

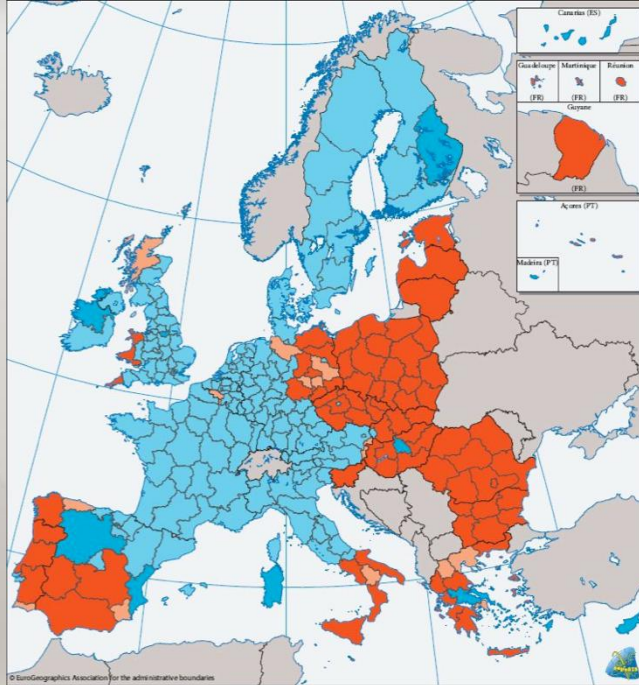
sgiliau uwch cymru higherskills wales

WHEB ROUND TABLE EVENT

12th April, Tŷ Cymru, Brussels



WEST WALES & THE VALLEYS



FACTS & FIGURE

- 4 Projects;
 - Work Based Learning
 - Foundation Degrees
 - Access To Masters
 - Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships
- 3 Project Leads;
- 10 University Partners
- 5 years of provision;
- Combined project value of £104m/€118m;
- Target of 10,770 participants;
- All Wales approach;
- Shared governance and oversight.



CONTEXT

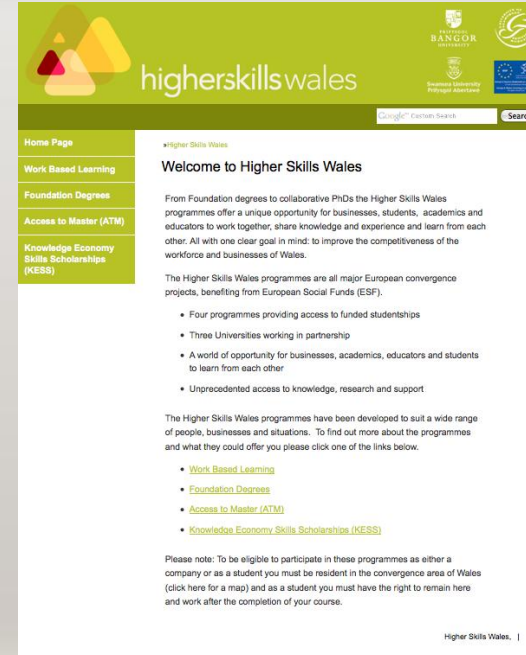
- ESF West Wales & the Valleys Convergence Programme:
 - **Priority 3**
Improving skills levels and the adaptability of the workforce
 - **Theme 2**
Skills for the Knowledge Economy
- Lowest GVA of any of the UK's regions.
- Demand from employers;
 - Sector Skills Councils
- Economic Renewal Programme (ERP) and Welsh Assembly Government's Priority Economic Sector:
 - ICT, Energy & Environment, Advanced Materials & Manufacturing, Creative Industries, Life Sciences, Financial & Professional Services.
- Fit with Europe 2020 and the Innovation Union;
- Integrated progression routes for Higher-level skills;



WEBSITE

sgiliau uwch cymru
higherskills wales

- www.higherskillswales.co.uk
- Mini sites for:
 - Foundation Degrees
 - Work Based Learning
 - Access To Masters
 - Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Higherskills Wales website. The header features the 'higherskillswales' logo, the University of Bangor logo, and the European Union flag. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is titled 'Welcome to Higher Skills Wales' and includes a brief introduction, a list of four key features, and a list of links to various program pages. A footer note provides eligibility criteria for the programs.

Home Page

- Work Based Learning
- Foundation Degrees
- Access to Master (ATM)
- Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS)

Welcome to Higher Skills Wales

From Foundation degrees to collaborative PhDs the Higher Skills Wales programmes offer a unique opportunity for businesses, students, academics and educators to work together, share knowledge and experience and learn from each other. All with one clear goal in mind: to improve the competitiveness of the workforce and businesses of Wales.

The Higher Skills Wales programmes are all major European convergence projects, benefiting from European Social Funds (ESF).

- Four programmes providing access to funded studentships
- Three Universities working in partnership
- A world of opportunity for businesses, academics, educators and students to learn from each other
- Unprecedented access to knowledge, research and support

The Higher Skills Wales programmes have been developed to suit a wide range of people, businesses and situations. To find out more about the programmes and what they could offer you please click one of the links below.

- [Work Based Learning](#)
- [Foundation Degrees](#)
- [Access to Master \(ATM\)](#)
- [Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships \(KESS\)](#)

Please note: To be eligible to participate in these programmes as either a company or as a student you must be resident in the convergence area of Wales (click here for a map) and as a student you must have the right to remain here and work after the completion of your course.

Higher Skills Wales, |



The footer banner features the 'sgiliau uwch cymru higherskillswales' logo on the left, the European Union flag in the center, and the text 'ESF' and 'Europe & Wales: Investing in your Future' on the right.

sgiliau uwch cymru higherskillswales

ESF

Europe & Wales: Investing in your Future
Europe's Social Fund

SUSTAINABILITY

- Continuity of activity post 2014;
- Changing how Universities engage with employers and deliver higher-level skills;
- Knowledge and Skills exchange;
- Embedding best practice into Welsh Universities;
- Impact and a lasting legacy to the Convergence area;
- Transnational Opportunities;





WORK BASED LEARNING
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
DYSGU SEILIEDIG AR WAITH

WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMME

WHEB ESF Roundtable Event
12th April 2011, Ty Cymru, Brussels



What is WBL?

- ❖ Provide access to Higher Education for those living in/and or working across the Welsh Convergence Area
- ❖ Raise standards in knowledge, skills and workplace competencies in Welsh businesses
- ❖ Flexible delivery in small bite sized modules
- ❖ Progression routes for those who want to re-enter HE
- ❖ Tailored to meet the needs of the workplace
- ❖ Contribute to the Leitch review target of 40% of the Welsh population qualified at Level 4 and above



WORK BASED LEARNING
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
DYSGU SEILIEDIG AR WAITH



WBL: FACTS & FIGURES

- ❖ £34 million project
- ❖ Collaboration with Universities and Further Education Colleges
- ❖ Working with business across the Welsh Convergence region
- ❖ Working in collaboration with Sector Skills Councils

Project Outputs	CONVERGENCE
Participants Accessing level 4+	7,600
Employers Assisted	950
Participants gaining Qualifications	5,320



WORK BASED LEARNING
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
DYSGU SEILIEDIG AR WAITH



CASE STUDY: THE PROFESSIONAL ACADEMY

- **HEI:** University of Glamorgan
- **Duration:** Sept 2010-Dec 2014
- **Dept:** Faculty of Advanced Technology



- Power station in Iceland. Ívarsson, G. (2006) File:NesjavellirPowerPlant edit2.jpg. Available at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:NesjavellirPowerPlant_edit2.jpg (Accessed 25/02/2011)



WORK BASED LEARNING
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
DYSGU SEILIEDIG AR WAITH



OVERVIEW

- Provide the opportunity for participants to gain cutting edge skills through flexible, bite sized learning in topics such as Health & Safety, Carbon management and Lean Manufacturing
- Structured and defined learning programmes with time to train, delivered in the workplace
- Provide a competitive edge to the Welsh workforce in the targeted sectors



Image taken from Glamorgan University marketing.



WORK BASED LEARNING
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
DYSGU SEILIEDIG AR WAITH



PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

University Benefits

- Piloting and Implementing new technologies to enhance the student learning experience
- Engaging with new companies that were previously reluctant to 'release' employees for study
- Ongoing links with employer potential for further collaboration

Employer Benefits

- Up skilled employees are more productive
- No 'lost opportunity' costs: employees can study in the workplace at times to suit their demanding workload
- Bite-sized learning which allows up-skilling of the workforce in a short amount of time



WORK BASED LEARNING
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
DYSGU SEILIEDIG AR WAITH



UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Live Streaming of Lectures - What participants say

I had looked at courses during previous years but could not sign up due to work commitments. Now that I can catch the lectures directly in work or play them back later I can now achieve my career ambitions

Lee Robinson – FKI Switchgear

Watching the lecture live from work has been very beneficial. I sometimes can't find the time to make it to campus due to workplace emergencies as I am the group Health and Safety officer, I can now tune in from my office and don't feel like I've missed a thing

Helen Pople – Contour Aircraft Seating

I watched the lecture directly from work and was able to ask the lecturer questions in the way that I would if I had been present – what a great way to learn

Hywel Woolf –Jacobs Baptie



WORK BASED LEARNING
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
DYSGU SEILIEDIG AR WAITH





FOUNDATION DEGREE
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
GRADD SYLFAEN

FOUNDATION DEGREE PROGRAMME

WHEB ESF Roundtable Event
12th April 2011, Ty Cymru, Brussels



What is a Foundation Degree?

- ❖ Provide access to Higher Education for those living in/and or working across the Welsh Convergence Area
- ❖ Raise standards in knowledge, skills and workplace competencies in Welsh businesses
- Give participants the opportunity to complete an alternative qualification to undergraduate degrees and HNDs, giving hands-on work experience and to help develop practical skills to enrich their careers
- ❖ Tailored to meet the needs of the workplace
- ❖ Contribute to the Leitch review target of 40% of the Welsh population qualified at Level 4 and above



FOUNDATION DEGREE
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
GRADD SYLFAEN



FD: FACTS & FIGURES

- ❖ £16.5 million project
- ❖ Collaboration with Universities and Further Education Colleges
- ❖ Working with business across the Welsh Convergence region
- ❖ Working in collaboration with Sector Skills Councils

Project Outputs	CONVERGENCE
Participants Accessing	1,330
Employers Assisted	133
Participants gaining Qualifications	1,064



FOUNDATION DEGREE
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
GRADD SYLFAEN



CASE STUDY: FD IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

- ❖ **HEI:** University of Glamorgan
- ❖ **FEI:** Coleg Morgannwg
- ❖ **Duration:** Sept 2010 – Dec 2014
- ❖ **Dept:** Engineering and Advanced Technology



FOUNDATION DEGREE
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
GRADD SYLFAEN



FD IN AEROSPACE OVERVIEW

- ❖ Train and develop people with the appropriate general skills to meet the technical demands of the Aerospace Sector
- ❖ Provide a choice of studies to secure a career development pathway to support further personal advancement and job security within the Aerospace sector
- ❖ To apply new knowledge and understanding to solve sector related problems and enhance the development of the students' essential and interpersonal skills



FOUNDATION DEGREE
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
GRADD SYLFAEN



PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

University & College Benefits

- Opportunity to showcase the University's and College's expertise in the Aerospace industry
- Working in collaboration with a leading international company
- Potential to become leaders in this field
- A new audience of potential graduates accessing training through e-learning modules

Employer Benefits

- A Foundation Degree is a full University qualification, equivalent to the first two years of an honours degree
- Opportunity for "Recognition of Prior Learning" (RPL) as well as "Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning" (APEL) together with recognition of "Employer-Based Training Accreditation" (EBTA)
- Designed to combine traditional academic study with workplace learning , equipping participants with relevant knowledge and skills to improve performance and productivity



FOUNDATION DEGREE
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
GRADD SYLFAEN



WHAT THE INDUSTRY SAYS

- The Foundation Degree is an ideal opportunity for employees to advance their academic qualifications
- Higher qualified staff can then progress within the company both within the direct workforce in terms of team leadership, specialist work teams and also into engineering management roles

We consider that a Foundation Degree qualification in Aerospace Engineering would provide an excellent progression route for our employees. The FD programme will be delivered in an innovative way using E-Learning and work-based experience together. We are pleased to support this

Human Resources leader, major aerospace company

This gives me the opportunity to extend my knowledge of the engines and systems to a higher level

Foundation Degree student



FOUNDATION DEGREE
PROGRAMME RHAGLEN
GRADD SYLFAEN



atm

Access to Masters
Mynediad i Radd Meistr



Access to Masters (ATM) is a Convergence ESF programme led by Swansea University, in partnership with 8 other Welsh Universities. At the launch of this programme the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, said *"Access to Masters represents a crucial step in ensuring that high calibre students are equipped with the skills required to take up employment in local businesses."*

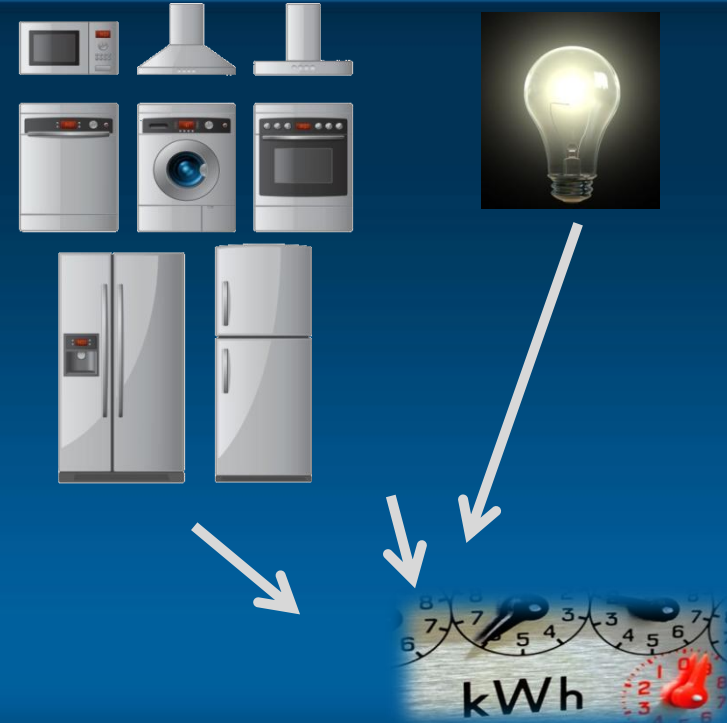


Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe



CASE STUDY: DEVELOPING TOOLS FOR SMART ELECTRICITY METERING

- Company (SME): MyWebEdge
Project: Web based application to manage/ interpret energy utility readings
- Student: Andy Tung
Academic Supervisor: Petarlgic
The Task: Develop a Java web based application of algorithms to analyse electrical energy usage data & display as consumption patterns



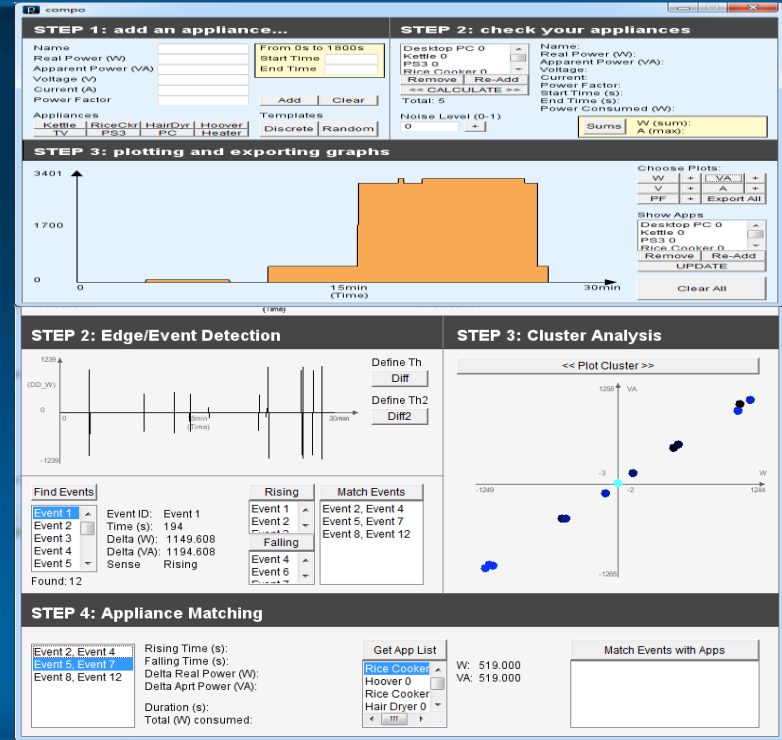
THE BENEFIT TO THE STUDENT

- Business Awareness of energy supply industry
- High level Java programming skills for enterprise applications systems - Sun Microsystems, GlassFish server & Java EE SDK
- Graphical User Interfaces design skills
- Experience of working in a local SME
- Tuition fees and stipend paid



THE IMPACT

- Development of an internet based program enabling direct user upload of power consumption data
- Energy savings through reduction in consumer use by targeting individual appliances
- Evidence of up-skilling for industry
- Fit with Policy agenda



WHY RUN ATM THROUGH UNIVERSITIES?

- Swansea University's excellent track record in delivering taught masters and of working with industry
- Good fit with Swansea research and teaching strengths & those of partner Universities
- Universities re-focusing activity on economic development and regional R&D priorities
- The students in the region benefit from training

atm



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe



Erwyd & Chymraeg: Boddoldeb yn eink Elyddol
Creadu Ffyrddoldeb Ewropeaig
Europe & Wales: Investing in your Future
European Social Fund



Ysgoloriaethau Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth
Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships

Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships

WHEB ESF Roundtable Event

12th April 2011, Tŷ Cymru, Brussels



Ysgoloriaethau Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth
Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships



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BANGOR
UNIVERSITY



What is KESS?

A portfolio of ESF supported collaborative research projects and high level skills training undertaken with businesses based in the Convergence area of Wales and linked to the 4 Welsh priority R&D sectors:

1. **KESSMini** (Research Masters)
2. **KESSMaxi** (PhD)
3. **Postgraduate Skills Award** - all KESS scholars undertake research, business and innovation skills training as part of their scholarships

kess 

Ysgolrfaethau Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth
Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships



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UNIVERSITY



KESS: facts & figures

- £33/€37.5 million total project costs;
- 220 PhDs / 200 Masters;
- 146 live scholarships (March 11);
- 9 University Partners across Wales;
- Micro Companies, SMEs, Large Companies and 3rd and Public Sector Organisations are all eligible project partners;
- Low cost for participating companies: £2.5-3.5k / €2.9-4.1 p.a.
- Students must be based in the Convergence Region on application.
- IP retained by University – exploitable by company at the end of the project through a separate license agreement.

kess 

Ysgolrfaethau Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth
Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships



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Case Study: Blizzard Survival



kess 

Ygoloriaethau Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth
Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships



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Case Study: Blizzard Survival

HEI: Bangor University

Duration: Oct.2009 – Nov. 2012

Dept: School of Sport Science,
Health and Exercise Sciences

Company: Blizzard Extreme

Student: Jennifer Brierley

Priority Sector: Advanced
Manufacturing and
Engineering

Research Project:

Testing the efficacy of Blizzard
Survival's blanket product and
Reflexcell™ material.

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Ysgolwrtaethau Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth
Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships



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Case Study: University benefits

- Novel use of existing lab facilities and application of research strengths;
- Strong collaboration with an award winning locally based company operating globally;
- REF returnable research;
- Development of an early career researcher;
- Collaboration enhanced with complimentary Under Graduate projects

kess 

Ygoloriaethau Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth
Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships



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OBJECTIVES & DELIVERABLES

- ESF supported collaborative research project (£20.5 million)
- Taught Masters skills training for 1305 participants
- Linked to businesses based in the Convergence area of Wales
- Up-skilling students to enter Wales' priority R&D sectors:-
The digital economy, the low carbon economy, health and biosciences, and advanced engineering and manufacturing

atm



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe



Errolwg a Chymorth Budeudolwg yn einch Ewropeol
Cwmwl Ffurfio'r Ewro
Europe & Wales: Investing in your Future
European Social Fund

Case Study: Blizzard Survival

Company Benefits

- Profile & Publicity;
- Potential endorsement via academic study with published results;
- Impact on product development;
- Ongoing links with department and University.

Student Benefits

- Skills development:
 - Managing lab and testing
 - Leading and coordinating research team
 - Experience of sales marketing of Blizzard's products
 - Public communication of the research
- Profile and publicity

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Ysgolwrtaethau Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth
Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships



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THANK YOU / DIOLCHYNFAWR

www.higherskills.wales.co.uk

