

Aberystwyth University and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol



Introduction

The Coleg Cymraeg is a national institution that has a key role to play in the planning, maintenance and development of Welsh medium education and scholarship in our universities.

The Coleg has **branches** in each one of Wales's Universities where Welsh medium provision is offered. Here at Aberystwyth University, the branch is under the auspices of the **Centre for Welsh Language Services**, and the Branch Officer is Dr Tamsin Davies.

The Chair of the Aberystwyth University Branch is Dr Anwen Jones from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television

Studies and she represents the branch on the Coleg's **Academic Board**. Branch students are also represented on the Academic Board, and this year, Adam Jones, who is studying Welsh with German, is the student representative.

Dr Eleri Pryse, of the Institute of Mathematics and Physics, and Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, of the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies have been nominated by the Coleg as members of the Academic Board to represent their subject fields.

Professor Aled Jones is one of the Coleg's Directors. The Coleg's **Board of Directors** comprises thirteen members as well as the

*From left to right:
 Dr. Tamsin Davies,
 AU Branch Officer of
 CCC; Dr Anwen Jones,
 Chair of AU Branch;
 Adam Jones, Student
 representative.*

Chair. Six directors have been nominated by Welsh higher education institutions as a group, four independent directors, one director representing Welsh medium teaching staff and one student representative. Aberystwyth University has signed the Coleg's memorandum of association and is therefore a full member of the Coleg.

Further information about the Coleg's work is available on the website: www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en

Academic Staffing Scheme

The Academic Staffing Scheme is a new and important contribution to the development and maintenance of Welsh medium provision in the higher education sector. It provides substantial funding for Welsh higher education institutions to employ academic staff and to nurture first class lecturers recognised for their innovation and excellence in research and teaching.

To realise the plan's aim, £1m will be available annually for an initial period of five years to support Welsh medium academic posts. It is foreseen that over 100 Welsh medium academic posts will be created through the scheme by academic year 2015-16. Each institution had the opportunity to apply for up to nine lectureships for 2012/13.

The posts are located at the higher education institutions in a very broad range of academic disciplines across the sciences, humanities and the arts, and each award is funded for up to five years. The post holders will be responsible for teaching and developing Welsh medium provision in their respective subject fields, as well as contributing to the intellectual life of Welsh universities by researching, facilitating collaboration with other departments and institutions, and promoting the Welsh language in their subjects and institutions.

The 2013-14 staffing scheme circular is expected to be issued during the **2012 Autumn** term.

At Aberystwyth University, the following posts were awarded in 2011:



Hefin Williams,
 Institute of
 Biological,
 Environmental and
 Rural Sciences



Dr Rhys Dafydd Jones, Institute of
 Geography and Earth
 Sciences



Dr Huw Morgan,
 Institute of
 Mathematics and
 Physics



Dr Huw Williams,
 International Politics



Sara Penrhyn Jones,
 Theatre Film and
 Television Studies



Rhun Emlyn, History
 and Welsh History

Lectureships in the following fields at Aberystwyth University have been funded for 2012/13:

- Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences
- Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences
- Institute of Mathematics and Physics
- School of Education and Lifelong Learning
- Part time Welsh medium studies

Strategic Developments and Projects Fund

The aim of the Coleg's Strategic Developments and Projects Fund is to support and stimulate strategic developments that will have a substantial effect on Welsh medium provision and the numbers studying through the medium of Welsh in specific fields.

At least £100,000 a year will be available for up to two more years to fund new provision, in the form of full degree courses, study routes within degree schemes, individual modules, or elements of modules. These plans could be institutional, multidisciplinary or in collaboration with other higher education institutions.

The Fund has been established to provide financial assistance for universities to achieve the aims and strategic priorities outlined in the **Subject Development Plans**.

Several projects have been funded from this fund at Aberystwyth University, from the Geography 'Esboniadur' to the 'Yn y Ffrâm' film website, and from a theory translation workshop to a law moot project.

Each year, a proportion of the fund is allocated to national strategic projects. Currently, the projects in this category are:



- **Gwerddon**
The only Welsh multidisciplinary e-journal. The post of Editorial Assistant is located at Aberystwyth University.
g.lansdowndavies@colegcymraeg.ac.uk
www.gwerddon.org



- **Prosiect Edward Llwyd**
Prosiect Edward Llwyd collaborates with Universities across Wales to maintain and expand the range of Welsh medium provision available for students who are studying the sciences. The Project Officer post is located at Aberystwyth University
edwardllwyd@colegcymraeg.ac.uk
- **Higher Education Terminology Project**
The aim of the Project is to ensure that all work dealing with the development of Welsh medium terminology in higher education conforms with international standards.

A great many projects have been funded in a wide range of fields over recent years and more information about these is available on the Coleg website.

The next Circular from the Fund should be issued during **Spring 2012**.



Small Grants Scheme

A proportion of the Strategic Developments Fund is allocated for small grants, to fund or support small projects that do not continue for more than one year, and do not need a contribution of more than £2,500 from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. The aim of the Fund is to support innovative ventures, including individual projects, that will broaden and/or enrich Welsh medium Higher Education provision. Applications for projects leading to producing educational resources or publications are welcomed. Applications can also be submitted requesting funds to support an academic activity or associated event. Allocations from the fund are awarded three times a year. For the last awards in academic year 2011/12, applications should be submitted by 30 April 2012 (decision in June).

Scholarships

- **Undergraduate**
 - **Main Scholarships (£3000)**
For students intending to study degree courses where at least 80 credits a year are available through the medium of Welsh.
 - **Incentive Scholarships (£1500)**
For students intending to study degree courses where at least 40 credits a year are available through the medium of Welsh.

Full details can be seen on the Mantais website www.mantais.ac.uk/en/mantais

- **Masters**
Scholarships for students who intend to study specific M level courses, which include at least 60 credits of Welsh medium provision.

• Research

The scheme provides substantial financial support - equivalent to RCUK postgraduate scholarships - for prospective academics studying for a doctorate.

The Research Scholarships holders will receive funding for four or five years, depending on whether they have already completed a Masters Degree or not before starting their doctorate. In each case three years funding is provided for a doctorate course, and an additional year's funding when holders are employed as members of academic staff in their departments at the end of their doctorate. The holders' teaching duties will increase during that additional year, and they will be required to plan and develop new Welsh medium provision as part of their work. In the case of each award, the department or university where the holder is studying is expected to create a new lecturing post - for which the holder could apply - at the end of the funding period. Dr Hywel Griffiths from the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences at Aberystwyth University was the first holder to be appointed to such a post, in October 2009. The 2013-14 Research Scholarships circular is expected to be issued during the **2012 Autumn** term.



Y Porth

This is the collaborative e-learning platform that contains an extensive store of electronic materials of the highest standard (including a glossary and a number of full modules) to support students studying through the medium of Welsh.

Y Porth enables higher education institutions to collaborate and introduce collaborative models in an effective way. www.porth.ac.uk/en