



Quality Enhancement Review of University of South Wales

Outcome Report

July 2022

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This report is published in both English *and Welsh*.

About University of South Wales

The University of South Wales was established following a merger of the University of Glamorgan and the University of Wales, Newport in 2013. The University has campuses in Pontypridd, Cardiff and Newport. In terms of student numbers, the University is the second largest university in Wales. The University is the head of a Group that includes the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) and The College Merthyr Tydfil. They are both wholly owned subsidiary companies of the University.

The vision of the University is 'Changing lives and our world for a better tomorrow: USW will be a leading UK university, maximising positive impact for our students, partners, and communities'. The University's strategy, USW 2030 Strategy, launched in early 2020, sets out the direction of the University for the next 10 years. There is an implementation plan and Strategy Implementation Group to guide the next phase of work which involves four key workstreams addressing themes from curriculum design principles, and research impact and reach, to enterprise skills development and stakeholder management.

The University's academic provision is organised into three faculties: Computing, Engineering and Science; Business and Creative Industries; and Life Sciences and Education. Faculties are structured into schools and subject areas.

For 2020-21, there were 31,440 students in total registered with the University, 8,290 of these are offshore. Home student numbers have remained relatively stable over the last five years. In terms of full-time equivalent or FTEs (all students) there are 17,830. The University has experienced a reduction in part

The review found weaknesses in the tracking and monitoring of timeliness and nature of assessment feedback at University-level. In response to this recommendation, the University has taken a number of steps to address assessment bunching, to simplify the approach to assessment and to evaluate the effectiveness of the process. The introduction of continuous monitoring in 2018-19 allows the University to monitor assessment on an ongoing basis.

Finally, the University has reviewed the partner process contained in the Quality Manual and created a separate Partnerships Manual to address the recommendation to review the University's due diligence policy and procedures for collaborative partners.

Judgements about University of South Wales

Based on the information presented, the review team judges that:

- University of South Wales meets the requirements of the ESG Part 1 for internal quality assurance.
- University of South Wales meets the relevant baseline regulatory requirements of the Quality Assessment Framework for Wales.

This is a positive judgement, which means the provider has robust arrangements for securing academic standards, managing academic quality and for enhancing the quality of the student experience.

Commendations

The QER has identified several commendations, which are summarised below.

- The clear focus on strategic aims across the University, developed and implemented in partnership with students, that creates a cohesive approach to the enhancement of learning, teaching, and assessment.
- The University's considered, well informed and effectively communicated response to the pandemic, which has enabled the
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Further information

A more detailed [Technical Report](#) is also available for this review. The Technical Report sets