

# **WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SUB-STRATEGY**

**2019-2023**

This sub-Strategy draws together the objectives of four strategic documents, the Welsh Language Standards, the Welsh Medium Academic Plan, Integrated Strategic Plan for the Welsh Language and the Bilingual Skills Strategy, in order to present a cohesive plan that can take the University forward in fulfilling its bilingual mission.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Aberystwyth University is committed to being a pioneering and leading institution in Welsh-medium Higher Education and in delivering the best Welsh-medium student experience. This is reinforced by the University's commitment to promoting the Welsh language among its students, staff and the wider community.

## **PURPOSE AND AIMS**

The purpose of this sub-strategy is to highlight the main activities that make Aberystwyth University an ambitious bilingual institution which facilitates and promotes the use of the Welsh language. The sub-strategy has the following aims:

- To fulfil our duty to provide a first rate bilingual service to our students, staff and community and to encourage the use of Welsh in the workplace as well as opportunities for all to learn and improve their Welsh.
- To promote the development of Welsh-medium academic provision, including the discipline of Welsh, and to provide an environment that enables students to choose to live and learn through the medium of Welsh.
- To re-open Neuadd Pantycelyn as first-class accommodation for Welsh-speaking students and learners.
- To act as a catalyst for increasing cultural awareness, understanding and integration in relation to Wales and the world.

Alongside this sub-strategy we have developed a measurable Plan which shows the demonstrable links between our Welsh medium activities and the University's strategic priorities.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

As a contributor to the strategic plan, this sub-strategy is based on the following key principles:

- That the University actively supports the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Policy and is committed to upholding the status of the Welsh language in accordance with the Welsh Language Measure Wales (2011) and the commitments set out in the Welsh Language Standards;
- That the University is committed to providing the best Welsh-medium student experience. To do this we will deliver first-class teaching through the medium of Welsh in a range of subjects, and attract a growing number of students to study through the medium of Welsh; provide comprehensive academic and support

services that promote the Welsh-medium student experience; maintain Aberystwyth's leading role in Welsh-medium research, scholarship and public engagement;

- That Welsh-speaking graduates value their bilingual skills as an advantage in terms of personal employability and in terms of contributing to the social, economic and cultural development of Wales;
- That the University supports a bilingual workplace by promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language and that Welsh language support and training are available to all staff and students to learn and improve Welsh language skills;
- The University promotes opportunities for the whole University community to engage with the Welsh language and its culture within the University and beyond.

## **MEASURES OF SUCCESS**

- The availability of a breadth and depth of provision that enables students to study a substantial amount of their degree schemes through the medium of Welsh in each Faculty.
- The availability of scholarships and other initiatives to encourage take-up of the Welsh-medium provision.
- Appropriate targets for departments offering Welsh-medium provision.
- Fulfilling our commitments in the Welsh Language Standards, including the 10 Rights for Students, and in the Policy on the Internal Use of Welsh.
- Neuadd Pantycelyn re-opens by September 2020 and is once again a vibrant social hub for students who are Welsh speakers and Welsh learners.
- Staff take advantage of opportunities to learn and improve their Welsh language skills
- Staff take part in Welsh language awareness sessions as part of their induction and continuing professional development, and participate in a programme of opportunities to use Welsh in an informal and supportive atmosphere..
- Students and staff participate in activities that promote the use of the Welsh language both within the University as well as in the community.
- Staff produce impactful research through the medium of Welsh within and beyond a REF context and are active in public engagement that informs people's understanding of the Welsh language and Welsh culture.

### **Actions for Year 1**

Establish a new Welsh-Medium Development Group to lead on academic matters and a new Welsh Language Operational Group to lead on Welsh Language planning and reporting.

Prepare and publish a monitoring report based on the first phase of complying with the Welsh Language Standards (1st April 2018 – 31st July 2018).

Continue to support student and community/stakeholder engagement in the Pantycelyn project and to support plans to market the re-opened hall of residence.

Promote take-up by staff of Welsh language classes, Welsh in the workplace provision and opportunities to undertake other kinds of training through the medium of Welsh.

Hold the third St David's Day Awards event to recognise the contribution by students and staff to promote the use of the language.