



CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU
THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES

Annual Review 2025-26

Wales has the talent to thrive



The Society year

A new President

Professor Dame Elan Closs Stephens was elected this year as the President of the Learned Society of Wales, following the end of Professor Hywel Thomas's term.

Creating community

Our Early-Career Researcher Colloquium brings together the best of Wales' emerging research talent.

Developing talent

Our grants, prizes and training make a difference to researchers at every stage of their careers.

Celebrating Welsh excellence

Our new medals and awards, celebrating excellence in Wales.

Principles in action

The steps we've taken to further equity, diversity and inclusion.

Healthy planet, healthy society, healthy Wales

Bringing expert evidence to the decisions that will shape all our futures.

A democratically engaged Wales

We hosted debates about the future of our nation in a vital year for Welsh politics.

Advocating for Welsh research

We provided strong evidence for backing Wales' research and innovation sector within a challenging context.

Happy birthday to us!

Our fifteenth anniversary celebration looked ahead to the future of Wales' National Academy, featuring new Honorary Fellow Sir Bryn Terfel.

Our global footprint

We represent Wales in the international research system, and reach across the world through our global Fellowship.

Our new Fellows

The 44 leaders from across disciplines and sectors elected to join the Fellowship in 2026.

Making it happen

Our Council and committees who help run the Society and its finances.



President's Welcome

It is a great honour to write my first introduction to the Society's Annual Review, as its new, and first woman, President.

The range of work we have done over the past year is evidence of our value as Wales' national academy. The Welsh Government, especially, must make use of this independent expertise that is at their disposal, using it to enhance the life of Wales now and for future generations.

Of course, none of this is possible without the support of numerous individuals and organisations: our Fellows, whose involvement continues to grow year-on-year; Medr and Wales' universities, who provide much of our core funding; and, especially, our dedicated staff team, led so well by Olivia Harrison.

I look forward to working with them all, together with our many other partners, as we make the case for Wales' research and innovation base, and the role it plays in making our scientific, social and cultural life more vibrant, more sustainable, more vigorous, and more ambitious.

A new President for the Society

Professor Dame Elan Closs Stephens became our first woman President, taking up the position at our Annual General Meeting on 20 May 2026.

Dame Elan was born in Gwynedd and is one of Wales' most distinguished public servants, with vast experience in the media, politics and higher education. Among her many roles, she is currently the Electoral Commissioner for Wales, was interim Chair of the BBC between 2023 – 2024 and is Emerita Professor of Communications and Creative Industries at Aberystwyth University, where she was also Pro-Chancellor.

She took over the role from Professor Hywel Thomas, who was at the helm for six years. He guided us through the COVID years, spearheaded our work on equity, diversity and inclusion, was pivotal in the establishment of our Early Career Researchers Network, and formed important relationships with Medr, the Celtic Academies Alliances and members of the Welsh Government.



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Chief Executive's welcome



The Society has never been busier. Policy briefings; Welsh Government consultation responses; a renaissance for Wales Studies; awarding more grants than ever before; deepening partnerships with Medr, the other Celtic academies and the Williamson Trust; a broadening researcher development programme...

In a year of highlights, the most glittering was our 15th anniversary celebrations at the Senedd. There we welcomed our new Honorary Fellow Sir Bryn Terfel and were fortunate enough to enjoy an exclusive performance. A panel discussion challenged us to consider not just our first 15 years but how we can be ambitious in our plans to help shape Wales' future.

Indeed, serving Wales' long-term future is what drives us. Yes, electing the brightest and the best to our Fellowship and supporting early and mid-career researchers, through our grants, training and network building, provides important immediate boosts.

But we also do this with an eye on building our future leaders and experts. These are the people who will give our legislators that bedrock of robust evidence upon which to craft the policies that determine Wales' future.

Whilst times are challenging now, we must sustain our research and innovation ecosystem in order to deliver economic and social benefits for future generations.

This Annual Review shows the part we are playing in that effort. Our success in this is thanks to the many Fellows who work with us and my staff team for their professionalism and untiring efforts.

Finally, as I say a final thank you to Professor Hywel Thomas, whose six years as President of the Society has ended, I am thrilled to be working with his successor Dame Elan Closs Stephens. Her call for the Welsh Government to draw upon the breadth of experience gathered within the Learned Society is one we all echo and can rally behind.

Medr
Y Comisiwn Addysg Dwyddiol ac Ymchwil
Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

PRIFYSGOL
ABERYSTWYTH
UNIVERSITY

Cardiff
Metropolitan
University

Prifysgol
Metropolitan
Caerdydd

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru

Prifysgol Wrexham
Wrexham University

Swansea
University
Prifysgol
Abertawe

Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

The Open
University
Prifysgol
Agored
Wales Cymru

PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY
PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

Williamson Trust
Leading Partner, Inspiring People

Academi
Heddwch
Cymru

We would like to thank Medr and the nine universities in Wales. Their financial support comprises our core annual income, together with the subscriptions from our Fellows. Partnerships with the Williamson Trust, Agile Cymru and Academi Heddwch have also allowed us to deliver important projects throughout the year.

We are grateful to all our partners for their in-kind contributions throughout the year, including the University of Wales Trinity Saint David for their generous contribution of the Society's offices.

Creating community: Early Career Researchers Colloquium 2026

Early career researchers across the whole of Wales benefit from the chance to network, form interdisciplinary connections and share their knowledge at our annual colloquium, this year at Aberystwyth University. The colloquium is a prime example of how our Fellows contribute to our work: chairing sessions, sharing advice, and hosting the event.

Courage in career-building

What role do curiosity, serendipity, courage, and agency play in forging a research career pathway? Can getting a little bit lost or taking a wrong turn still add value to the journey? Professor Helen Roberts FLSW shared valuable lessons with our network of emerging researchers about how careers often deviate from the routes imagined.

Developing skills, developing careers

A UK Young Academy session on how early career researchers can take part and apply for membership.

A Well-being of Future Generations Act workshop on how its 'ways of working' can prompt critical reflection on research practice.

LEGO® Serious Play as a method for engaging people, encouraging different ways of thinking, and enabling different kinds of conversation.

Connecting academia with the world

Researchers need to engage with external communities and partners, not just to learn and to share knowledge, but also to foster trust in the research sector. A panel of experts gave advice on how to engage equitably and meaningfully outside of the university sector.

The Future of Welsh research

Dolphin diets in Cardigan Bay, AI's impact on the future of the Welsh language, or microplastic pollution: research from Wales is forging positive change in all areas of our lives.

Researchers had the chance to showcase this work in quick-fire presentations and posters at the colloquium, allowing for one-to-one conversations that challenge and further their thinking, and creating the chance to form connections across institutions and disciplines. Jianhao Yang won the poster competition for his presentation on agri-technological innovation for the development of resilient and sustainable food systems.

"An inclusive safe space to discuss research with like-minded researchers."

"It has allowed me to see a place for my research in the research community in Wales."

"As an ECR I feel overwhelmed and suffer from imposter syndrome. Attending this Colloquium has helped me to build confidence and reassured me that I am not alone on my journey."

"It's been amazing to hear about all the variety of topics that connect us all."

"Everyone is so supportive."



Developing talent



As a result of last year's grants...

"The foodbank now offers fresh produce, on a 'pick your own' basis."

"The opportunities, experience, and confidence gained through this award have helped me to secure further funding."

"We can already see how some of the discussions will shape our priorities for the coming year."

"Participants reported rethinking their assumptions."

"The roundtables have catalysed sustained engagement [including] a policy white paper"

"This experience has been instrumental in my professional development"

Fostering emerging talent...

Expert training

We offer tailored training to develop vital skills for Wales' next generation of researchers, on topics like navigating devolved political contexts, co-producing research, and publishing for the general public.

Funding for career-changing opportunities

In tough times, many researchers can't access the funds needed to support their career development. Generous donations from our Fellows allowed ECRs to make international connections and enhance their professional profiles.

The Hywel Thomas ECR Prize

Named after our outgoing President, this new prize marks his commitment to a research culture that is excellent, fair, collaborative, and people-centred. The inaugural winner was Dr Caitlyn Donaldson, in recognition of her mentorship and community building.

Three-minute thesis competition

A packed-out Eisteddfod event in collaboration with Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, challenged researchers to describe their complex research to a general public, in Welsh. Teleri Owen was the winner, with her presentation on women's agency during the Penrhyn strike.

...and the wider research ecosystem.

Trusted Voices to counter misinformation

In a climate of misinformation, trusted evidence is needed now more than ever. Our new partnership with the Williamson Trust funds knowledge-producers to create trustworthy content in collaboration with local communities. Watch out for the first cohort's work on kelp forests, food heritage, water quality for sea swimmers, and more.

Making Wales a great place to be a researcher

Many networks which were central to strengthening grassroots research cultures are now unsupported and at risk of closure. Fourteen grants, awarded in partnership with Medr, are working from the bottom-up to foster research communities in Wales, including cancer researchers, Black researchers in the voluntary sector, and working parents.

Sparking innovation and public benefits

The research ecosystem is underpinned by spaces to connect and share knowledge. In Wales, we support researchers at all career stages to run activities that are tailored to the specific needs of their own communities, be it the animation sector, nuclear physics, primary schools, prisons, or the tourism industry. These grants create opportunities for experts to come together to generate public benefit, and develop fresh innovation, right here in Wales.

A new focus: addressing the mid-career gap

We are addressing the specific needs of mid-career researchers by expanding our researcher development work beyond the established focus on early-career researchers. We're launching a new survey, and support the Welsh Universities Research Leadership Programme. Keep an eye out on this exciting new initiative.



Our medals and awards

We think Wales can do much more to recognise our researchers and their work. That's why we've spent the past year reviewing and redesigning our twelve new annual medals and awards. Named after pioneering figures from Wales' past, and with six awarded each year, they will create fresh opportunities to celebrate Wales' diverse and amazing research and innovation.



Impact awards

The four impact awards recognise people who are building the research sector that Wales needs: excellent, equitable, collaborative, and impactful.



Lady Rhondda Award: to mark the outstanding achievements of an individual working in any area of research or innovation.



Frances Batty Shand Award: for an individual or team whose impact is felt beyond the scope of their own work or discipline.



Professor Millicent Mackenzie Award: for a team or individual with an outstanding record embedding equity, diversity and inclusion in their work.



Aneurin Bevan Award: for collaborative working across teams or organisations.

Established career medals

These medals recognise the highest of achievement in Wales, demonstrating to the world that Wales has the talent to thrive.



Gwen John Medal for significant contributions to the humanities and arts.



Lady Megan Lloyd George Medal for significant contributions to the social sciences.



Alfred Russel Wallace Medal for significant contributions to biosciences and medicine.



William Menelaus Medal for significant contributions to engineering, physical sciences and maths.

Early career medals

Named after a Welsh family of young scientists, artists, and industrialists, the Dillwyn Medals celebrate emerging researchers who are the change-makers of tomorrow.



Dillwyn Medal for humanities and arts.



Dillwyn Medal for social sciences.



Dillwyn Medal for biosciences and medicine.



Dillwyn Medal for engineering, physical sciences and maths.

The 2026 winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in November.



A Society in which all can thrive

Emmanuel Ogbonna is a leading expert in organisational culture, with a particular focus on equality, diversity, inclusion (EDI), and anti-racism. Now he is bringing his expertise to support the Society's EDI ambitions.

Emmanuel Ogbonna, Professor of Management and Organisation at the Cardiff Business School and Vice-Chair of Race Council Cymru, is also, among much else, one of the driving forces behind the Society's equity, diversity and inclusion advisory group.

He was also one of the first independent members to sit on the scrutiny committees that consider nominations for the Society's new Fellows. The independent members provide oversight and EDI expertise to help the committees conduct their scrutiny in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.

"The Society prides itself on embedding values of anti-racism, equity and inclusion, but we need to be sure we are practicing what we preach," he says. "One way to do that is to ensure there is consistency across the board. The Scrutiny committees enable us to do that."

Countering discrimination, Emmanuel argues, requires active steps such as this. It is incumbent on organisations to show people who may feel excluded that they are welcome.

"The problem for ethnic minorities and other under-represented groups is they often think they won't be accepted," he says. "We need to do more to promote that what we look like from the outside and what we are on the inside are two different things."

"If you come into the Society and see the things we are doing, you will see we have a range of people across a range of disciplines, not just in academia but outside academia."

Emmanuel speaks from a position of unmatched experience. In addition to his illustrious academic career, he is Vice Chair of Race Council Cymru, was co-Chair of the Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales Action Plan and received a CBE in 2024 for services to people from ethnic minority backgrounds and anti-racism. That didn't stop even he, however, doubting whether the Learned Society of Wales had room for him.

"A 13-year-old Emmanuel Ogbonna, even a 25-year-old Emmanuel Ogbonna who had just got a PhD, would never have anticipated being a Fellow. Even though I was in Cardiff and did my PhD here, I thought it was only for Welsh people, people who could claim their ancestry to be Welsh. I thought it was only for white Welsh people."

However, he says, things have changed.

"An earlier Ogbonna would not have thought it possible, but as I learned more about the Society and the Society made more effort to reach out to people like me, it is now a possibility that an Ogbonna today, that is 25 years old, could aspire to be a Fellow of the Society."

"The Society prides itself on embedding values of anti-racism, equity and inclusion."

We are proud to be part of a country which has embedded equality and human rights into its policy framework, with a clearly stated ambition to be anti-racist. We share those values and operate with a deeply embedded commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Our principles

One of the areas where we believe we can best demonstrate our EDI commitment is by ensuring that our Fellowship better reflects Wales' diversity. There has been encouraging progress in recent years, with women making up more than 50% of new Fellows in 2026, while more than a quarter of Fellows elected in 2024 and 2025 identified as being from an ethnic minority background. But we recognise that there is more work to be done, which is why we're also reviewing the whole process to identify and remove barriers.

Welsh Ethnic Minority Professors Initiative (WEMPI)

WEMPI offers peer support and mentoring to academic staff from ethnic minority backgrounds, so that they can be visible role models for students and young researchers. Our Fellows were central to launching the group, and the Society has supported WEMPI from its formation.

LSW Women's Network

Our new Women's Network held its first meeting in Aberystwyth in June. This community is for women and their allies within our Fellowship to come together for peer support and to mentor the next generation of researchers.

Gender bias in funding decisions

We worked with the EMPOWER Network on an event that focussed on the importance of gender diversity in research funding decisions, with a presentation from EPSRC on gender statistics from their funding portfolio.

EDI in Research across Europe

Professor Roiyah Saltus was selected by the European Federation of Academies (ALLEA) to represent the Society on a cross-European task force working to improve fairness and transparency in European academic institutions.



Our grant schemes made this happen...

Write Now! facilitates daytime writing for female academics with caregiving duties, reclaiming evenings and weekends from compensatory academic labour (Bangor University).



Healthy planet, healthy society, healthy Wales

POLICY BRIEFING

CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU
THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES

Measuring Biodiversity in Wales



Healthy planet

Efforts to track and mitigate human-caused climate change have significant policy implications and represent a major research focus at institutions across Wales.

We have played our own part through our expert forum and accompanying report into measuring biodiversity in Wales. Leading **experts considered how to improve the way we measure biodiversity in Wales**, and provide policymakers with the data they need. The report recommended improved alignment between the statutory sector, university scientists, research bodies, charities and citizen scientists. This could lead to a single point of access to data for decision-making bodies, such as Senedd scrutiny committees.

The **Plant Science Wales Meeting** brought the Welsh plant science community together at the National Botanic Garden of Wales to help create an inclusive and PhD-friendly environment for plant scientists working in foundational and applied fields. It was organised by the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences with our support.

In exploring energy usage, we supported the annual Zienkiewicz lecture in Swansea, in which Professor Sir Ian Chapman, Chief Executive of UKRI, presented on **the UK fusion programme**, while Professor Gareth Wyn Jones FLSW delivered our Eisteddfod lecture on the **'Energy dilemma: our conflicting priorities'**.



Our Trusted Voices grant scheme made this happen...

A new Green Energy Glade at Green Man Festival

Climate experts will create the 'Green Energy Glade' at the Green Man Festival, inviting festival-goers to deepen their understanding of climate change.

Healthy society

Working with partners from across the UK, we published a briefing on **transforming approaches to violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence**. It showed how the arts and humanities can help us understand what matters to survivors, and how research can help us understand what interventions work.

In partnership with Academi Heddwch, Wales' peace academy, our **'pathways to peace' grant programme** responds to the challenging times we currently face and reflects an awareness of how 'peace' is about more than simply the absence of war.



Our grant schemes made this happen...

Measuring the impact of online hate

By analysing toxic language and measuring stress responses, this project promotes empathy and supports respectful communication online.

Healthy Wales

We supported Fellows to hold a roundtable meeting on the **'NHS 111 press 2' service**, exploring how it is evaluated as a future model for mental health care in Wales. Our grant scheme also facilitated a lecture on **research waste in clinical medicine** and the role that clinicians, nurses, methodologists and patients can play in reducing it.

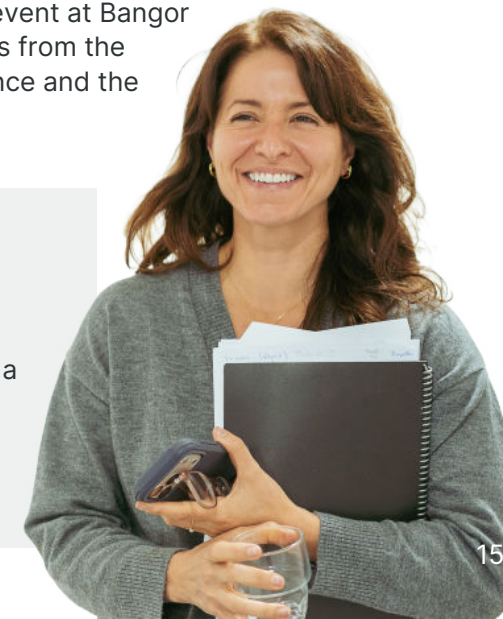
A **policy forum on Deaf Health and Wellbeing in Wales** showed how arts and humanities research contributed to the historic British Sign Language Act in Wales – including one of our research workshop grants. We co-organised the event at Bangor University with Deaf Health Wales, artists and activists from the Deaf community, the Wales Arts and Humanities Alliance and the School of Advanced Study.



Our grant schemes made this happen...

Cross-sectoral partnerships to address endometriosis

Identifying research priorities and a shared agenda between researchers, local health boards, third sector, and lived experience experts, to improve care and wellbeing for patients experiencing endometriosis.



A democratically engaged Wales

The Senedd elections this year were a stand-out moment for Welsh political life, sparking important debates about the maturing devolution process and Wales' sense of itself as a political entity. We played a full part in those debates.

Election hustings

In the weeks leading up to the Senedd elections, we ran two online hustings events. We invited representatives of the major parties to discuss their proposals for STEM and culture, in partnership with leading scientific and cultural organisations across Wales and the UK.

Wales Votes: analysing the Senedd results

Professor Laura McAllister FLSW, Professor Stephen Cushion FLSW, and Dr Bettina Petersohn shared their analysis in the aftermath of the Senedd elections. Under the banner of Wales Studies, the panel discussion covered how the media reported the election, polling data, and what to expect next in this new political context.

Devolution able

How can researchers maximise the impact of their work across varied political landscapes? This webinar for early career researchers, co-hosted with the Scottish Educational Research Association, provided an in-depth overview of the challenges and opportunities from working with devolved governments.

Research and innovation for a growing Wales

The future of tertiary education in Wales

Wales must make better use of the world-class research and innovation from its higher education institutions and recognise that funding research is an investment and not a cost. This was the message from both our response to the Welsh Government's call for submissions on the future of tertiary education, and a public statement made by our President Dame Elan Closs Stephens.

Advocating for Welsh Research

We're creating connections to make sure the progress, priorities, and challenges that face Welsh research and innovation are widely understood.

Wales in Westminster: at the House of Lords we spotlighted communities in Wales that have benefited from Welsh research, from farmers in West Wales to young people in Grangetown, and football fans in Wrexham. Influential attendees learned how Welsh research is improving the lives of people across Wales.

'Creating Connections': a joint roundtable with the Royal Society addressed scientific skills opportunities and challenges in Wales.

Back in Erasmus: statement welcoming the decision to rejoin the scheme, with the benefits that come from strengthened international ties for staff, students and Wales.

Research and innovation roadmap: a joint roundtable held with UKRI, giving a Welsh perspective on progress and opportunities in the UK Government's plans for research and innovation.

Enterprise and investment in Wales: a joint session held with the Cymmrodorion at the London Welsh Centre on achieving the economic growth needed for community prosperity and social cohesion.

Read our full submission

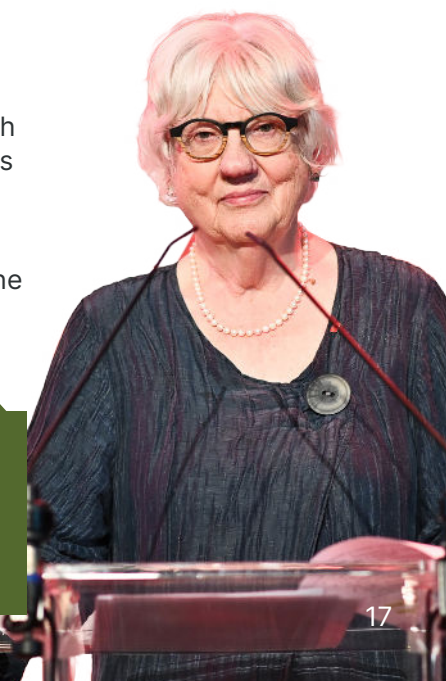


All our reports are available on our website



"I call on the new Government to understand the resource they have in the Learned Society and to make use of the independent expertise that is at their disposal."

Professor Dame Elan Closs Stephens



Celebrating 15 years, celebrating knowledge

We celebrated our 15th anniversary with a vibrant evening in the Senedd, which included an invigorating panel discussion, reflections on the Society's future, and a memorable performance by our new Honorary Fellow and giant of the opera world, Sir Bryn Terfel.

"What you get out of people in the Learned Society is explanation, the ability to use their expertise and translate that into terms that people, who will never know everything that they know, can be informed by."

Mark Drakeford, former First Minister of Wales

"We all know the challenges that Wales faces and what's great about the Learned Society of Wales is ... you have the best ideas in Wales."

Will Hayward, journalist

"I believe this Society is a very special national resource."

Dr Manon Antoniazzi
FLSW, Senedd Cymru

"In today's age of disinformation, we need to shout about the importance of evidence more than ever."

Professor Hywel
Thomas FLSW



"We're here in partnership with the stakeholders here in Wales, to celebrate the Learned Society of Wales and to think about what the future can be."

Professor Karen Salt, The
Williamson Trust

"Tonight, Wales has been able to celebrate not only what it's done, but what's it doing, and looking in such a positive way to the future."

Baroness Ilora Finley FLSW



Panel discussion: 'The Future of knowledge: 15 years of LSW'

An illustrious panel debated the role national academies play and why Wales needs an academy of its own. There was a wide range of topics discussed, from how to make Wales' intellectual life as inclusive as possible, to the importance of combating disinformation and strengthening trusted voices.



Knowledge across borders

We advocate for Wales, and the impact of its research, beyond our own borders. To help us do that, we are active in forging links outside Wales, and benefit from a global Fellowship.

Working with our Celtic partners

The Celtic Academies Alliance (CAA) took formal shape after we, the Royal Irish Academy and the Royal Society of Edinburgh signed a landmark partnership agreement in Cardiff. Initial priorities include regional innovation, research policy, and embedding research within local communities.

The Celtic Academies Alliance brought together leading experts in Celtic languages, global languages, disability, and sign language at an international symposium in Wrexham. The experience revealed a common purpose in removing systemic and cultural barriers to multilingualism.

Connecting Wales and Ireland through research

First Minister Rhun ap Iorwerth announced a new funding scheme for early-career researchers to access equipment and develop Wales-Ireland projects, as part of his first official overseas visit, to Dublin. The scheme will be delivered by the Learned Society of Wales, mirroring the Royal Irish Academy's Charlemont programme.

Working with our European allies

We are active participants with ALLEA, the federation of European national academies. Our Fellows sit on ALLEA's Research Ethics and Integrity Council, as well as task forces on equity, diversity, and inclusion in research, strengthening trust in science, and protecting and sharing data. They will ensure that Wales' voice is heard, and our expertise recognised, in these important international forums.

Where are our Fellows based?

The diaspora of our Fellows is extensive. Here is where the footprints of Welsh research have reached...

- USA
- Scotland
- Australia
- England
- Ireland
- Switzerland
- Germany
- Canada
- Finland
- Hong Kong
- Luxembourg
- New Zealand
- Northern Ireland
- UAE

Wales Studies Network

The establishment this year of our Wales Studies Network is an important moment for the field and as part of efforts to raise Wales' international profile. The Network will bring together researchers who explore the cultural, social, and physical features of Wales on the basis that, in order to champion Wales in a global context, we must first know it.



The grants we give...

Histories of Wales-Asia connections: new sources and perspectives

The overlooked histories of Wales-Asia connections in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



The grants we give...

French and francophone philosophers and the development of LGBTQIA+ movements

Collaborative project involving scholars, artists, and activists.



The grants we give...

Evanescent and emerging spaces: land struggles of Palestinians and Guarani

Comparative history of persecution, displacement and resistance.



The grants we give...

Y Wladfa revisited: collaborative futures in Welsh Patagonian studies

Uniting researchers, Welsh Government, and the National Library of Wales to explore Wales-Patagonia ties.

New Fellows elected in 2026

Professor Colin Berry

Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry,
Cardiff University

Dr Carmen Casaliggi

Reader in English Literature, Cardiff
Metropolitan University

Mr Christopher Catling

Secretary (Chief Executive), The Royal
Commission on the Ancient and Historical
Monuments of Wales

Professor Simon Creer

Professor of Molecular Ecology, Bangor
University

Claire Curneen

Artist; Senior Lecturer, Cardiff
Metropolitan University

Professor Stephen Cushion

Professor at the Cardiff School of
Journalism, Media and Culture, Cardiff
University

Dr Sonali Dasgupta

Medical Oncology Consultant, Velindre
University NHS Trust

Professor Alexander Giles Davies

Professor of Electronic and Photonic
Engineering, University of Leeds

Professor Anne Davies

Professor of Law and Public Policy,
Oxford University

Professor Sarah Davies

Professor of Geography and
Environmental Sciences, Aberystwyth
University

Professor Elwen Evans

Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Professor Leighton Evans

Professor of Media Theory, Swansea
University

Dr Wendy Ewart

Independent Consultant in Biomedical
Science

Professor Åke Fagereng

Professor in Structural Geology, Cardiff
University

Dr Eleanor Anne Freeman

Co-founder and co-lead, Stroke Hub
Wales

Professor Helena Gaunt

Principal, Royal Welsh College of Music
and Drama

Professor Cinzia Giannetti

Professor in Digital Manufacturing,
Swansea University

Professor Jonathan Gillard

Professor of Statistics and Data Science,
Cardiff University

Professor Adam Hedgecoe

Professor of Sociology, Cardiff University

Professor Mary Heimann

Chair in Modern History, Cardiff
University

Professor Judy Hutchings

Professor in Psychology, Bangor
University and Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

Professor Sharon Huws

Professor of Animal Science and
Microbiology, Queen's University Belfast

Professor D. Dafydd Jones

Chair in Biochemistry, Cardiff University

Professor Melanie Jones

Professor of Economics, Cardiff Business
School, Cardiff University

Professor Graham John Langley

Emeritus Professor, University of
Southampton

Ben Lewis

Director of the Open University in Wales

Dr Iwan Llewelyn-Jones

Senior Lecturer and Director of Music
Performance, Bangor University

Professor Neil Loader

Professor of Physical Geography,
Swansea University

Professor Apala Majumdar

Professor of Applied Mathematics,
University of Manchester

Dr Emma McKinley

Senior Research Fellow, Cardiff
University

Professor Peter Merriman

Professor of Human Geography,
Aberystwyth University

Professor Daniel Roy Parsons

Professor in Geosciences, Loughborough
University

Dr Claire Price

Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences,
Swansea University

Professor Iain Quinn

Professor of Organ and Coordinator of
Sacred Music, Florida State University

Professor Charlotte Rees

Pro Vice-Chancellor & Executive Dean,
Swansea University

Professor Yacine Rezgui

Professor and Leader of the Urban
Intelligence Research Centre, Cardiff
University; Optimise-AI

Dr Kathy Seddon

Wales Cancer Research Partner, Cardiff
University; Worshipful Livery Company
of Wales

Dr Sara Shinton

Director, UKRI Future Leaders Fellows
Development Network

Professor Phil Smith

Consultant Neurologist, Cardiff and
Vale University Health Board; Cardiff
University

Professor Richard Thomas

Head of School of Culture and
Communication, Swansea University

Professor Marianne van den Bree

Professor of Psychological Medicine,
Cardiff University

Professor Yingli Wang

Professor in Logistics and Operations
Management, Cardiff University

Professor Yvonne Wren

Professor of Speech and Language
Therapy, Cardiff Metropolitan
University

Professor Peng Zhou

Professor of Economics, Cardiff
University



Officers and Council

The Society was incorporated as a Royal Charter Charity in 2015 (Registered Charity Number: 1168622). Our current governing documents are the Royal Charter and Byelaws. These, along with the Society’s Regulations, constitute our governing instruments.

President

Professor Hywel Thomas
(until May 2026)

Professor Dame Elan Closs Stephens (from May 2026)

Vice-Presidents

Professor Robert Beynon
(VP for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine)

Professor Helen Fulton
(VP for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) (until May 2026)

Professor Sara Elin Roberts
(VP for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) (from May 2026)

Treasurer

Sarah Jane Clyburn
(Dr Sally Davies)

General Secretary

Professor Faron Moller

Council Members

In addition to the Officers, the following Fellows formed the Society’s Council (board of trustees):

Professor Pedr ap Llwyd

Professor Rachel Ashworth

Professor Kirsti Bohata

Professor David Boucher

Professor Angharad Davies
(from May 2026)

Professor Mererid Puw Davies

Professor Michael C Davies
(from May 2026)

Professor Siwan Davies

Professor Claire Gorrara
(until May 2026)

Professor Matthew Griffin
(from May 2026)

Professor Alma Harris
(until May 2026)

Professor Sir Deian Hopkin

Professor Venkateswarlu Kanamarlapudi
(from May 2026)

Professor Ambreena Manji

Professor Raluca Radulescu

Professor Michael Reed
(from May 2026)

Professor Qiang Shen
(until May 2026)

Professor Elizabeth Treasure

Professor John V Tucker
(until May 2026)

Professor Meena Upadhyaya
(until May 2026)

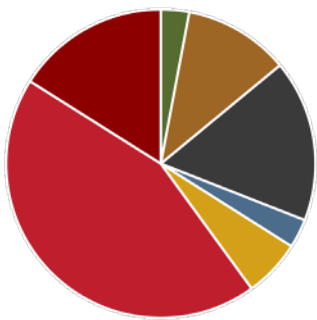
Professor Karin Wahl-Jorgensen

The work of Council in governing the Society and providing strategic oversight is supported by the many Fellows who also serve on our various governance and scrutiny Committees, Advisory Groups, and Task and Finish Groups.

Financial review

Financial figures for 2025-26 will be published by 30 April 2027 in the Society’s Annual Report for the Charity Commission. This will be available on our website. For more information contact lsw@wales.ac.uk.

Our funding in 2025-26



- Donations and sponsorship
- Fellowship
- Welsh Universities
- Gift Aid
- Interest & investment
- Medr
- Other project funding and support