

University of the West of Scotland

Interim Outcome Agreement 2020-21

This Interim Outcome Agreement provides an in year update on how the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) is delivering on key sector priorities and outcomes for students, for research, for economic recovery and social renewal and for responsive and collaborative institutions during the emergency period.

Following extensive consultation with staff, students and stakeholders, UWS launched its new Strategy for 2020-2025 in early 2020, setting out priorities in three areas: learning and teaching, distinctive research and innovation and communities and society. The new Strategy 2020-25 articulates UWS' priorities in the coming years and these align closely with those of the Scottish Government.

The first section of this report is structured around the SFC's Outcome and Impact Framework AY 2020-21:

- Outcomes for Students
- Outcomes for Research
- Outcomes for Economic Recovery and Social Renewal
- Responsive and Collaborative

This is followed by an outline of the regional contribution made by all four Scottish campuses. UWS' UIF Mid-Year Report and National Measures Table are included in the appendices.

Outcomes for Students

Fair access and transitions

UWS already exceeds the 2026 target as Scotland's leading widening participation university. This success is significantly enabled through the effective deployment of Widening Access and Retention Funding, resulting in positive impact on students' lives across the South and West of Scotland.

The proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from the 20% most deprived postcodes was 29.8% in 2019-20 (CoWA measure), an increase of 1.5 percentage points from the previous year. UWS intends to maintain the proportion of students from SIMD20 postcodes above 25% over the emergency period, which substantially increases the Scottish sector's overall proportion and ability to meet the 2026 target.

UWS is the largest provider of articulation opportunities in Scotland and provides a smooth learner journey for students to articulate from college into level 8 or level 9.

At this point in 2020-21 over two-thirds (68.4%) of all college entrants achieved 'advanced standing'. While this was a slight dip from 2019-20 (70.7%) it exceeds the year before that (66.7%). According to the SFC's recent articulation report, in 2018-19 almost two-thirds (66%) gained Advanced Standing at UWS (1231/1852) in

comparison to 55.4% across the sector (4,469/8,060). Securing smooth transitions for students requires extensive partnership working between academic and professional services at the university and in our eight partner colleges, and WARF funding is a critical support for this. There is a considerable investment in time and resources to engage with students at partner colleges to prepare them for university study. 2020 saw radical changes to the processes of student induction and transition from colleges was a key element of this – with targeted support and communications, to recognise the impact on Covid-19 on student community building.

The pandemic has resulted in all outreach activity taking place online, including Routes for All, Scottish Widening Access Programme (SWAP) and support for care experienced students. School leavers and College applicants have received information through virtual events from small class presentations to larger webinars and a virtual interactive Open Day for 1500 people held in October. These virtual events have been very successful with larger numbers able to engage online platform than would regularly be able to visit campus and offer the flexibility to be completed in pupils own time. However, there is no substitute for face to face activities, which involve interaction and group based work, and virtual delivery relies upon applicants having access to the appropriate technology and knowing how to use it.

UWS is committed to supporting care experienced students, estranged students and student carers. The University has developed a wide range of support services, embedded within our provision, to ensure that all students fulfil their potential.

For 2020-21 transition events were provided for students with care experience, student carers and estranged students, along with tailored advice and guidance, pre entry virtual events and regular communications. In addition care experienced students, student carers and estranged students at UWS are offered one to one sessions and virtual drop in sessions. Our named contacts for these students are Alison Hillis and Mary Young, who can be contacted via email at WeCare@uws.ac.uk.

UWS has a strong tradition of working with care experienced applicants and students and details of our commitment and support can be found in the University's [Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-2021](#). In 2020-21 the University was happy to offer the [Care Experienced Grant](#) to support eligible students with the one-off costs that often occur at the start of term, when embarking on a new course of study.

The University has taken The Stand Alone Pledge which helps institutions to support estranged students by providing a public commitment to improving policies and increasing support for students studying without a family network.

UWS is currently working towards the Aim Higher Award for Student Carers through the Carers Trust Scotland. A Carers Fund for staff has been established to provide financial support to attend conferences or events outside their normal work pattern that they might not otherwise be able to attend due to caring responsibilities, whether this be for children, elderly or disabled relatives. This is also an area of active

research at UWS, with a recent [report authored in partnership with Oxfam Scotland](#) highlighting the difficulties those with caring responsibilities in Scotland face, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic.

Quality learning and teaching

Through detailed preparations for academic year 2020-21, UWS has developed a hybrid learning model combining online teaching and engagement and high-quality on-campus learning, where government guidance allows. UWS invested in a new learning experience platform to provide dedicated one-to-one support for academic colleagues in creating high-quality hybrid teaching and learning for students. This extends the reach and impact of UWS from our 'place' across the south and west of Scotland to right-place, right-time learning for each student.

Given the restrictions around face to face teaching this year, retention is a key priority within UWS. The University has been proactive in collating data to identify if students are engaging with their programmes. Through the use of learning analytics, an early warning system has been developed to enable professional services and personal tutors to intervene and support students at risk of non-retention – this is outlined further below.

Student and staff wellbeing has been a top priority at during this time. Academic members of the University's Wellbeing Committee have created a new resource that sets out ideas to consider when seeking to enhance student wellbeing through learning design and practice at UWS. The collaborative project focuses on topics including: learning spaces, design of learning, assessment and feedback and learning relationships.

In 2021, a series of 'student community building' projects are being implemented to seek to build better connections between students, regardless of physical separation. The UWS student demographics – with a high proportion of commuting students, mature students and students from SIMD20/40 backgrounds – means that a far lower percentage of students stay in student residences than at other institutions. The impact of Covid-19 in further separating and isolating students from the broader student community. The investment – of over £200k, not including the dedication of staff time – includes developing effective digital buddy systems, collaborative creative academies, student-led conferences and events, and online games and team-tasks.

Overall satisfaction in the National Student Survey (NSS) increased to 84.9% in 2019. This exceeded our benchmark by 3.2 percentage points (81.7%) and matched the Scottish average (85%). As evidence of UWS' commitment to systematically enhancing the student experience, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor initiated a series of programme-by-programme meetings to interrogate student feedback and to agree action plans for improvement. A Positive Practice Workshop, taking place virtually in January, has been designed to share a number of good practices from across the University, which were identified during the fruitful NSS discussion series last year with the hope of rolling them out in as many areas as is practicable.

Learning with impact

The Strategy 2025 set out the aim to 'deliver world-ready graduates who will design, shape and build a new future' and this focus will inform pedagogical and curricula change.

Work with industry takes place across the institution, with formal placements, live consultancy projects, workplace visits, curriculum input, networking events and mentoring opportunities just some of the examples of employer engagement. The Careers team are delivering a virtual Industry Insights series to support students and recent graduates to engage with employers on a range of topics including Prepare to Impress, A Day in the Life of a Leadership Graduate, Entrepreneurial Thinking and Virtual Workplace Practice. This delivers a vibrant, distinctive UWS experience in a digital space.

UWS has always been committed to helping people upskill and reskill, which will continue through the emergency period. The University's new CPD unit provides courses for business partners free of charge to address their most pressing skills development needs. In addition the CPD team now have over 150 short courses (see cpd.uws.ac.uk) and have developed a pipeline of over £300K of new CPD income for 2020-21.

Equalities and inclusion

The Strategy 2025 outlines our commitment to equality and diversity and our ambition to create an inclusive culture which celebrates difference and unlocks the talent in our staff and students. UWS published an interim update on progress of the 2017 [Public Sector Equality Duty \(PSED\) and Mainstreaming and Equality Report](#) in April 2019 and will report again in April 2021.

Work to create an inclusive university is continuing throughout the emergency period. As a university, UWS made a commitment along with colleges and universities from across Scotland by signing the Anti-Racism declaration acknowledging that racism exists in all higher education campuses and that we must unite in solidarity to take action. We continue to be committed to creating change in society and our community on issues of racism, discrimination and prejudice of all kinds and continue to strive for an equal, diverse and inclusive academic community. Fifteen female students from UWS have been selected to take part in a Scotland-wide programme providing mentorship and inspiration for young women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). The Dell STEM Aspire programme is now in its fourth year and will take place online for the first time.

Widening Access Retention Funding

Support for widening access and retention is mainstreamed across UWS, given the central importance of this to the institution.

As noted in Strategy 2025, “UWS is a place where ability, not background, matters. UWS will continue to be one of the UK’s most successful widening access universities and will develop sophisticated mechanisms to identify and support students to successfully complete their studies.”

The continued widening access funding contributes to the effective – but time-intensive – support for applicants from diverse backgrounds to secure entry to UWS. As outlined in our admissions statement, our long-standing contextual approach to admissions considers each applicant on their individual merit considering not only their qualifications but their life experience, work experience and background the applicants potential to succeed.

This individualised approach to application assessment is supported, for some groups of students, with dedicated and considerable additional support from pre-entry through the student lifecycle. This reflects the understanding at UWS that transition-support is essential to ensuring student success. A detailed outline of the ‘We Care’ team and the support provided to care experienced, estranged and carer applicants and students is outlined above and through the [information pages](#). As outlined above, there is ongoing work to build and validate UWS’ expertise in this area – building on high-levels of success. As noted in the 2019-20 Self Evaluation Review, The proportion of full-time first year Scotland-domiciled entrants who are care experienced returning to study in year two continues to improve (NM 5). 93.0% return in year two, up 3.5 percentage points and higher than non-care experienced students (85.6%).

Preserving student engagement and improving retention for all is a primary focus in 2020-21.

In 2020, a Student Engagement Team was established in response to Covid-19 and the rapid pivot to hybrid learning. It was recognised that an increase in online learning posed a risk to all students, but particularly to students from SIMD20/40 backgrounds who are more likely to experience digital poverty or lack appropriate study space when not permitted to attend campuses. This small team were supported by the rapid development of a student engagement dashboard which used online-engagement metrics to identify students at greatest risk of non-retention. During Term 1 this team spent 137 hours speaking with students, and through this were able to directly support students, refer 97 students on to specific support systems (e.g. funding and advice, counselling, subject-specialist). Students who experienced this support reflected on the positive impact:

- 93% of students said they were pleased to get a call from UWS.
- 83% of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement ‘I feel better prepared to continue my studies’ as a result of the call with the Student Success team.

- After a call from the Student Success team 92% of students who completed the survey agreed or strongly agreed with the statement I feel better informed about the support and services available to me.
- 71% of students who completed the survey said they wouldn't have known where to find the help they needed if they had not received a call

In 2021-22 the University plans to develop a new range of access based programmes to further support its widening participation activity. This is likely to involve partnership with organisations such as the Scottish Wider Access Partnership as well as local authorities and schools across the UWS regional footprint.

Outcomes for Research

Research Excellence

The Strategy 2025 outlines ambitions for UWS to develop distinctive research and innovation aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with priority areas including ageing, sport, health, economics and the future of work and care. The Strategy also commits to investing in our postgraduate research community through our Doctoral College, encouraging students to create knowledge through career-enriching developmental opportunities.

UWS continues to produce excellent research outputs that reach beyond academia. Three major EU Horizon 2020 awards granted have recently been awarded to academics in the School of Computing Engineering and Physical Sciences. UWS won the Times Higher Education 2020 Award for the ground-breaking AI drone technology partnership with multinational firm Thales. The partnership has developed AI technology deployed in Police Scotland's remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) to find missing people in remote areas. The research is an example demonstrating impact beyond academia.

Research Sustainability

UWS has successfully passed the four year review to retain the HR Excellence in Research Award for progress towards implementation of the 2008 Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

The pandemic has had a considerable impact on the PGR community, but students and associated staff have shown incredible resilience. Induction is now fully online as is the full training schedule for both staff and students, with local initiatives like Teachmeet in the School of Business and Creative Industries providing additional informal support to ensure students continue to feel part of a vibrant research community. The University is holding a series of creative workshops for research students to have a social, recuperative space during lockdown and encourage the conditions that may lead to "eureka" moments.

UWS invests significant funds in research, through the VP Fund for Research and Enterprise Excellence, an Annual Studentship Call and various responsive mode funds. To support Early Career Researchers (ECR), all funded projects are required to include ECR staff in the delivery team and the University offers funds such as the Returners Fund and Bridging Fund to help staff who are returning to work after a career break re-establish their research activities or who have been on a series of fixed term contracts deal with any gaps in funding.

UWS has 35 active KTP projects with a combined value in excess of £7 million, placing UWS as third in the UK and number one in Scotland by size of its KTP portfolio. UWS also ranks first in the UK for management KTPs.

Outcomes for Economic Recovery and Social Renewal

Responsive institutions

UWS commits to offering flexible, innovative courses, which equip students with graduate-level skills to thrive in the adaptable workplace of the 21st century in the Strategy 2025. A comprehensive review of the taught portfolio will be led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 2020-21. The review will inform the development of a UWS Curriculum Framework setting out the hallmarks of a UWS degree, enable greater flexibility of learning paths and deliver efficient, market-attuned programmes for 2021-22.

Work ready

In 2020, the first graduate outcomes survey showed that 76.9% of UWS graduates were in highly-skilled employment fifteen months after graduation. UWS was ranked 3rd in Scotland for the percentage of graduates who reported they were utilising their degree knowledge and skills in their current role and joint 3rd for graduates who report their current activity is meaningful.

UWS invested in a student innovation hub in early 2020-21. Short course materials are being developed and delivered and a start-up competition campaign will be launched, with prizes for the competition winners funded from the UWS Innovation Fund. During the pilot year colleagues from across UWS have been asked to consider how our academic programmes can engage with the student innovation hub and UWS aims to launch a full programme for our entire student body starting in September 2021.

Innovation

See UIF in Appendix 1.

Responsive and Collaborative

Public Health Emergency

UWS has been responsive to the emerging situation and quick to adapt to changing guidance from the Scottish Government. Regular communications are shared with students and staff providing updates and up-to-date information is available in a central place on the UWS website (see <https://www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/academic-year-202021/covid-19-information/>) and staff intranet pages.

The mental health and wellbeing of students is top priority for the University. Counselling is available to all students at UWS and the only change during the Covid-19 pandemic is that sessions are now held by phone or online. Student Wellbeing are running a series of wellbeing workshops, covering topics such as stress, anxiety, building and nurturing relationships during Covid-19 and sleep support. The Vice President of Welfare and Wellbeing at the Students' Union holds a weekly online drop in surgery open to all students.

Climate Emergency

The Strategy 2025 outlines the ambitious target to reduce emissions and be net zero by 2040, ahead of the Scottish Government's target of 2045. The University achieved its previous corporate target to reduce carbon emissions by 20% (compared with the 2012-13 baseline) three years ahead of target and continues to make significant improvements.

The Lanarkshire campus, which opened to students in September 2018, is a carbon neutral development, powered by 100% renewable energy from an associated windfarm and benefits from environmentally conscious features including rainwater harvesting, photovoltaic panels, a building management system, electric car charging points and compostable cutlery. UWS was a runner up in the Guardian Awards 2020 for the progress on sustainability enhanced by the Lanarkshire campus transformation and has been shortlisted for a 2020 Green Gown Award in the category of Sustainability Institution of the Year in the Green Gown Awards. This follows last year's success of winning the 2019 Guardian Higher Education Awards category for sustainable buildings that inspire and the 'Campus of the Future' award in the Green Gown Awards 2019.

UWS' Strategy 2025 also outlines the commitment to tackling the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals through research and enterprise activity. Priority areas will focus on local needs that can be applied globally, including aging, sport, health, economics and the future of work and care.

Regional Collaboration and Contribution

UWS is an anchor institution within its communities, across the south and west of Scotland and London, with impact that reaches beyond our campus regions. This has been tested – and success demonstrated – through Covid-19 and helps inform UWS' approach to place and impact.

A recent study by Biggar Economics showed that UWS generated at least £816 million GVA and 5800 jobs in Scotland, including:

- £205m GVA and supported 1,700 jobs in Renfrewshire
- £136m GVA and supported 800 jobs in South Lanarkshire
- £78m GVA and supported 500 jobs in South Ayrshire
- £28m GVA and supported 200 jobs in Dumfries and Galloway

The same reported noted that UWS “is a transformative force within the west of Scotland and beyond, widening access to higher education for those from more disadvantaged areas”. It goes on to say “Through its courses in education and health UWS fulfils an essential role as a high-quality education provider for staff in frontline public services, helping the west of Scotland as a region to become more self-sufficient in recruitment for these roles.”

UWS is already widely recognised as the leading university in Scotland for articulating students and colleagues are confident there is even more do to strengthen our partnership with FE colleges. The Principal has led engagements with the Principals of Ayrshire College; Dumfries and Galloway College; New College Lanarkshire; South Lanarkshire College; and West College Scotland setting out a broad framework for future discussions, to consider opportunities through approaches such as a joint regional portfolio planning to address regional skills needs, efficient deployment of services and facilities and how we can work together to maximise funding opportunities.

Through the use of upskilling funding and knowledge exchange partnerships, UWS is supporting partner business in the community and across Scotland to develop and invest in their staff, and to benefit from UWS research. The greater online delivery through 2020 has helped expand the reach of these programmes – and upskilling partnerships developed in 2019 have been nurtured and continue to grow.

Ayrshire

The UWS Ayr Campus is host to our hubs in teacher education and the creative industries, and considerable regional impact is delivered from the influx of students as residents and commuters to engage with these academic programmes. During 2020, UWS education provision was ranked number 1 in the UK in two league table rankings. Through the Creative Media Academy, academics and students engage with local partners including STV and the Gaiety Theatre to curate and present content for the local community.

During 2020, UWS have taken a leading role in supporting regional economic growth. UWS is a strategic partner in the Ayrshire Growth Deal activity, supporting investment of £251m in critical projects. This engagement includes partnership with universities and the regional college in support of the Aerospace and Space Innovation Centre (ASIC).

Engagement with the growth deal is bolstered by UWS membership of the Member of Regional Economic Strategy Group – and a keen understanding of the need for partnership between the two educational institutions based in Ayr (UWS and Ayrshire College). Building on strong articulation links, the university and college are exploring immediate, medium and long-term skills needs in the region and, given the adjacent locations of each campus, have explored opportunities for effective sharing of space to maximise the impact for students in the region.

The partnerships extend beyond academia and onto the sports field. The ambitious collaboration between UWS, Ayr Rugby and the Ayr Community Rugby Trust sees the club further strengthen its relationship with the university enabling both parties to focus resources across a number of high priority areas including education, research, squad development, coaching and community inclusion. The University is partnering South Ayrshire Council in development of new sports facilities adjacent to the campus and has worked with the Council over recent years to facilitate development of the new Ayr Academy.

Lanarkshire

2020 has demonstrated the excellent relationships and demonstrable impact of partnership working between the university and colleges and public services in Lanarkshire. In response to Covid-19, these partnerships came to the fore and enabled public health partners to establish and deliver an asymptomatic Covid-19 testing site on the UWS Lanarkshire campus. Due to the exceptional partnerships with public health, UWS was a stand-out institution in Scotland in having public health partners willing to deliver this service on our behalf on campus. Through our effective relationships with New College Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire College, UWS was able to extend our testing facilities to their students free-of-charge.

Partnering with the local authority, the University was able to support their need for emergency housing for vulnerable people in South Lanarkshire during the Covid-19 pandemic. Within a few weeks, UWS were able to make halls of residences available

to the local authority to ensure that those in unstable housing or at risk of homelessness due to the pandemic were housed.

The UWS Lanarkshire campus continued to deliver economically to the community through ongoing investment on-site in 2020, with the completion of further science laboratories. This investment has supported the growth of programmes at the Lanarkshire campus, for example the hugely successful new BSc Paramedic Science programme based at Lanarkshire in 2020-21. Running in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service and NHS Lanarkshire, Dumfries & Galloway and Ayrshire & Arran, the programme has been accredited by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and has welcomed 56 students in its first year.

UWS is engaged in discussion with New College Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire College on how we can collectively meet Lanarkshire's education, economic and social needs. This is likely to include joint curriculum planning as well as exploring and expanding shared facility and services access.

Renfrewshire

In 2019 Biggar Economic confirmed that UWS made a gross-value added contribution to the Renfrewshire region of £205m per year and supported a total of 1700 jobs. As the largest UWS campus, this impact will continue to grow as international student numbers increase in the coming years.

40% of all international students at UWS are studying at the Paisley campus, with spaces in student residences for over 400 students. This brings great cultural vibrancy and diversity to Paisley and enables, in normal times, a series of town-and-gown events to exchange and share customs and knowledge.

The Paisley campus also demonstrates effective partnership with college partners, not only through the effective curriculum alignment to key skills areas and support for hundreds of students to articulate with advanced standing from West College Scotland to UWS, but through campus-sharing. In 2020, West College Scotland began delivering performance programmes direct from the UWS campus – following investment and refurbishment of space to create excellent learning facilities. This collaboration and efficient use of space presents one element of future closer working. UWS and West College Scotland continue to work in close partnership, with joint curriculum development discussions underway as well as consideration of additional opportunities for shared facility access and development.

Dumfries and Galloway

UWS continues to be one of the major providers of higher education in Dumfries and Galloway, serving an area of high priority for the Scottish Government. UWS works closely with other educational providers in the region – ensuring there is an efficient and effective delivery of higher education in Dumfries and Galloway.

As key strategic partners, UWS and Dumfries and Galloway College are developing joint plans to maximise collaborations on curriculum, facilities, services and governance. A formal project structure has been put in place to oversee this development involving senior colleagues from both organisations. There are some early developments that will see expansion and change to the higher education offer in Dumfries from September 2021, with further development scheduled for future years. This is a major development in the region and will see the partners work in new ways to meet emerging regional needs.

UWS provides the joint infrastructure for Dumfries and Galloway College and the University of Glasgow on the Dumfries Campus. The partners are reviewing the effectiveness of this approach through 2020-21 in constructive discussions, recognising that UWS is subsidising the delivery of services and will report to the SFC in the first half of 2021.

Through 2021, UWS will continue to explore potential campus developments – reflecting on the effective partnership delivery with D&G College, affirming the long-term commitment to Dumfries, but the changing requirements for space in light of increased hybrid delivery and the need for significantly improved learning and teaching space to deliver modern pedagogy.

To support recruitment to the Dumfries Campus, there are currently progression agreements with three local colleges in the South West of Scotland for pupils who have taken part in Routes for All, and we are in discussion with several other colleges. The colleges have agreed to offer Routes for All participants guaranteed interviews and early applications

Appendix 2: University National Measures

Measure		2018-19 Performance	2019-20 Performance	2020-21 Milestone
A	Number of Scottish-domiciled Undergraduate Entrants	5,441	4,787	5,441
B	Total number of Scottish-domiciled HN entrants from Scottish colleges to undergraduate programmes	2048	1,915	
	Number of Scottish-domiciled HN entrants from Scottish colleges to undergraduate programmes with Advanced Standing	1,366	1,353	
	Proportion of Scottish-domiciled HN entrants from Scottish colleges to undergraduate programmes with Advanced Standing	66.7%	70.70%	62.6%
C	COWA measure: Total number of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants	4,209	3,619	
	COWA measure: Number of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from the 20% most deprived areas	1,192	1,078	
	COWA measure: Proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from the 20% most deprived areas	28.3%	29.80%	28.3%
D	Number of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants with care experience	56	77	
	Proportion of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants with care experience	1.0%	1.6%	1.0%
E	Number of Scottish-domiciled full-time first year entrants	4085	4,454	
	Number of Scottish-domiciled full-time first year entrants returning to study in year 2	3,524	3,709	
	Proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first year entrants returning to study in year 2	86.3%	83.3%	86.5%
F	The difference (+/-) from the individual institution benchmark figure for students satisfied with the overall quality of their course of study in the National Student Survey	0.8	3.2	0.8
G1	The number of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate qualifiers responding to the Graduate Outcomes survey	0		
	The proportion of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate qualifiers responding to the Graduate Outcomes survey in a positive destination	0		
	The number of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate qualifiers responding to the Graduate Outcomes survey in a positive destination			96.5%

G2	The number of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers responding to the Graduate Outcomes survey in employment	0		
	The number of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers responding to the Graduate Outcomes survey in employment in professional employment	0		
	The proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers responding to the Graduate Outcomes survey in employment in professional employment			61.7%
H	Number of Scottish-domiciled Undergraduate Qualifiers*	2,891	2,973	2,891

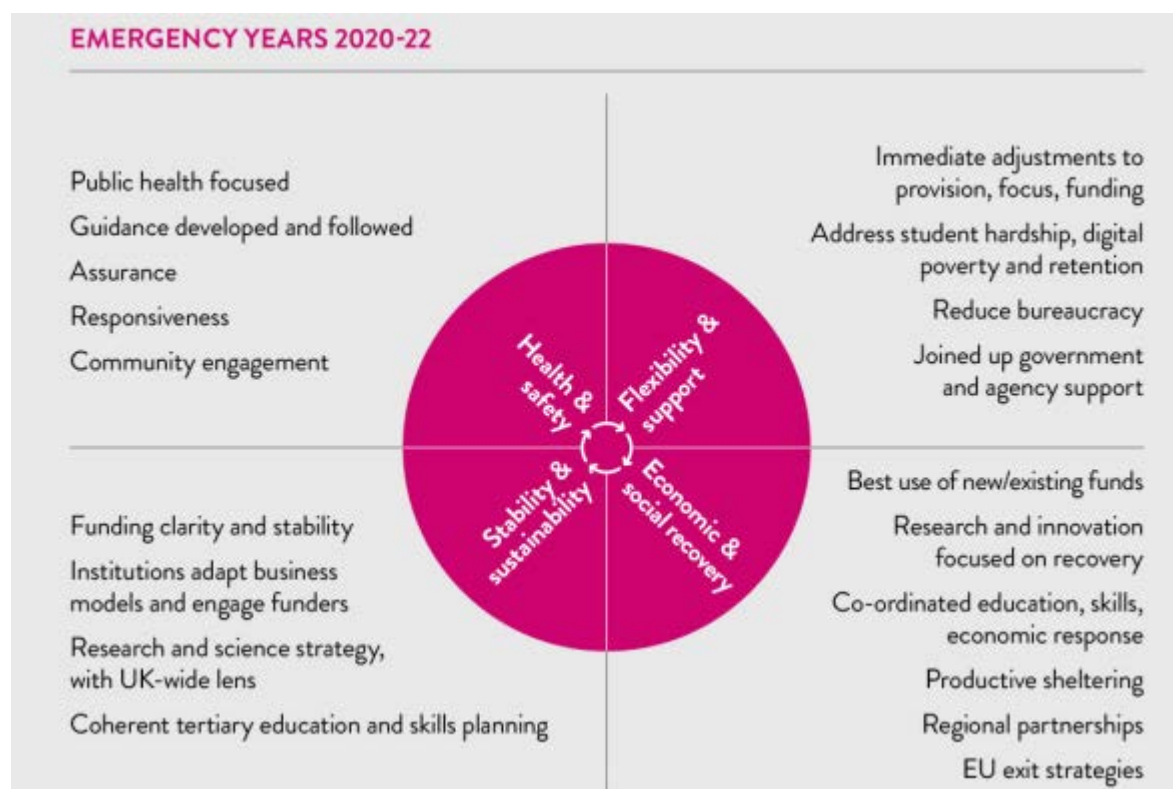
*Note: Whereas UWS previously returned interim awards, mostly in cases where UG students were picking up ordinary degrees at the end of level 9, from 2019-20 onwards only students who had completed their instance of study were returned, no longer including those being awarded an ordinary degree who continue onto honours year. Numbers for 2018-19 have been adjusted accordingly for consistency.

(SFC provided 4678 in 2018-19)

UWS UIF Mid-Year Report January 2021

In the first half of 2020-21 UWS has focused on immediate priorities in health and safety, flexibility and support, stability and sustainability, and economic and social recovery.

This mid-year report will adopt the SFC emergency years structure to help illustrate how the University has had to adapt its UIF plans in-year to respond to the challenges of the pandemic.



Health and Safety

UWS used funding to provide health solutions to the pandemic to stakeholders such as the NHS and Care Homes free of charge. [UWS Together](#) site presents 18 examples of how UWS worked together with colleagues and partners to address the health challenges of the pandemic. One example is where UWS invested in IP development and protection with partner Sanondaf Ltd to offer a solution to the rapid disinfection of ambulances for Covid-19 patients.

Flexibility and Support

During the pandemic UWS became aware of the challenges of its industry partners in making sense of the various funding and support mechanisms available to them. In response UWS has invested in the development of a business recovery portal which allows individuals and businesses to search for help in one place from the widest range of partners such as Scottish Government, UK Government, Scottish

Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, Local Authorities and Universities and Colleges. This will be launched in February 2021 and will initially cover the West of Scotland but will roll out to the whole of Scotland in time. A placeholder for this site can be found here [UWS supporting Economic Recovery](#)

Stability and sustainability

The University worked with Innovate UK to adapt the payment schedules for KTP projects providing holidays for partners who were adversely affected by the pandemic. UWS also provided them with opportunities for project suspension at no cost to allow them to plan in the short term. This allowed UWS to maintain all but one of its KTP portfolio of 35 projects which is the largest in Scotland and in the top three in the UK.

UWS adapted our approach to skills planning in response to industry partners needs by investing in the University's new CPD unit which provided courses for business partners free of charge which addressed their most pressing skills development needs such as staff wellbeing, digital marketing, sustainable product development and HR, details of which can be found here: www.cpd.uws.ac.uk. One free wellbeing short course was delivered to over 100 attendees from businesses in October and a second one will be delivered in January by popular request.

A major investment made by UWS in the first half of 2020-21 was in building a student innovation ecosystem which includes a variety of programmes and initiatives including:

- Establishing Demola Scotland (www.demola.net) to help Scottish students gain valuable experience in creative problem solving in multinational team with real businesses
- Launching the Kickstart programme which takes students on an extracurricular journey from idea generation to launching high value businesses (see [Kick Start: Student Innovation - UWS Centre for Continuing Professional Development](#))
- Further investment in the University estates to create innovation hubs for students and communities which builds on existing investments in Thin Film, 5G, Aquaculture and Immersive technology which have produced a number of Converge Challenge finalists.

Economic and social recovery

During the last six months UWS has funded many projects to pivot to address pandemic challenges. One example was the use of the Centre for Thin Film, Sensors and Imaging to invest in new technology featured on the Universities Scotland Covid Response page ([UWS works to prevent spread of COVID-19 — Universities Scotland \(universities-scotland.ac.uk\)](#)).

The University also invested in record numbers of IP filings during the first six months of the year. This was as a result of encouraging research colleagues to pivot their focus while working from home to look at ways to provide innovations that might

boost economic recovery. One example was the patenting of a new security algorithm for software updates which will protect users from vulnerabilities when the install version updates.

UWS invested heavily in deepening regional partnerships in the locations where UWS has Scottish campuses including:

- Submitting the full bid for the Strength in Places for the South of Scotland on the digital dairy value chain. This will provide essential investment in capability to boost the digital economy in the Dumfries and Galloway region.
- Assuming leadership of both the Clean Growth and the Digital work streams for the Ayrshire Growth Deal and Economic Recovery Plan.
- Assuming the Chair of the Lanarkshire Economic Forum partnership group and working with ElevatorUK to secure the delivery of business acceleration services in the region using UWS campus space and support.
- Membership of the Renfrewshire Economic Leadership Panel responding to the challenges of business recovery in the region.

The University has also worked with colleagues in Universities Scotland RKEC and RCDG to coordinate responses to recovery solutions such as the Logan Report, the Inward Investment Plan and the SFC Research and Innovation funding review.