**Research Wales Innovation Fund Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Institution:** | Cardiff Metropolitan University |
| **RWIF strategy lead:** | Matthew Taylor, Director of Innovation |
| **Email:** | mtaylor@cardiffmet.ac.uk |

|  |
| --- |
| **Section A: Overview** |
| 1. **Strategic ambitions**

*Please provide an overview of your institution’s five year approach to supporting knowledge exchange activities and how these will be supported by RWIF. You may wish to highlight broad areas which you are targeting, and how these align with your institutional mission and internal strategies.* [max 250 words] |
| Cardiff Metropolitan University’s research and innovation (R&I) activities are guided by its recently developed Research and Innovation Strategy (R&IS) 2023/24 – 2029/30, which targets significant growth in the volume, quality, value and impact of research and innovation. R&I activities are currently delivered primarily through Centres and Groups that sit inside our three Global Academies, which deliver interdisciplinary and international R&I with impact. The new R&I Strategy will be delivered through four strategic priorities:1. Increase R&I income
2. Increase the volume and quality of research outputs per research-active FTE
3. Increase the number of graduate start-ups
4. Develop PGR support provision in line with sector best-practice and growth ambitions

Cardiff Met will utilise RWIF funding to focus on the innovation and public engagement elements of this strategy. The supporting infrastructure to deliver this was significantly enhanced during the first phase of RWIF funding, with a number of new posts created and initiatives developed. These will be further embedded and exploited over the coming planning period to continue the growth in R&I that they have already delivered.  |
| **2. Capacity Grant***Provide some narrative on how your institution plans to make use of the £250k capacity grant included within RWIF. How will this be used to support and enhance capacity and incentivise and improve performance in knowledge exchange?* [max 250 words] |
| Funding will be targeted across two broad areas:* The continuation of central R&I support specialists, e.g. R&I Officers, Bid Development Officer, Staff Development Officer, Enterprise Champions, Business Coach / Mentor, Social Enterprise Champion;
* Pump-priming funding to enable academics to engage with external organisations (i.e. SIP model) and the public.

The staffing elements will enable the Research and Innovation Services team to provide dedicated specialist support to our main audiences – academics within the University, the wider public, and external organisations. This will primarily entail staff development and engagement, business development, opportunity identification, proposal writing, financial modelling, project management, public engagement, and post-award compliance. The pump-priming funding will be used to support a variety of activities designed to stimulate engagement between academics, the public, and the business community, including IP protection / exploitation, seed funding for new initiatives, start-up support, travel / networking, external specialists, open events, and staff development. During 2019/20, Research & Innovation Services commissioned reports from two external specialists to review our current support structures and engagement mechanisms, and to identify which areas of the University are able to contribute most to the research and innovation agenda. The recommendations from these reports informed the development of our plans over the first RWIF cycle and will continue to help us deliver differing types of intervention as appropriate to incentivise engagement and maximise collaborations. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Section B: Specific content** |
| **3. Commercialisation / income generating activity** *RWIF has been designed to incentivise and reward performance, particularly in terms of external income capture.* *Provide details of how RWIF will be used to enable your institution to grow its external income as measured by HE-BCI. What are the key areas of investment and growth? How will funding be used to build on previous RWIF investments? What new activity will be supported? Further guidance on this section is available in Circular W23/12HE. Your response should be framed in terms of the impact of RWIF on the social and economic prosperity for Wales.* [500 words max]*Please highlight centres of research excellence that already operate as innovation hubs.* |
| Cardiff Met will use the RWIF allocation to continue supporting the specialist support staff and facilitation funds that were established during the first three years of RWIF funding, which combine to enable innovation-driven engagements between University staff and external businesses. The engagement of academic staff internally is a key objective for Cardiff Met in terms of growing R&I income. Recognising the many demands academics have on their time, both in terms of teaching and pure research activities, this funding will be used to grow the availability and visibility of academic expertise that can engage with the business community to generate new forms of innovation income in a variety of ways. It will support a two-pronged approach:1. Internally – a range of interventions aimed at engaging, supporting and upskilling academic colleagues to better enable them to undertake collaborative innovation projects with external organisations;
2. Externally – the continued development of innovation groups, centres and Global Academies to cohere and present Cardiff Met’s applied research in an accessible, relevant and impactful way that stimulates interest from businesses, policy makers and other potential partners.

**Internally – Engagement**Research and Innovation Services (RIS) provides a support service to academics across the University. This is primarily focussed on opportunity identification, business development, proposal writing, costing / pricing, post-award compliance, entrepreneurship education and staff development. RWIF has already had a significant impact on the range of support RIS is able to provide academic colleagues, with new posts established including:* Grant Support Officer
* Bid Development Officer
* R&I Accountant
* R&I Policy Officer
* Staff Development Officer
* R&I Contracts and Post-Award Officer
* R&I Impact Officer
* Senior Research Fellows
* Enterprise Champions
* Social Enterprise Champion
* Business Coach / Mentor
* Relationship Managers
* Senior Lecturer in Entrepreneurship

These posts will continue under the new RWIF funding.Alongside this additional physical resource, a budget will be established to provide funding for a range of activities for academic colleagues to engage in to stimulate innovation. These are likely to include the following:* Network Builder – Based on The Strategic Insights Programme (SIP) and designed to facilitate business / university engagement.
* Get Started – To pay for direct costs associated with staff engaging in small scale R&I activities that contribute to key performance indicators.
* IP / Proof of Concept – Funding to support the further identification, development and exploitation of IP, e.g. prototype development costs, patent searches etc.
* Start-ups – Upon acceptance of a robust business case, small amounts of seed funding will be granted to graduate and staff start-ups to cover associated costs. This will supplement the existing external funding Cardiff Met has secured from Santander Universities.
* Public Engagement and Civic Mission Fund – to pay for direct costs of staff engaging with the wider public and having an impact in communities – sharing our work and expertise more widely which may, in turn, create further opportunities.

**Externally – Innovation Groups, Centres and Global Academies**Cardiff Met has a range of innovation groups and centres, each of which sits within one of three Global Academies. These are collaborative and interdisciplinary endeavours bringing together our strengths in research, innovation and teaching to address challenging global priorities and cohere Cardiff Met’s research and education around key themes, positioning these within the global context using the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This positioning is key to enabling engagement and dissemination of Cardiff Met’s expertise to wider audiences to show how we are making a tangible difference in society. In order to maximise the impact of our activity across Wales and the wider UK, the University established an R&I Policy Officer role. The remit of this post is to connect academic staff to policy makers by responding to requests for evidence and targeting the outputs of R&I activity more effectively, focussing initially on the Senedd. The post has already resulted in an academic being invited to give oral evidence at a Senedd committee which may tangibly inform policy and the lives of people in Wales.We will also continue to support the activities of the Wales Innovation Network and would anticipate that at regular intervals we will produce reports for the WIN Board, in partnership with participating institutions, outlining the bids developed with the sector including the number of partners in each bid.  |
| **3.1 Provide details of your institution’s strategic KPIs for commercialisation and income generating activity:** |
| The University’s current Strategy 2030 includes a range of ‘Measures of Success’ that represent the key indicators which are driving performance. Within these, commercialisation is measured primarily by annual turnover from these activities. This institutional target is then broken down further at an individual school level where greater granularity is applied to the respective activities that each school prioritises, e.g. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), grant funding, consultancy etc.The Director of Innovation meets with each School Dean to review R&I performance and set these targets on an annual basis. The current annual targets for the planning period (taken from Strategy 2030) are shown below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR** | **2023-24** | **2024-25** | **2025-26** | **2026-27** | **2027-28** |
| R&I income (£K) | £15.7m | £16.3m | £16.9m | £18.8m | £20.3m |

Within the above institutional KPI, the following additional targets will drive greater impact and outcomes from commercialisation activities:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR** | **2023-24** | **2024-25** | **2025-26** | **2026-27** | **2027-28** |
| Number of knowledge transfer projects (e.g. KTPs) approved | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Income from Collaborative Research - UKRI Research Councils, Royal Society & British Academy (£K) | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,700 | 3,000 | 3,200 |
| Income from Collaborative Research – Other UK Government departments and Innovate UK (£K) | 2,000 | 2,400 | 2,600 | 3,000 | 3,200 |

 |

|  |
| --- |
| **4. New business growth and skills support** *Outline the support you intend to provide for new start-ups, spin-offs, and meeting the targets of schemes such as the WG’s Youth Entrepreneurship Programme. Provide information on where RWIF will add value to existing activities, and where it allows you to invest in further growth. Outline how RWIF will be used to develop a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation for students, graduates and members of staff. Further guidance on this section is available in Circular W23/12HE. Your response should be framed in terms of social and economic prosperity for Wales.* [500 words max] |
| Utilising RWIF funding, Cardiff Met will develop graduates who are equipped for the future and who are able, through their own entrepreneurial activity, or by supporting innovation in employment, to contribute to the aims of the Welsh Government Innovation Strategy, whilst showing a commitment to future economic and social sustainability as set out in the Future Generations Act. Our activity in this area will be delivered through ~~four~~ five strands, underpinned by an overarching commitment to economic, social and environmental sustainability. **1. Integration of enterprise, entrepreneurship and innovation skills in the curriculum.**Our Learning, Teaching and Student Engagement Strategy is underpinned by the need to enable our students to tackle 21st century challenges with entrepreneurial flair, and will be delivered through adding ‘EDGES’ (Ethical, Digital, Global, Entrepreneurial and Sustainable) skills and experiences to the curriculum. We have created a full-time academic role within the Centre for Entrepreneurship to support academic staff in the integration of high-quality enterprise education, rooted in the principles of sustainability, throughout the curriculum. This provision will develop graduates with entrepreneurial skills and confidence. By building a network of enterprise educators who are delivering our academic portfolio, which is oriented towards practice-focused and professional education, we will nurture the entrepreneurial potential in all our students, leading to a greater confidence in their ability to create new organisations and start-ups. Graduates, whether entering industry, the public or third sectors, will be equipped to drive the innovation agenda resulting in stronger public and private sector organisations.1. **Visible extra-curricular activity which will inspire and build community.**

The funding will support Enterprise Champions and a Social Enterprise Champion who will work in collaboration with our academic schools to provide a range of visible extra-curricular activity which is inspiring and relevant to students’ future careers. This activity will include:* Networking and guest speakers
* Workshops and skills sessions
* Test trading and validation opportunities
* Development of online training and resources
* Early-stage funding for ideas
* Support for student societies.

Through our Social Enterprise Champion particular emphasis will be placed on the development of knowledge and skills which will enable graduates to develop sustainable ideas. We will raise the profile of the Circular Economy and the role of business and social enterprise in working towards a sustainable future economy.1. **Start-up and growth support.**

Additional resource will be provided via RWIF to support the start-up and growth of graduate led start-ups, social enterprises and charities. We will continue to deliver a comprehensive support package to student and graduate entrepreneurs which will include the following activity:* 1 to 1 advice and coaching
* Access to near peer and industry mentors
* Annual start-up bootcamps
* Funding for start-ups (provided by Santander)
* Support to enter, and be successful in competitions and awards
* Mini accelerator programmes.
1. **Support for PGR and ECR research led innovation.**

Specific activity will be developed to engage with and support our growing PGR and ECR communities to empower their potential. This will result in additional innovation activity, as well as supporting successful applications to external innovation programmes such as iCure and other strands of Innovate UK funding.1. **Skills for the wider Welsh Community.**

The University is developing links with Further Education (FE) colleges, as evidenced by recent submissions (pending approval) to the Cardiff Capital Region’s Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) calls where we are partnering on Cardiff and the Vale College to enhance digital and circular economy skills within the local community and provide innovation support to the wider Cardiff Business community. The focus on Digital Skills and Circular Economy practices directly links to the Cardiff Met EDGE and to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act in developing populations across Wales for the betterment of the region. Some examples of existing skills projects in the community are below and we plan to expand and capitalise on these over the funding period: * The University has been awarded several SPF projects in South Wales to develop skills in discreet populations, including digital and cyber security skills in those not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and workers in the Vale of Glamorgan and Blaenau Gwent.
* The University is building on our successful delivery of European Social Fund projects and Community Renewal Fund projects which focussed on developing private and public sector worker skills in circular economy using training and the development of communities of practice. New projects will be running in Blaenau Gwent and the Vale of Glamorgan, and funding has been applied for to run the programme throughout Cardiff.
* Our Food Industry Centre lead a consortium involving Grŵp Llandrillo Menai that upskills food and drink industry workers across Wales – another of our key skills initiative to bolster a Welsh Food Sector and that has the added benefit of retaining talent within Wales.

The University will continue to explore ways to upskill and train workers and the general public to equip them with skills for social mobility, career advancement and putting sustainability into practice.  |
| **4.1 Provide details of your institution’s strategic KPIs for new business growth and skills support** |
| The University’s new Strategy 2030 includes a range of ‘Measures of Success’ that represent the key indicators which are driving performance. Within these, new business growth / skills support is measured by the number of graduate start-ups. The current annual targets for the planning period (taken from Strategy 2030) are shown below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR** | **2023-24** | **2024-25** | **2025-26** | **2026-27** | **2027-28** |
| Number of graduate start-ups | 85 | 90 | 94 | 97 | 99 |

 |

|  |
| --- |
| **5. Civic Mission and Public Engagement***Outline how RWIF will support continued or new activity across your communities. Place-based civic mission is broad, incorporating a vast range of activities including support within the community to meet the skills needs of industry, HE-FE partnerships in skills, innovation and engagement, public engagement through research, and helping to address societal challenges. Support for the community within university premises for e.g. events, lectures etc, would also be a means of supporting civic mission. Further guidance on this section is available in Circular W23/12HE. Your response should be framed in terms of social and economic prosperity for Wales.* [500 words max] |
| Cardiff Met’s Civic Mission Strategy focuses on those aspects of the University’s endeavours that bring tangible benefit to a wide range of stakeholders beyond the immediate users and commissioners of the University’s education and research provision. We will augment our established civic mission work and develop new initiatives to further enrich the economic, social, cultural and environmental sustainability and wellbeing of Wales. Through partnerships and collaboration, we will support communities, businesses and industries by extending access to our facilities, talents and resources to play a significant and visible role in helping Wales to prosper.The Strategy is supported by four priorities:1. **Increasing social mobility**

Cardiff Met has an established record of achievement in social mobility evidenced by, among other measures, the high percentage of students who enrol from widening access backgrounds. Increasing social mobility remains a central purpose of the University and is key to the economic prosperity, social cohesion and health and wellbeing of Wales and the wider world. Our partnership with the Purpose Coalition and employers will be expanded to deliver greater graduate employment opportunities and outcomes for our students.1. **Reducing Economic Inequality**

Within Wales the University is focused on reducing economic inequality by increasing local employment and economic activity and working in partnership with students, employers and communities to create employment opportunities, work experience, and support of digital skills, leadership skills and the circular economy.1. **Promoting the Welsh Language and Culture**

Cardiff Met is unequivocal in its support for the Welsh language and Welsh culture and wishes to reflect the diversity of the communities we serve, both locally and nationally, and support their needs by promoting the Welsh language and culture. In addition, wider efforts will be made to engage externally in supporting Welsh language events, organisations and communities, e.g. we will target increased representation on external Boards, Committee and Groups advocating for the Welsh language and Welsh culture.1. **Improving Environmental Sustainability**

Developing education, research and innovation in environmental sustainability in the form of low carbon futures forms one of five Strategic Priorities within Strategy 2030. In addition to developing new taught programmes and an expanded research portfolio in this field, the University will also develop wider reach and influence building on its recent recognition as the top university in the UK People and Planet Green League 2022/23 for ethical and environmental sustainability. Our events on campus that focus on sustainability such as Community Days and Repair Cafes will extend their reach and impact among staff, students and our wider communities. Cardiff Met are partnering with Cwmpas and Swansea University on a number of our Circular Economy skills programmes and are leading the establishment of circular economy communities or practice across Southern Wales. In order to help meet these priorities the University has established an annual Civic Mission/ Public Engagement fund starting in 2023/24 which will enable our academics to take their work and expertise out to local communities. Academics will be asked how their projects align to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act and how their project will tangibly benefit place-based communities.  |
| **5.1 Provide details of your institution’s strategic KPIs for civic mission and public engagement** |
|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR** | **2023-24** | **2024-25** | **2025-26** | **2026-27** | **2027-28** |
| Proportion of Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation students (WIMD40 vs. National Average) | >=0% | >=0% | >=0% | >=0% | >=0% |
| Community engagement in University activities (attendees at public events (HEBCI)) | 20,000 | 30,000 | 40,000 | 50,000 | 60,000 |
| Percentage of Welsh speaking students studying at least 40 credits in Welsh per year | 17% | 20% | 22% | 24% | 26% |

 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Section C: Alignment to policy and priorities****6. Alignment to Welsh and UK Policy** *Describe how your RWIF strategy aligns with relevant place based regional, Welsh, and UK policies such as e.g. local city region / regional growth deals. (See Circular W23/12HE, paragraph 30)* [500 words max] |
| This strategy aligns with Welsh policies in a number of ways, summarised below.* [Innovation strategy for Wales](https://www.gov.wales/innovation-strategy-wales): the Welsh Government recognises the challenges for devolved research and innovation, triggered by the loss of EU structural funds. The national innovation strategy seeks to pivot towards Wales capturing a greater share of UK-wide funding streams, with priority areas developed in collaboration with the Wales Innovation Network. Our strategy aligns with that aim, with an objective to secure greater income from UK-wide sources.
* [First Minister’s priorities for research, development and innovation](https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-five-priorities-research-development-and-innovation): the strategy supports the First Minister’s stated priorities for RD&I. It seeks to address underfunding from UK-wide sources (see above). It also supports the priority of utilising innovation for climate change, environmental recovery and decarbonisation, with the UN Sustainable Development Goals having provided the context for our Global Academies and our civic mission seeking to address environmental sustainability.
* [Programme for Government](https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/programme-for-government-update-december-2021.pdf): the programme is clear innovation will need to support the drive towards decarbonisation and renewable technologies. As above, we are embedding sustainability in our Global Academies, curricula and civic mission.
* [Cardiff Capital Region investment prospectus](https://www.cardiffcapitalregion.wales/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ccr-investment-prospectus.pdf): the Cardiff Capital Region has an aim to build “R&D focussed solutions to regional challenges working in collaboration with our Universities and their partners”. The prospectus seeks to align skills provision with the future needs of key sectors. Our EDGES programme will ensure students gain experience, knowledge, confidence and resilience to prepare them for their working life, with our School of Technologies playing a key role for the region.

In terms of wider UK polices, there are also a number of synergies. * [Levelling up white paper](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom): the UK Government has a new target of increasing public R&D spending by 40% outside the ‘Golden Triangle’ of England’s Greater Southeast. This complements the UK Government’s overall target of R&D spending being equivalent to 2.4% of GDP by 2027 (to be replaced with a new target) and subsequent large increases to the UKRI budget. As above, our strategy and KPIs include greater capture of UKRI funding and, as per the Wales innovation strategy, we will take advantage of UK targets to drive up Wales’s share of UK-wide sources.
* [UK Innovation Strategy](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1009577/uk-innovation-strategy.pdf): Universities are at the heart of the UK Government’s innovation strategy. The enhanced support for staff will allow us to build on the success of the region’s Strength in Places award for media.cymru, while also improving our established record in start-ups.
* [Nurse review of the RD&I landscape](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1141484/rdi-landscape-review.pdf): the second recommendation of Nurse’s recent review is for universities to “develop plans to optimise their operations in support of research, to empower researchers and reduce their administrative loads, and to improve the quality of support services, core technical facilities, and well-found laboratory buildings and infrastructures”. RWIF will be used to enhance such support, ensuring staff can keep pace with the UK’s evolving RD&I landscape.
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **7. Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015***Provide specific information on how the RWIF strategy will support the seven goals, and five ways of working in* [*the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015*](https://www.futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/)*;*[250 words max] |
| Alignment with each of the seven goals and five ways of working are covered individually below.Seven Goals:1. **A Prosperous Wales:** Upscaling of knowledge exchange work via e.g. KTPs, developing new industry collaborations via e.g. Network Builder projects and increasing spinouts / graduate start-ups.
2. **A Resilient Wales:** Supporting more research with potential impact including using natural resources efficiently to make the environment healthier, for example research into producing low-carbon housing built from Welsh resources.
3. **A More Equal Wales:** Extending the reach of research such as Somantics - which promotes self-awareness, confidence and independence for young people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions.

 1. **A Healthier Wales:** The Health & Human Performance Global Academy has a number of key foci that align with this goal, including health, wellbeing and fitness.
2. **A Wales of Cohesive Communities:** Cardiff Met’s Strategy 2030, Priority 1 is to bring renewed emphasis to cultural change, using our values and behaviours as our foundation. The focus will be on strengthening our culture of belonging and becoming throughout our staff and student community. We will build on our Athena Swan and Race Equality Charter work, and we will continue to lead the debate on eliminating harassment, hate crime and violence within higher education, gathering and sharing good practice and acting as a champion of change not only in higher education but more broadly.
3. **A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language:** Relevant research with innovation potential includes the [Welsh Centre for Tourism Research](https://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/management/research/wctr/Pages/default.aspx) and Arts & Crafts research.

 1. **A Globally Responsible Wales:** As well as the sustainability and social enterprise research mentioned immediately above, we have research with innovation potential in Block Chain and supply chain management.

Five ways of working1. **Long-term:** By using RWIF to invest in human resource to grow the University’s innovation capacity, which in turn will generate income to be reinvested.

 1. **Integration:** The University’s Health & Wellbeing committee is chaired by a PVC. It considers a range of factors, including how our well-being objectives may impact well-being goals and their objectives.
2. **Involvement:** A key element of this plan generally and the Global Academies in particular is to widen the pool of staff involved in innovation. This includes a range of staff with wellbeing interests.
3. **Collaboration:** One of the prime goals of Global Academies is to foster interdisciplinarity, cooperation and collaboration across disciplines, inside and outside the University.
4. **Prevention:** A number of the R&I projects mentioned above involve preventing problems getting worse. For example, the [LAUGH](https://www.laughproject.info/) project seeks to slow the advance of dementia, a disease which is projected to one of the largest challenges to society.
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **8. Impact on Welsh Language***Outline the positive impact RWIF investment will have on opportunities to use and support the Welsh language. Where appropriate you may wish to refer to the themes in the* [*Cymraeg 2050*](https://gov.wales/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy-action-plan-2019-2020) *action plan.*[250 words max] |
| Cardiff Met has set itself an ambitious target in relation to the % of its Welsh speaking students studying through the medium of Welsh, and RWIF funding will be used to continue Cardiff Met’s drive to provide encouragement and support to those wishing to engage with and through the medium of Welsh. This drive will focus particularly on the workstreams associated with the delivery of Themes 2 and 3 of the Welsh Government’s *Cymraeg* 2050 action plan, i.e. *increasing the use of Welsh*, and *creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context*.To strategically increase the use of Welsh by staff, students and the public, Cardiff Met has appointed strategic leads for Welsh medium provision at each academic school and Welsh language coordinators in each professional service. These new roles ensure that statutory obligations are used as a baseline for Welsh medium provision and services with Cardiff Met always aiming to go above and beyond compliance to offer excellent service in Welsh wherever possible. RIS has worked closely with the University’s Welsh Language Unit and the strategic leads at each academic school to mainstream the *Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol* postgraduate research scholarship scheme into the planning cycles of the University. This has allowed the University to secure four out of the ten research scholarships available to all HEIs across Wales for 2023/24. This is by far and away the most success that Cardiff Met has had whilst applying for this scheme and takes the number of successful applications over the years to 17. All previous 13 scholarships have led to new academic staff delivering through the medium of Welsh which is also the aim of the four new scholarships.  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Section D: Use of Research Wales Innovation Funding***How is your RWIF allocation 2023/24 being used to deliver the strategy set out in Section B, and what are your anticipated priorities for the use of RWIF funds in future years?* [250 words max – or append a table outlining broad investment areas] |
| The majority of ingoing RWIF funding is committed to continue supporting the costs of new posts created during RWIF 1. The balance will be used to cover non-staff expenditure to facilitate interactions between the University and wider business community. In addition to the activities outlined in question three, funding will be provided to support other activities, including international staff mobility linked to applied research and innovation (via TAITH) and interdisciplinary applied research and innovation via Global Academies. Funding will also be used to support our engagement with the Wales Innovation Network, Cardiff Capital Region and other relevant regional initiatives.  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Section E:****Regulatory Requirements***NB: HEFCW may request further information / clarification on any of these areas* |
| 1. [Welsh Language Standards (2018)](https://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/public-organisations/compliance-notices)

*[Use the drop down menu]* | This strategy complies with Welsh Language Standards 2018 |
| 1. Equality Impact Assessment

*[Use the drop down menu]* | This strategy has been Equality Impact Assessed |
| 1. [Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015)](https://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/)

*[Use the drop down menu]* | This strategy will contribute towards the aims of the WFG Act 2015 |
| **I confirm that the University is committed to the principles of the Knowledge Exchange Concordat and is fully committed to its eight guiding principles.**  |
| **Signature:****Vice Chancellor** | Diagram  Description automatically generated |
| **Date** | 27 June 2023 |