learning and Education Admission Programme) is part of the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)'s commitment to increasing accessibility in higher education and also caters to many students from Community First areas who traditionally would not have considered university as a viable career option.

Winter College - North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI)



For the third year running, in 2007, Reaching Higher Reaching Wider has helped to fund a project based within the Wrexham area which offers a week-long vocational taster course to groups of 48 young people identified as 'able but unfocused'. The 'Winter College' is aimed at reinforcing the idea that FE/HE is an achievable option for these students. On the final day of each week students learn about other opportunities post-GCSE from training providers, organisations such as the Prince's Trust, and also receive certificates to celebrate their achievements.

Following attendance on this course over 90% of the participating students have progressed into further education, employment or other training/employment opportunities.

Youth Volunteering Pilot Project



Tonypanydy students have been carrying out voluntary work in their community over 6 months. At the same time students attended workshops run by staff from the University of Wales, Lampeter Department of Voluntary Sector Studies, which aims to teach key skills and to build on and affirm students' experience of voluntary work. When the students attended the University to collect their certificates they also had the opportunity to participate in a "Taste of University Life" thanks to West and Mid Wales Widening Access Partnership. Various workshops were available including a trip to the local recycling plant with Environmental Management and the chance to handle mammoth teeth and ancient skulls in Archaeology.

Wales Summer University



The Wales Summer University has been designed and developed to benefit a cohort of about 100 Year 12 young people each year, drawn from the most disadvantaged areas of Wales. It provides participants with an intensive six-week experience of University at either the University of Wales, Lampeter or Aberystwyth University while also enabling them to gain the skills and confidence necessary to apply to, and achieve at, the Higher Education institution of their choice. The academic modules are provided by 21 separate departments of the University and the pastoral support is largely provided by trained university undergraduates, many of whom are themselves former Summer University participants. Modules are provided in both English and Welsh.

The programme is entirely free to participants and transport from all regions of Wales is organised at the beginning and end of the course and at each weekend. The scheme is very carefully targeted and closely monitored in order to ensure that it impacts directly on the social profile of those applying to HE.

The scheme has been developed and delivered by the West and Mid Wales Widening Access Partnership which consists of Aberystwyth University, the University of Wales, Lampeter, the Open University in Wales, Coleg Ceredigion, Coleg Powys, Careers Wales, Pembrokeshire College and Coleg Sir Gar and is supported by the Reaching Higher Reaching Wider initiative.

Young Applicants in Schools Scheme



Sixth formers at schools and colleges across Wales are studying University level courses through the Open University in Wales' innovative YASS initiative (Young Applicants in Schools Scheme).

Involvement in YASS offers a different way to stretch sixth formers, enabling academically gifted students in Years 12 and 13 to study a wide range of undergraduate modules at first-year level alongside their AS and A levels. Sixth form pupils can select courses from a variety of subjects offered by the Open University in Wales, ranging from creative writing to robotics and languages to genetics. On completion, students can gain up to 60 university credit points, along with impressive independent study skills that are valued by universities and employers alike. Last year's learners were involved in YASS from St David's Catholic College in Cardiff and from schools from Colwyn Bay to Abergavenny and Monmouth.

Reaching Wider - South West Wales Partnership



The Reaching Wider South West Wales Partnership includes Swansea University, Swansea Metropolitan University, Trinity College, Carmarthen, Gorseinon College, Neath Port Talbot College and Swansea College, Careers Wales West and schools in both unitary authorities. Led by Swansea University, the project aims to extend educational participation to previously excluded and under-represented groups. Activities offered include: a free intensive four week residential experience which includes an academic and social programme giving participants the skills and confidence necessary to apply to and achieve in Higher Education; a three-day winter school consisting of taster workshops in a variety of different subjects; undergraduate student mentors from Swansea Metropolitan University and Swansea University working with college students to help raise their attainment in their studies, aid retention and raise their aspirations; HE taster days; and student ambassador talks several times a year to give inspirational talks about their experiences of HE.

Additionally, FE/HE progression coordinators work closely with the Reaching Wider BME Development Worker for the all-Wales project 'Widening Access Wales' (WAW). Workshops and schemes to support and encourage students from BME backgrounds are arranged to engage in further and higher education.

HE/FE partnerships working together to foster creativity.

As well as giving people the opportunity to develop their own creativity and giving secure employment to many of Wales' most creative people, there are many other things HE can do. Through HE/FE Partnerships we give access to different types of physical and learning resources and can provide learning opportunities in more flexible and approachable ways. We are major contributors to the arts in Wales and want to do more.

Case Studies:

Wales e-Training Network



The Wales e-Training Network is a collaboration between HE and FE institutions across Wales developing e-Training solutions for SMEs. Seven HEIs and six FECs are involved in the project which has identified, in consultation with the Sector Skills Council e-Skills Wales, the development of ICT skills as a key priority to improve business performance. A range of on-line modules at NVQ level 3 were developed in the first phase of the project and are now being successfully delivered as a nationally recognised qualification, validated by EDEXCEL.

In 2006 a range of on-line modules at NVQ level 4 were validated by the University of Glamorgan as a Foundation Degree in e-Commerce. The Foundation Degree was piloted with a range of SMEs across Wales during 2007.

T4CT – Training for Clever Textiles



The T4CT (Training for Clever Textiles) project has resulted in the development of six NVQ4 training modules in technical textiles. The method of delivery is currently via a CD ROM which provides modules covering: Demands of the Activity, Commercial Realities, Needs of the Body, Smart Textiles, Wearable Technologies, and Smart Clothes. All modules have been pilot tested and the feedback documented in preparation for updating. Once this has been accomplished the modules will be validated and made available to interested businesses in the textile, apparel and related industries, as well as, to individuals.

The project comprises a consortium from the University of Wales, Newport, the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC), Coleg Sir Gar, Skillfast-UK and SEMTA. The Smart Clothes & Wearable Technologies (SCWT) Research Group (a collaborative project between the University of Wales, Newport and the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)) provides an essential mix of knowledge regarding new product design and development methods, rapid prototyping, SCWT methodologies, user centred design, design interfaces, cost evaluation methods. Coleg Sir Gar provides valuable input through its Shared Technology Resource Centre (STRC) which has access to state of the art CAD/CAM, body scanning and fabric laser technology.

Foundation Degree in Tourist Guiding



Coleg Llandrillo and the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC), were approached by the Wales Tourist Board, the Tourism Training Forum for Wales, and the Wales Official Tourist Guide Association to develop a Foundation Degree which incorporated the Blue Badge Guide qualification to minimise the impact of the shortfall in qualified guides to the economy and tourism in Wales. The FdA in Tourism Guiding is delivered through 12 residential student weekends and at different geographical locations across Wales to cover the extensive product knowledge requirements.

Swansea Learning Partnership



The project – organised by Swansea University, Swansea College and Gorseinon College, works with a group of English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) students in Swansea to develop additional language-learning resources for other ESOL students. Using the internet and inexpensive MP3 players, ESOL students working with IT tutors and a web & graphics team, will create web-based resources, including sound files to give them practice in language use, to supplement their time in an ESOL class. By using inexpensive MP3 players to supplement language learning, students also get an opportunity to improve their IT skills.

HE/FE partnerships help enrich the Welsh language and culture.

Through HE/FE partnerships a wide range of courses are made available, particularly through the Welsh Assembly Government funded Welsh for Adults Initiative. We promote the Welsh language and culture through language courses, publications in Welsh, translation services, and services to business offered through the medium of Welsh. We train the Welsh medium teachers upon which our schools depend and produce professionals, such as health professionals, who are able to operate bilingually. We offer opportunities to study through the medium of Welsh and host cultural events promoting Welsh language and culture.

Case Studies:

South-West Wales Welsh for Adults Centre



The South-West Wales Welsh for Adults Centre (based at Swansea University) works in partnership with a number of HE and FE providers, namely: Trinity College, Carmarthen, Carmarthen County Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, Gorseinon College, Neath Port Talbot College, and Swansea College. The Centre offers a comprehensive programme of courses across the region. There are courses at all levels catering for people who want to start learning Welsh as well as those who wish to improve their Welsh or make further progress in their learning. For 2007/08, details of all these courses are available in a single brochure and there is a one-stop-shop for learners to gain information, advice and guidance on all the opportunities to learn Welsh in South-West Wales.

Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre



The Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre at the School of Welsh held its official launch at Cardiff University in September 2007. The Centre will welcome hundreds of students who have already registered on 2007/08 courses at Cardiff University and many other locations throughout the region, including St. Michael's College and Coleg Glan Hafren.

Some 2,000 students came through the Centre in 2006/07, contributing substantially to the 20,000 people who learn Welsh each year. 2007/08 will be an even more ambitious year for the Centre, as the current national campaign suggests, aiming to increase the number of individuals learning the Welsh language in accordance with the commitment made in Iaith Pawb (2003) the Welsh Assembly Government's bilingual Strategy for Wales.

Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre



July 2007 saw the official launch of the University of Glamorgan's Welsh for Adults Centre. During the launch day members of the public attended free Welsh taster sessions while children took part in storytelling activities. The Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre is responsible for the running of community Welsh courses in Bridgend College, Coleg Morgannwg, Merthyr College, Pen-Coed College, and Porthcawl College. Courses are available for those at all levels of learning the language from beginners to Welsh speakers who want to polish up their skills. Welsh rugby star Michael Owen is currently learning Welsh with the Centre.

Mid Wales Welsh for Adults Centre



The Mid Wales Welsh for Adults Centre was formally launched by the Welsh Learner of the Year, at the 2007 Eisteddfod. The Centre coordinates the provision for learners across Ceredigion, Powys and Meirionnydd, and in order to achieve this it will work in partnership with Ceredigion County Council, the Workers Educational Association Coleg Harlech, and Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, as well as various national and local associations. Welsh for Adults lessons are held in almost 60 towns and villages across the region, with almost 70 tutors teaching 3,000 students. All levels are taught, from beginners to fluent speakers, and there are also various teaching methods, from intensive to more relaxed courses, from Sadyrnau Siarad (Saturday conversation sessions) to residential courses.

The North Wales Welsh for Adults Centre



Three Welsh for Adults students at the School of Lifelong Learning, Bangor University, have been celebrating a double set of A grades. The super-intensive conversational Welsh course – SUPERWLPAN – meets five full days a week for 10 weeks October-December and then three days a week from January to June. The course can take complete beginners to conversational fluency in a year. All three chose to do the optional examinations during the course, achieving A grades in both the Foundation and Intermediate (GCSE equivalent) examinations.

Bilingual Drama First for Glamorgan



In October 2006 the University of Glamorgan launched the BA Drama for Theatre and Media honours programme, which will be available as a fully bilingual course from September 2007, a first for a university in South Wales. The course, which has its own distinct UCAS code, will give students the opportunity to study all aspects of theatre and film production including script writing, acting and directing.

During the three year programme, students will undertake modules, including some through the medium of English, to ensure that they are prepared to begin work in a bilingual environment.

HE/FE partnerships enhancing innovation.

Through HE/FE partnerships, we contribute to increases in research breakthroughs in science and technology, social policy and the creative arts. Diverse programmes are also offered across Wales to meet business needs and challenges. HEIs are ready to make a step-change in the ways and the speed with which we transfer ideas from universities to the places they can make a difference – such as business, government and communities.

Case Studies:

MNT (MicroNanoTechnology) Academy 2



A major industry focused training initiative, funded through The Welsh Assembly Government's Knowledge Exploitation Fund, has been launched in Wales following a detailed survey of the needs of Welsh Industry. Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea Universities are working alongside various FE colleges including Bridgend, Carmarthenshire, Yale and Coleg Sir Gar on the MNT Academy.

The MNT Academy aims to accelerate the take-up of MNT by building the skills and knowledge base of both existing employees and apprentices. MNT awareness modules in brief pick & mix packs available through the website show the potential impact that these technologies will have on the products and services that industry offers and consumes. Key sectors for Wales will be covered, such as: Aerospace, Agri-food, Automotive, Construction, Creative Industries, Energy, High Technology, Materials and Photonics.

Composites



Swansea Metropolitan University, Swansea University and Bangor University are working with Pembrokeshire College to support local industry. This is undertaken by developing training material for composite materials for Levels 4 and 5 at a university undergraduate and postgraduate level and by providing training in this area so that industry has a highly trained workforce allowing it to keep ahead of its competition. The training consortium will target in the first instance high-value, high-performance industries: the aerospace and the automotive industry.

Heads of the Valleys Innovation Programme (HOVIP)



The University of Glamorgan and Merthyr College have developed the HOVIP to increase the capacity for innovation of SMEs in the Heads of the Valleys. SMEs in the region benefit from four opportunities (i) Innovation Training, (ii) Innovation Strategy and Action Plan, (iii) Innovation Market Place and (iv) Preferential Services. The programme also includes the Heads of the Valleys Innovation Awards. The winners of the inaugural Heads of the Valleys Innovation Awards for businesses, pictured at the Big Pit, were from Penn Pharmaceutical Services Ltd; Garnsychan Partnership; ITDA (UK) Ltd; Royvon Dog Training Schools and Purple Prose.

FE2HE Consortium



The FE2HE Consortium of local Further Education Colleges was launched at the Senedd in early March 2007. The Consortium has brought a marked enhancement in the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)'s relationships with the Further Education Consortium's four colleges, in Barry, Bridgend, Coleg Glan Hafren and Ystrad Mynach. This partnership approach has resulted in new foundation degree programmes planned in areas of illustration, contemporary furniture design and construction/the built environment. These programmes are 'new to Wales' and see the Consortium responding vigorously to identified skills shortages. The Consortium provides students with accessible, flexible learning opportunities which facilitate progression from sub-degree programmes to undergraduate study and beyond.

The FE2HE Consortium will develop HE provision that is accessible and socially inclusive based on student demand and skill shortages alongside establishing learning pathways between Further and Higher Education within the National Qualifications Framework.

Healthy Collaboration



Swansea Metropolitan University is currently working in partnership with Swansea College to develop a BSc (Hons) degree in Health and Social Care. The University's Head of Centre for Public Service Professions, Leigh Jenkins, has been collaborating with staff at the College to provide a dynamic new programme, which will provide suitable exit routes for further education students who wish to pursue further study in Health, Social Care or Welfare related subjects. The programme will include a "Continuing Development" module which allows the student to undertake work experience in a setting of their own choosing, helping them to focus on their preferred work or career path.

The two institutions first started collaborating on their health programmes in 2005 when staff at the College were invited to teach 50% of the HNC/D Health Studies programme at the University. This worked extremely well and has been commented upon favourably by the external moderator and both institutions alike.

HE/FE partnerships help strengthen Wales' world standing.

The more competitive our higher education sector is on the world stage, the more talented people and lucrative research contracts we can attract to Wales. The more research we do, the more international partnerships we develop. The stronger our financial base, the more international development work we can undertake. HE is one of the most outward-looking parts of Wales. Through HE/FE partnerships we expand our range of activities that empower people and businesses thus strengthening our international levels of engagement and in turn, our competitiveness.

Case Studies:

Swansea colleges link with Ireland and Czech Republic



Swansea Metropolitan University and Gorseinon College have signed an agreement with colleges in the Czech Republic and Ireland to share expertise and resources. Hotelova Skova, the leading hospitality college in the Czech Republic, and Bray College in Ireland have both signed compacts with the Centre of Leisure, Tourism and Sport at Swansea Metropolitan University. The agreement enables the colleges to access each other's resources through Swansea Metropolitan University and gives students from different parts of the world a chance to interact and take part in student exchange programmes. Students from Gorseinon and the two other colleges will also be guaranteed entry onto the Centre of Leisure, Tourism and Sport's courses, provided they meet the correct requirements.

HE working in Partnership with schools and colleges across Europe



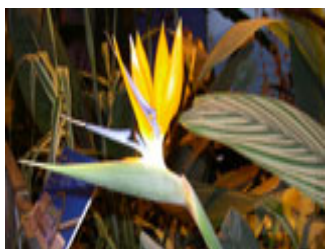
Trinity College, Carmarthen lecturers have been working with colleagues from France, Germany, Portugal, Greece and Romania on a project to develop partnerships between teacher training institutions and schools across Europe. The project is funded through the EU's Comenius education initiative. The project has involved creating multilingual software to enable participants to exchange information through educational games and a range of exercises and resources over the Internet. In the future it is hoped that Trinity staff will be developing the software to include Welsh and other European languages.

CIT in Sustainable Constructed Environments



The CIT project endeavours to research, train and promote the development and dissemination of sustainable construction processes and activities. Swansea Metropolitan University, North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI) and Cardiff University are involved in the initiative, alongside the Welsh College of Horticulture, Coleg Sir Gar, Llandrillo College and Pembrokeshire College. This project is working with Construction Skills, Lantra and Asset Skills for incorporation of sustainable construction into the strategies of the Sector Skills Agreements particularly through the use of Construction Skill's Sustainability Skills Matrix and the "Build to Last" strategy.

Professional Practice for Sustainable Development (PP4SD)



The PP4SD project aims to develop public-domain training materials and a one-day training course tailored respectively to the needs of professionals working in four significant land-based industries in Wales (aquaculture, conservation management, fisheries management and land-based engineering). PP4SD trainees will gain literacy, competence and confidence in key aspects of SD, thus helping them a) to formulate appropriate SD business-planning and -reporting approaches, and b) to train others in such concepts, knowledge and skills. The materials and training will be equally relevant to HEI and FEI trainers and to SME managers.

The project will research, design and publish the materials and run 24 pilot training events to benefit directly a minimum of 300 SMEs and future PP4SD trainers in HE, FE, SMEs and relevant professional bodies. The final training materials will be available in Welsh and in English, in printed and Web formats for public access. The project will utilise Welsh expertise within HE and FE, in environmental fields and in education for SD. The UN Decade for Education for SD began in 2005, and the project will therefore enable Wales to develop and showcase good practice in a field that is currently in the global spotlight.

Aeronautical Apprenticeships



The first cohort of apprentices began the FdEng in Aeronautical Engineering (Manufacture) in 2005. This new foundation degree has been launched as a result of a collaboration between North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI), Deeside College and AIRBUS UK to support Airbus' apprenticeship scheme. This is a bespoke programme to meet the company's needs for engineers with skills and knowledge over and above the outcomes of the standard national modern apprenticeship programme.

The highly structured learning, integrated with the periods of work experience apprentices spend in a range of departments, enables them to complete the programme in only 2 years. For those who progress to an honours degree on completion of the apprenticeship, the Foundation Degree route reduces by 50% the number of days required for study leave, compared to the previous HNC route.

The success of the Manufacturing programme has promoted further collaboration towards developing a Logistics foundation degree.