Cardiff Metropolitan University

Annual Review

2011-12

Cardiff Metropolitan University
Prifysgol Fetropolitan Caerdydd

President's Message

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Derrick Morgan, President of Cardiff Metropolitan University.

It is a huge honour for me to be the President of Cardiff Metropolitan University following a long and extremely distinguished line of politicians who have fulfilled this role while serving the people of Cardiff as their Lord Mayor.

The partnership between this great city and this great University has existed for almost 150 years. For much of the past year there was a very real fear that Cardiff Metropolitan University would be dissolved and therefore cease to exist, losing its identify with the capital city in a stroke. As its President, I am delighted that the University is being allowed to continue as an autonomous institution, teaching and developing the students of this city and beyond, hopefully for many generations to come.

That Cardiff Met will continue to exist and thrive is very much due to the stewardship and determination of our Chair Barbara Wilding, and her Governors, in a year of considerable uncertainty and potential change. They have dealt with those challenges whilst ensuring that the University's day-to-day commitment to its students and staff has continued. I commend them, and I commend what the University has achieved over the past 12 months.

This Annual Review reflects and recognises those achievements, and it is an endorsement of what can be achieved through commitment, vision and partnership. The contribution of Cardiff Metropolitan University to the communities it serves has never been so important.

Barbara Wilding CBE, QPM, Chair of Governors

Professor Antony Chapman, Vice-Chancellor

Chair & Vice-Chancellor's Message

This Annual Review summarises the University's development and achievements during the academic year 2011-12.

There have been many developments, and many achievements, but we recognise that it has also been a year of uncertainty for our students and staff. Ultimately, though, we have ended the year in the knowledge that our future is secure, and that Cardiff Met will continue to thrive as an autonomous institution. We must stress, however, that whilst maintaining its autonomy, this University is committed to playing an integral role in Higher Education in Wales. More than that, Cardiff Metropolitan is committed to continuing its key role in civic society.

This Annual Review demonstrates what has been achieved in the University over the past year - in art and design, education, health, management, and, of course, sport in this golden year of British sporting success. The Olympic and Paralympic Games were at the heart of that sporting success, and we are delighted that our students and staff played such a key role - whether it was winning gold medals, being a member of the support teams, or helping to host the teams who used our world-class training facilities.

During the year the University took the decision to relocate part of the Cardiff School of Art and Design to a new, purpose-built facility on its Llandaff Campus. The design of the new £14m building promotes cross-disciplinary dialogue and exploration through more extensive engagement with ideas and techniques. Construction work has commenced, with the new facility expected to welcome its first students in early 2014. In addition during the year the University retained its Investors in People (IIP) status. It was pleasing to note that after undertaking extensive interviews across the breadth of the University's activity, the IIP review team described the University as an organisation with a growing maturity of process and a drive for improvement which is delivering tangible outcomes. Finally, the University has lead the way amongst Welsh higher education establishments in its approach to energy management and carbon reduction, and as a result of this work was shortlisted in the Times Higher Education Awards 2012's 'Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Development' category.

Social issues, not least the stagnant economy, continue to affect many of us. But this University is working with business on a daily basis to help change that, bringing its academic skills to the workplace to help develop Welsh companies and enabling them to be at the forefront of industry. We continue to reach out to our local communities, undertaking a wide range of projects which widen participation in Higher Education, and narrowing the gap in opportunities for all to develop themselves.

As said, there have been many successes across the University and this Review is testament to that. The Board of Governors and Executive pay tribute to staff and students for their hard work. They congratulate and thank those staff who have been awarded prizes and won competitive research grants.

We are looking forward to a positive and successful future for this University. We will not rest on what has been achieved to date. We will strive to develop the student experience even further, creating an institution which is internationally recognised as innovative, creative and totally sustainable.

Developing International Partnerships

Cardiff Met's international students have rated it the **top university in the UK** for student satisfaction in the International Student Barometer 2013, for the third year running. The University also topped the world rankings in the i-graduate survey for the quality of its student support. The International Student Barometer is an independent research service specialising in the international education market, and is now the largest study of international students in the world.

Delegates from 15 institutions offering Cardiff Met programmes in nine different countries attended a staff development and training event held at our Llandaff campus. As well as colleagues from the University's Wales-based Further Education partners, staff from our partners in Bulgaria, Egypt, Morocco, Singapore, Sri Lanka and South Korea also attended sessions on subjects including research ethics, professional development planning, learning and teaching issues, and quality assurance.

The University **signed a trilateral memorandum with the Arab Academy for Science and Maritime Technology (AASMT) and Alexandria University, Egypt**. Among the key agreements of the memorandum was the hosting of the first EU-MEDA Mobility Conference in Egypt, enabling delegations from the European Union and the Middle East to learn about future opportunities for mobility exchange in the region. The agreement explores opportunities for staff development and knowledge transfer between the parties, and builds upon existing links with the universities.

Cardiff Met **secured two further European Union-funded projects under the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Scheme, worth €8.7m**. The €4.37m EU-Morocco-Egypt-Tunisia-Algeria-Libya-International Co-operation and the €4.36m EU Partnerships and International Co-operation with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine are part of a co-operation and mobility scheme for Higher Education which aims to enhance the political, cultural, educational and economic links between the European Union and Third-countries. Cardiff Met is the only UK university to have been granted five EU Erasmus Mundus Action 2 projects consecutively since 2009, amounting to €20.2m.

A partnership between Cardiff Met and the Indian educational services company Planet EDU was officially launched in Delhi, in the presence of the First Minister of Wales, The Right Honourable Carwyn Jones AM. The partnership between the University and Planet EDU will offer undergraduate and postgraduate business and management programmes across India through the Flexible and Distributed Learning (FDL) mode - an advanced system of education that uses a blend of traditional methods and new technologies to provide enhanced learning experiences.

Working with others to strengthen Higher Education

Cardiff Met and Santander - through its Santander Universities Global Division - signed a key agreement to create a Scholarship and Mobility Support fund with the aim of helping finance both undergraduate and postgraduate students to undertake study and research both in the UK and overseas. Through this new partnership, Santander will fund both individual scholarships to candidates resident in countries within the Santander scheme wishing to study at Cardiff Met, as well as a number of mobility scholarships and awards which will be awarded to Cardiff Met students and staff seeking to conduct research overseas.

The University hosted a series of meetings of its FE2HE Consortium and other stakeholders in order to **explore with Welsh Government ways to contribute proactively to the planned enterprise zone in Cardiff**, and to the development of the financial and professional services skills academy proposed as part of the project. An initial key challenge for the Group, which comprises representatives from FEIs, Cardiff City Council, Sector Skills Council, Cardiff University, University of Wales, Newport and the Open University in Wales, is to market the benefits of engagement with the FE and HE providers to a financial services sector which traditionally favours in-house or bought-in training.

Cardiff Met has developed a ground-breaking link-up with the Institute of Directors (IOD). The University is the first in Wales to pilot a student-level membership that is strengthening links between the IOD's membership, Welsh enterprise, and the next generation of entrepreneurs and business people.

A new International Training Centre (ITC) was officially opened at Cardiff Met in a joint venture with the Health Protection Agency (HPA), Public Health Wales and the World Health Organisation (WHO). **It is the first training facility of its kind, and work at the Centre will focus on enhancing planning and preparatory activities for major chemical incidents**, such as hazard identification, risk assessment and prioritisation, risk mitigation, emergency planning, and response and recovery.

The University continued to support and promote the 'MCC Universities' scheme, ensuring that the most talented young cricketers are encouraged to go into higher education by providing them with the best possible opportunities to develop their cricket at university. During the year **the University further developed this relationship, signing an exclusive partnership agreement with Glamorgan CCC** which resulted in the Cardiff Met logo appearing on the front of the Dragons shirt for home and away matches, and offered a unique way to promote the University's new name as well as raising its national profile.

Cardiff Metropolitan University in Santander signing, left to right: Matthew Taylor, Head of Enterprise, Cardiff Met, Professor Antony Chapman, Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff Met, Lord Burns, Santander UK Chairman and Luis Juste, Director UK, Santander Universities.

Delivering a high-quality learning experience

Children's Laureate, Julia Donaldson.

The University hosted the first ever Triple Laureate event to be held in the UK. Current Children's Laureate and Gruffalo author, Julia Donaldson, was joined by Bardd Plant Cymru (Welsh Children's Poet), Eurig Salisbury and Young People's Laureate for Wales, Catherine Fisher, as part of her first visit to Wales. Organised by the Cardiff School of Education, in partnership with Literature Wales and Booktrust, Ms Donaldson spoke to staff, student-teachers and teachers from partner schools about the importance of making the best use of books as an educational tool in the primary classroom.

Cardiff Met maintained its standing as top 'new' university in Wales across a number of the league tables and guides published this year. In The Guardian University Guide 2013 Cardiff Metropolitan not only secured the top 'new' university position, but was placed among the top three universities in Wales. In the Complete University Guide 2013, Cardiff Met retained its position as the top 'new' university in Wales.

Ruth Matheson, a senior lecturer at Cardiff Met's Learning and Teaching Development Unit, was awarded the most prestigious UK award for excellence in higher education teaching and support for learning. She was named as one of 55 lecturers and learning support staff in the UK who were awarded National Teaching Fellowships by the Higher Education Academy (HEA). Ruth's role includes the promotion and execution of Cardiff Met's continuing professional development scheme, enabling staff to be recognised for their teaching and support of learning.

The University's Centre for Work Based Learning teamed up with a leading provider of organisational and workforce development, Stratum, in a **ground-breaking initiative that is seeking to deliver high level learning to major companies in Wales**. 'Made in Wales' is focused on forging a better level of understanding between the higher education sector and employers in terms of what each can positively contribute to a learning partnership.

Dan Peterson, an Illustration student at the Cardiff School of Art & Design, spent a month embedded with British troops as a war artist in Afghanistan. Whilst in Afghanistan, with the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards (also known as the Welsh Cavalry), Dan was taken out on patrols and saw live operations in Helmand Province, and produced sketches and drawings during his visit. Dan's experiences contributed towards his final degree as part of his dissertation and the course's 'Real World' module, where students are encouraged to gain work experience.

The University introduced its own **Student-Led Teaching Fellowship Scheme** during the year. Promoted in tandem with the Student Union the Scheme identified, recognised and rewarded good practice in learning and teaching across the University and its Associate College, London School of Commerce. In providing increased emphasis upon the student voice, the Scheme provides learners with the opportunity to recognise and reward good teaching practice.

Thriving and effective Research and Enterprise

Image: Phil Noble

Work on the European Great Ape Heart Project at Chester Zoo.

Working alongside a number of UK zoological collections **academics from the Cardiff School of Sport have been able to assist in the assessment of heart disease in our nearest evolutionary cousins** whilst simultaneously collecting comparative data. This work has contributed significantly to the establishment of the *European Great Ape Heart Project* (EGAHP). The objective of the Group, which comprises UK veterinary surgeons, researchers, cardiologists and pathologists, is to design an appropriate assessment protocol to investigate cardiovascular disease in great apes in European collections and African sanctuaries.

The University has **invested in the establishment of a Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab)** in the Cardiff School of Art and Design. Fab Labs are a global network of local labs enabling invention and innovation by providing easy access to tools for digital fabrication and prototyping. The Laboratory will enable the School to proceed with a process of Fab Academy accreditation which will commence in January 2013.

The University has been successful in its bid **to lead the £1m Welsh Government sponsored South East Wales Higher Education Hub for Youth Entrepreneurship**. The Hub, which comprises Cardiff Met, Cardiff University, Open University in Wales, University of Glamorgan and the University of Wales Newport, will work in close partnership with Further Education institutions in the region. It will deliver a variety of experiences, which will develop entrepreneurs with the skill sets and ambitions needed to realise their career potential.

The Sharing Experience Europe (SEE) Platform Workshop was officially launched by Rt. Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales. SEE is a network of 11 European partners sharing international best practice to enhance the understanding of design for innovation among policy-makers and programme managers. The workshop consisted of speeches and interactive sessions over the two days with 30 delegates attending from partner organisations across the European Union. The Project was secured by the University's National Centre for Product Design and Development Research (PDR) and funded co-funded by Welsh Government and European Commission-DG Enterprise and Industry.

Cardiff School of Health Sciences continued to lead the University's contribution to the **€11million pan-European Frailomic project** which aims to enhance the quality of life for an increasing elderly population through preventing the development of disabilities. Working upon the principle that disability is usually preceded by the condition of frailty, the project seeks to develop predictive, diagnostic and prognostic models which can be used in clinical settings.

As a result of collaborative work between the Football Association of Wales and the Cardiff School of Sport, the Welsh Football Medicine Institute has been created to manage and provide a range of sports medicine services to footballers of all ages and abilities across Wales. **The Institute has been accredited as a FIFA Medical Centre of Excellence and in so doing has become the first such Centre in the UK.**

Delivering Social Justice

Pupils from schools across Cardiff and Newport took part in **Cardiff Met's Young Chef Academy.** The scheme, designed for young people currently studying GCSE, A-Level or a Diploma in Hospitality, aims to strengthen pupils' practical skills while allowing them to gain valuable work experience within a professional environment. This project was supported by the Lord Forte Foundation.

The Widening Access 2012 Summer School saw more than 220 learners attend over 20 taster courses on a variety of subjects covering all five of Cardiff Met's academic schools. The Summer School continues to be a key aspect of the University's commitment to making a fundamental contribution toward social justice and widening participation. Almost 50 per cent of these learners were from Communities First backgrounds and many more were from other non-traditional Higher Education backgrounds. The courses provide a progression route into Higher Education for learners who have often not previously considered university.

The University was commissioned by the Fostering Network to explore how current foster carers thought that children in their care could be encouraged and supported in post-16 education. The project, led by a team of researchers from the Cardiff School of Health Sciences, identified a number of barriers to participation and attainment, and, in turn, opportunities to enhance the prospects of fostered children through enabling their carers to become more involved in the child's education.

As befits an Olympic year, a key focus has been on the use of Sport to engage learners. Projects included the **Active Soles Programme which engaged with community volunteers to build their leadership skills** in a six-week after-school club. These skills were then put into practice by the volunteers as they coached primary school pupils in athletic disciplines during after-school clubs to prepare them for a competitive event held in the spring. The Programme culminated in the Junior Games - at the University's National Indoor Athletics Centre - where the volunteers were responsible for leading teams drawn from six primary schools in the region.

Lauren Keen and Celyn Dibble with their Young Chef Academy Award certificates.

Olympic and Paralympic success

Cardiff Met graduate **Helen Glover won Great Britain's first gold medal** of the Olympic Games, with rowing partner Heather Stanning in the women's pair. Paralympians included **Aled Sion Davies, who won gold in the Discus F42 category**, Stephen Thomas (sailing) and Nathan Stephens (javelin). Congratulations to both Helen and Aled on receiving their MBEs in the 2013 New Year honours list.

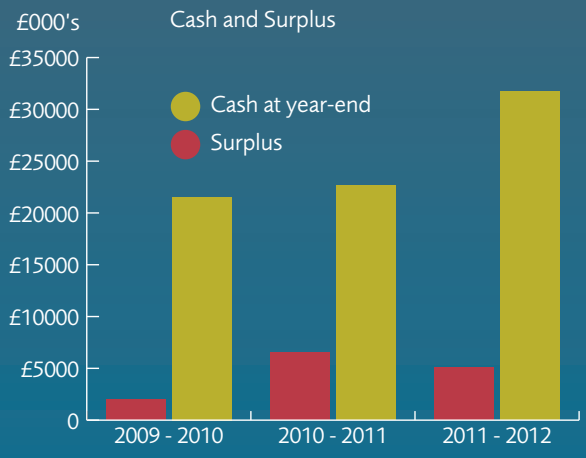
Other former and current students selected for the Olympics included Dai Greene (400m hurdles), Brett Morse (discus), Georgina Geikie (pistol shooting), Mark Hawkins (handball), Stef Collins, Rose Anderson and Jena Wade-Fray (basketball).

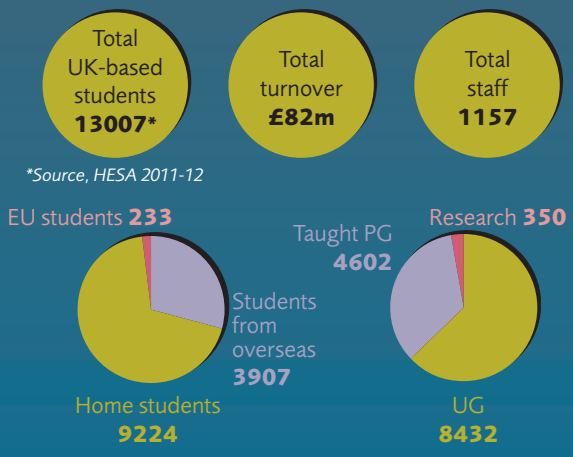
Coaches, analysts and support personnel from Cardiff Met also took part in London 2012. They included Scott Simpson (UK Athletics), Damian Jennings, Lucy Power, Sarah Wagstaff and David Bailey (GB women's basketball), Mike Peyrebrune (GB swimming), Simon Jones (GB and Australia cycling), Mitch Fenner (BBC Sport), John Beer (GB gymnastics), Yvonne Saker and Jose Castro (beach volleyball) and Sandra Stoll (Paralympics beach volleyball).

The **University's world-class facilities** at its Cyncoed Campus were used as a training base for Olympic teams from Trinidad and Tobago, and New Zealand, and for Paralympic teams from China and Australia.

Image: Eric Feferberg/AP/ Press Association Images

Cardiff Met graduate, Helen Glover MBE (top) and rowing partner, Heather Stanning.





Western Avenue, Cardiff, CF5 2YB UK Tel: +44 (0)29 2041 6070 Fax: +44 (0)29 2041 6286
cardiffmet.ac.uk

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