



School of Health and Life Sciences



Appointment Pack
2024

Dream, Believe, Achieve.



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UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND
UWS



UWS IS RANKED **SECOND**
IN SCOTLAND AND **16TH**
IN THE WORLD FOR
REDUCING INEQUALITIES
(THE Impact Rankings 2024)

UWS IS COMMITTED TO
THE UNITED NATIONS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  **GOALS**

About us...

20,966

TOTAL STUDENTS

109

NATIONALITIES
REPRESENTED

80.5%

OF UWS STUDENTS
21 YEARS +

1,956

(HEADCOUNT)

(session 2023-24 figures)

4 SCHOOLS

- BUSINESS & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
- COMPUTING, ENGINEERING & PHYSICAL SCIENCES
- EDUCATION & SOCIAL SCIENCES
- HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES

5 CAMPUSES

AYR, DUMFRIES,
LANARKSHIRE,
PAISLEY &
LONDON



Our five campuses



Paisley Campus

Close to the centre of Paisley, and 10 minutes by train from Glasgow, UWS Paisley Campus offers excellent teaching and study facilities, including industry-standard specialist labs and simulated healthcare suites.



Lanarkshire Campus

Our £110million Lanarkshire Campus was named the UK's most sustainable and inspiring higher education building in the Guardian University Awards 2019. Running on 100% renewable energy, its cutting-edge technology and flexible study spaces embody UWS's belief in sustainability and the power of collaborative learning.



Dumfries Campus

In early 2023, the University's Dumfries Campus relocated to a dedicated state-of-the-art facility alongside Dumfries and Galloway College on the Crichton estate on the edge of town. Facilities include a simulated healthcare centre, to provide health students with the hands-on skills and expertise for their future careers.



Ayr Campus

Blending picturesque riverside surroundings and forward-thinking learning environments – including studios and labs for music, broadcasting, education and healthcare - our Ayr Campus, close to the centre of Ayr, is an exceptional place to study.



London Campus

Situated in London Docklands, 1-minute from East India DLR, UWS's next-generation London Campus offers technology-rich, flexible breakout and study spaces that encourage interaction and collaboration amongst our students.

University of the West of Scotland

University of the West of Scotland is a large, modern, multi-campus University with its origins dating back to 1897. We have 4 campuses across the west and southwest of Scotland and 1 in London.

At UWS, we invest in our students' future. Our graduates go out into the world ready to succeed thanks to our industry-relevant courses, cutting-edge facilities and innovative approach to teaching.

Our research work has a tangible, early and positive effect: the innovative technologies we are developing help shape society, nationally and globally.

We help industry partners find solutions, bringing together research expertise, knowledge exchange and bespoke research facilities to deliver positive impacts on society and the economy.

Further information about the University can be found at [uws.ac.uk](https://www.uws.ac.uk)

The University has Charitable Status – Scottish charity number SC002520



UWS Strategy 2030

Transforming communities through research and education continues to be at the heart of all work done at University of the West of Scotland and UWS is an anchor institution within its communities across the south and west of Scotland and in London, with impact that reaches far beyond the campus regions.

The University is driving an ambitious strategy for impactful research and innovation, aligned with our high-quality learning and teaching. All with a global engagement agenda to meet the needs of the 21st century workplace.

Strategy 2030 will launch in March 2025, and is being developed in consultation with colleagues across the University, to gain their views on UWS's strengths, the challenges we may face in the future, and what we want to achieve by 2030.

The strategy will build on strategy 2025 and on our achievements over the last few years, and mark the next exciting phase of our development, laying the foundation for UWS towards 2050.



School of Health & Life Sciences

The School of Health & Life Sciences at UWS delivers programmes across the University's 4 campuses in Scotland and its campus in London. It offers innovative teaching and research opportunities, firmly focused on the real-world challenges facing the healthcare and life sciences sectors

You will join a supportive and committed team, where you will play a key role in continuing to establish the University as a force for good. Our students benefit from studying in modern learning facilities – among the very best in the country – and the strong links we have with partner organisations across the private, public and third sectors.

The School covers a breadth of subject areas and is currently broken down into four Divisions:

- Adult Nursing, Community and Health
- Biological Sciences and Health
- Mental Health, Midwifery and Health
- Sport, Exercise and Health



About the School

Our courses are accredited by professional bodies such as: Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland; Institute of Biomedical Science; Health Care Professions Council; Nursing and Midwifery Council; Royal Society of Biology.

- We host the only British Association of Sport and Exercise Science (BASES)-accredited lab in Scotland, and can offer lab-based and practical tuition.
- Students on our pre-registration nursing and midwifery courses spend 50% of their programme in practice.
- We offer dynamic and contemporary opportunities for continuing professional development for healthcare professionals across a range of levels up to Master's.
- State-of-the-art facilities available across all of our campuses.
- Midwifery courses are accredited by UNICEF as Baby Friendly.
- We are the only provider of an Operating Department Practice programme of education in Scotland – and the only UK provider of a fully online programme.
- In 2020 the School of Health & Life Sciences won an AdvanceHE Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence for its Understanding Dementia: Class in a Bag programme.



Learning and Teaching

The School offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across Health and Life Sciences. Our programmes are designed and developed in partnership with relevant professional bodies and industry partners to ensure they are current, relevant and develop work ready graduates. Professional and academic skills are embedded through our academic and skills development learning outcomes (ASPIRE).

Many programmes are professionally accredited with placement or work-based learning being a core element of the programme. The range of opportunities available allows students to apply knowledge and skills in a real-world setting.

Our campuses offer state of the art teaching and learning facilities and together with our highly qualified staff ensure high-quality learning and teaching contributing to an excellent student experience which is reflected in our NSS scores for teaching. Programmes are designed to be flexible and sustainable, and students experience a wide range of assessment methods designed to support learning. Each module and programme is supported by the VLE.

Support for students is integrated across the University to facilitate student success.

Practical skills undertaken in our state of the art laboratories, clinical skills labs and simulation environments are essential for many of our programmes allowing students to put academic theory learned in the classroom into practice.

Examples include:

- Skills laboratory facilities which enable students to learn and practice in a realistic health setting.
- Top of the range software creates simulated clinical wards and birthing suites. Students will also learn in the virtual reality suite giving a 360-degree perspective of hospital and health settings.
- Technology-enhanced bioscience teaching labs, specialised zoology laboratory facilities and a microbiology suite.
- Specialist sport equipment includes: laboratories for health and performance, exercise biochemistry, cardiovascular imaging, and biomechanics; plus a physiotherapy suite and sector-leading environmental chamber.
- Immersive suites at all of our Scottish campuses. The facilities are versatile and allow students to develop skills in a safe environment with the challenges of complex scenarios.
- Our indoor and outdoor simulation space allows staff to design interdisciplinary scenarios.



Our staff are proactive and innovative in pedagogical research undertaking projects such as mental health literacy and peer assisted study sessions and student led conferences.

School of Health and Life Sciences

Professional Support Service

The School Professional Support Service (PSS) Team supports approximately 240 academic colleagues and just under 6,000 students across 4 Divisions.

Led by the School Business Manager, the HLS PSS Team comprises 71 individuals working across 6 strands of support:

- School Operations Team
- External Operations Team
- School Enhancement Team
- Technical Team
- Simulation Team
- School Leadership Team

The School Operations Team supports, quality assurance of the programmes, enrolment, academic awards, PGR student support and provides support to the 4 Divisions.

The School External Operations Team supports for ordering/receipting of goods, student uniforms, student funding, the online store and CPD programmes.

The School Enhancement Team supports the enhancement of our programmes and student support including NSS, Module Evaluation Questionnaires (MEQs) and Staff Student Liaison Groups.

The School Technical Team supports the laboratories, including set up, consumable and stock management, leading roles in health and safety and risk assessments.

The School Simulation Team support the delivery of skills in clinical settings, deliver manual handling training to all our Pre-Registration students and help develop and deliver training and support materials within the immersive environment.

The School Leadership Team support the wider school leadership and school wide activities.



Research

The School of Health and Life Sciences hosts a vibrant community of interdisciplinary research from bench to bedside to community. It has very strong research links across the University and to other institutions in the UK and internationally and aligns to the University's strategic objectives, including to develop and grow distinctive research and innovation committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This creates a flexible and supportive environment for research that is currently organised into three areas within the School:

- Alzheimer Scotland Centre for Policy and Practice
- Institute of Biomedical & Environmental Health Research
- Sport and Physical Activity Research Institute

Colleagues within the School also collaborate across the University, predominately, but not exclusively, with the following research areas:

- Affective and Human Computing for Smart Environment Centre
- Centre for Culture, Sports and Events
- Centre for Health and Social Inequalities Research

Our School is involved in ground-breaking, internationally relevant research that is continuing to establish the University as a force for good. We ranked 1st for research intensity in the Complete University Guide 2022 in nursing, biological sciences and biomedical science subjects.

In REF2021, the School submitted to Units of Assessment 3, 7 and 24.

Our academics are making a difference in a number of areas including:

- Creating a viable preventative treatment for *Acanthamoeba keratitis* (a devastating eye condition prevalent amongst contact lens users)
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and other chronic disease research (eg rheumatoid arthritis)
- Health technologies for chronic conditions
- Improving the wellbeing of Scotland's children through physical education
- Aquatic ecotoxicology: acute and chronic effects
- Invasive species: ecosystem impacts
- The emergence of antimicrobial resistance and infection control
- Dementia education



Pioneering UWS research & enterprise

We have established ourselves as a force for good through our internationally relevant research which is making a real difference across the globe.

Our ground-breaking research in areas including eye-care, drone technology, artificial intelligence, thin films and sensors, 5G networking, arthritis and dementia care is driving innovative technology developments and shaping society. These endeavours inform our teaching, meaning our students' learning is shaped by those working at the very forefront of their profession.

In a Scottish Higher Education first, in 2019 the University established its own Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Centre to ensure business partners, KTP Associates and UWS staff have exclusive access to an in-house specialist team to support their KTP activities.

The Centre has garnered recognition, including the Knowledge Exchange Excellence award at the 2022 Ceed Awards, the Best Knowledge Base KTP Support Team award at the 2022 UK National KTP Awards, and the Knowledge Exchange Heroes Award at the 2023 Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards.

REF2021

Research Excellence Framework

90 percent of research at UWS is world-leading, internationally excellent, or recognised internationally, according to the Research Excellence Framework 2021.

The University also increased its position for research intensity in the 2021 REF - now ranking within the top 90 universities in the UK.

Working towards a world without water scarcity

Pioneering artificial intelligence developed through a partnership between UWS and industry partners FIDO Tech is saving billions of litres of water being lost from pipeline networks, worldwide – tackling climate change and directly addressing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The technology incorporates innovative cloud correlation, developed by UWS, that receives sensor readings via a smart phone app to source the exact location of underground water leaks.

The UWS/FIDO AI technology was promoted at the COP28 Fringe Showcase in Dubai.

UWS Spin-Outs

Each with the potential to generate millions of pounds for the economy:

- **Novosound** (developing novel ultrasound sensors; Converge Challenge winner 2017)
- **Albasense** (developing end-use applications including optical coatings and sensors: shortlisted Converge Challenge 2017)
- **WellFish Tech** (developed the first non-lethal method for assessing fish health)

UWS is also set to launch spin-out 'Focalise,' an AI company with expertise in visual inspection technology applied to search and rescue, and non-destructive testing

Dementia Champions

The Alzheimer Scotland Centre for Policy and Practice, founded in 2013, is an innovative partnership between UWS and Alzheimer Scotland, providing a high-quality environment for applied research, education and social enterprise.

Through the Centre, UWS is the official provider of Scotland's National Dementia Champions programme - an award-winning initiative which has prepared over 1,000 health and social care professionals as Dementia Champions.

Designed to help our students succeed

At UWS, we want our students to learn in a way that best suits them to help them get the most out of their studies. Our learning and teaching model aims to optimise students' UWS experience.

We focus on providing opportunities for high-quality, dynamic and engaging on-campus learning and teaching. All supplemented with accessible online activities, inspired by social media, and using the latest digital platforms. Not only does this learning model provide the academic tools and support from our experienced academics that our students need to succeed in their studies, it is designed to offer the flexibility to allow them to fit studies around their individual lifestyle.

Learning tools

Our learning model gives students access to a suite of online tools to supplement on-campus studies – including video material, academic readings, podcasts and guided activities, such as discussion forums and workshops.

Delivering the UWS learning experience

Our learning model is designed to provide students with a great UWS experience. They benefit from rich on-campus engagement, supplemented by live, timetabled and non-timetabled online activities. We recognise our students have a busy lifestyle, and therefore, our interactive online learning environment provides flexibility in how to access studies, enabling our students to receive all the benefits of learning with others.

Enhancing our students' skills and employability

We are passionate about empowering our students and equipping them with the skills they want and need to succeed in life. We created the ASPIRE curriculum to further support our students and offer them a tailored approach to their academic, professional and personal development. Forming part of many of our degree programmes, ASPIRE is a set of modules that support students to shape and chart their own unique path. Through a wide range of personally selected learning activities, the ASPIRE curriculum provides students with the ability to enhance their own degree experience while developing their skills and employability – for whatever the future holds.



Preparing our students for their future careers

At UWS, we invest in our students' future. Our graduates go out into the world ready to succeed thanks to our career-focused courses, cutting-edge facilities and innovative approach to learning and teaching.

We have a proud record in delivering world-ready graduates and developing effective partnerships with business, industry and the public and voluntary sectors.

We are delivering on our purpose to transform lives and communities through higher education. We equip our students with the skills and confidence to shape their futures, while ensuring that they have the best possible experience and outcomes. As one of Scotland's biggest modern universities with campuses in Paisley, Lanarkshire, Ayr and Dumfries, UWS is the local university for over 30% of the population of central Scotland. We also have a growing national and international reach: our 5th UK campus opened in London in September 2015 and was expanded on a new site in London Docklands in 2020.



From the most recent Graduate Outcomes Survey of UWS graduates:

90%

of graduates are in work or further study within 18 months of graduating

86%

of graduates agreed their current activity is meaningful

Our student body is unique - many UWS students are the first in their families to go into higher education and we have a high level of mature students with caring and work responsibilities. Our diverse student population means we need to deliver learning in innovative, flexible, personalised and supportive ways. In our Strategy we set out an ambitious vision to deliver an outstanding teaching and learning environment which is paying dividends for our students.

We have invested in innovative student support services, personalised and flexible education delivery, and interactive technology-supported learning.



Widening participation

We are incredibly proud to be leading the way in ensuring that more people from disadvantaged backgrounds go to university in Scotland. The University has a clear commitment to the support, retention, and success of students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

- A report from the Scottish Funding Council in 2022 showed UWS had – for the ninth consecutive year – recruited the highest proportion of SIMD20 students, as well as accounting for the highest proportion of those successfully achieving their qualification (27.6%) across the Scottish HE sector. The study also found that 30.7% of all SIMD20 graduates in Scotland were from UWS in academic year 2021-22, demonstrating the University's continued commitment to contributing to the Scottish Government's widening access priorities. (*Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation SIMD – a statistical tool using postcodes to determine levels of deprivation*)

- **44.8%** of UWS undergraduate students are first in family to go to university
- **2.3%** of UWS undergraduate students are care-experienced
- **11.4%** of UWS students declare a disability

- The UWS Foundation Academy was launched in 2022 to support senior school pupils across the West of Scotland. The initiative gives school pupils the opportunity to access the university pathway of their choice, to develop academic skills in a specific subject area and improve the quality of their eventual university application. The Foundation Academy runs for a full year and pupils have access to a broad range of personal, career and transition support. Since its launch, the Foundation Academy has engaged with over 2500 senior pupils across more than 30 schools across our key campus regions.
- Through the graduate apprenticeship scheme UWS also encourages engagement from those less likely to enter Higher Education.



A global outlook

Working in partnership with select educational agencies around the world and with partner institutions, notably in China and the United States, UWS welcomes several thousand international students to its five UK campuses each year. One third of our student population is international with over one hundred nationalities represented, creating a diverse, multicultural student community. UWS programmes are also delivered overseas through our transnational education partnership network.

- UWS currently has Transnational Education partners in China, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, UAE, Italy and France
- 30 European exchange partners (including universities in Ireland, Finland, and Spain)
- 8 North American exchange partners
- 6 North American recruitment partners
- 42 recruitment partners in China
- Scotland's first official training partner for China following accreditation, in 2018, from China's State Administration for Foreign Expert Affairs (SAFEA).

UWS is a great place to work

At UWS we are dedicated to driving positive change in society.

Our staff are our most important asset and play a fundamental role in the UWS student experience.

We work with all colleagues to optimise the impact of their role and their contribution in delivering a student-centred experience in an organisation that is efficient, effective and financially sustainable.

UWS celebrates and embraces the diversity of its staff and students, and strives to create an inclusive culture where everyone can thrive and contribute. The University has a number of initiatives and networks to support equality, diversity and inclusion across the organisation.

The UWS campuses are welcoming and supportive communities where colleagues are encouraged to achieve their best and find their place in a dynamic and innovative HE environment.

A wide range of professional and personal development opportunities and support is on offer from teams across the University, all of which can help enrich colleagues' career journey at UWS.

UWS seeks to develop and empower its leaders and managers, who play a key role in inspiring and motivating staff, as well as delivering the University's strategic objectives.

Feedback from the University's 2022 colleague survey informed the development of five inter-related UWS people priorities, which are key focus areas that have been identified for further development:

- **STRENGTHEN EMPLOYEE VOICE**
- **PROMOTE WELLBEING**
- **SUPPORT A CULTURE OF CHANGE**
- **DEVELOP OUR PEOPLE AND ENHANCE PERFORMANCE**
- **ENSURE SUSTAINABLE REWARD AND RECOGNITION**

The University has made a commitment to make improvements within each of these areas and a wide range of work is underway to make UWS an even better place to work.

Living in the west of Scotland

Scotland is a great place to live and work, with a high quality of life and a range of lifestyle benefits such as excellent value house prices, straightforward commuting and easy access to beautiful countryside.

Our campuses in Ayr, Lanarkshire and Paisley are within close proximity to Scotland's largest city, Glasgow, with our Dumfries Campus a 90-minute drive south of the city. There are numerous smaller towns and villages within travelling distance of all of the campuses, so whatever style of living you prefer, you will find something to suit your needs.

Scotland offers a culture steeped in history, dramatic untouched scenery, bustling towns and cities and a world renowned education system. The west coast boasts some of the world's most stunning scenery and wildlife.

The town of Ayr is set among some of Scotland's most impressive scenery and looks out on the Firth of Clyde, with the peaks of Arran in the foreground and the Mull of Kintyre in the background. Packed with historical sites, Ayrshire's visitor attractions and cultural and leisure pursuits include unspoiled beaches and rolling hills, castles, a racecourse and, of course, golf courses. Burns and A' That, a major festival which takes place in June, celebrates Ayr's most famous son, Robert Burns.

Dumfries & Galloway is a region of rugged coastlines, sandy beaches and tranquil lochs; and has over 300 square miles of forest to explore, with the largest forest park in Britain; and in excess of 30 golf courses and driving ranges.

Our Lanarkshire Campus is located on Hamilton International Technology Park, close to a number of country parks and nature reserves such as Strathclyde Park. The cultural cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling are nearby, and the beautiful scenery of the Clyde Valley and the Borders is within easy reach.



Paisley combines the heritage and history of the Paisley pattern shawl and the Victorian thread industry with cultural interests including the Museum and Art Gallery (currently undergoing a £multi-million refurbishment), the 12th century Abbey, a thriving youth theatre and the Spree Arts Festival. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs are both easily accessible from the town. UWS played a significant supporting role in the bid for Paisley as UK City of Culture 2021 - the only Scottish location shortlisted. Although, ultimately, not selected as the award winner, the legacy of the bid process and planning will see significant benefits for Paisley and the local area both culturally and economically.

Glasgow and Edinburgh are close to our campuses and offer excellent shopping, superb café culture, museums and galleries, world-famous music venues and international cuisine. Travelling to and from our campuses is easy thanks to excellent road and rail links. Glasgow International Airport is on the outskirts of Paisley, and Prestwick International Airport is also easily accessible, being around 40 minutes away by road or rail from Paisley Campus; Prestwick is also just a 15-minute drive from Ayr Campus.





At UWS, we believe in our students' future.

We have a proud record in delivering world-ready graduates and developing effective partnerships with business, industry and the public and voluntary sectors.

With our cutting-edge courses, practical knowledge, and intelligent teaching, we help our students get ahead.

Through our innovative learning partnership we invest in people's potential to shape their future. Built on uniting students, professionals, industry and our communities, this partnership stretches from the West of Scotland around the world.

We believe in the transformative power of active learning and engagement. We treat our students as individuals, partners and potential leaders in their fields and professions, providing them with the globally relevant knowledge, skills and confidence to think critically and to challenge received wisdom.

DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

Campuses in
Ayr, Dumfries, Lanarkshire,
London & Paisley

[uws.ac.uk](https://www.uws.ac.uk)
