



Medr-funded QAA Cymru Collaborative Enhancement Projects 2024-25

Call for Expressions of Interest

Would you like to lead a Collaborative Enhancement Project with colleagues and students from other tertiary education providers in Wales?

What is a Collaborative Enhancement Project?

- 1 A Collaborative Enhancement Project is a working group of tertiary education providers in Wales, which is aimed at promoting collaboration and sector development.
- 2 These are projects where groups of providers agree to work collectively on matters of mutual interest which have the potential to add value to the whole sector once complete (for example, in the form of a publishable output or the establishment of an enhancement initiative such as a Network or Community of Practice). Projects can involve a range of staff roles and disciplines, depending upon the topic, and should involve students and/or student representatives as part of the project design and delivery. These project groups will be asked to report on progress to QAA Cymru and regularly share learning from their activity. These project groups will be supported by QAA Cymru, through Medr grant funding, and some staff facilitator support.
- 3 You are invited to express interest in leading a Collaborative Enhancement Project. This call is for **one project only**, which is to be funded through the Medr Grant Letter for QAA-facilitated tertiary education sector activities. There is no specific topic area, therefore QAA welcomes proposals in any topic area, while being mindful of the criteria in paragraph 10.

What projects has QAA supported previously?

- 4 As an organisation, QAA has a long history of supporting sector-wide collaborative enhancement activity.
- 5 Specifically in Wales, QAA Cymru launched a call for the first Collaborative Enhancement Projects for Wales in March 2021 as well as supporting projects through HEFCW grant funding in 2022-23 and 2023-24. These projects are featured on the [QAA website](#).
- 6 QAA supports Collaborative Enhancement Projects led by members in England via QAA's UK-wide membership. The completed and upcoming projects can be found on the [QAA website](#).
- 7 QAA also supported collaborative clusters as part of the QAA Scotland Enhancement Themes. A range of outcomes and outputs from all collaborative clusters are available on the [Enhancement Themes website](#).

How are the topics identified and chosen?

8 For 2024-25, QAA Cymru has received funding from Medr to support one project, which has no specified topic area. All project proposals should have regard to QAA's definition of enhancement: ***using evidence to plan, implement and evaluate deliberate steps intended to improve the student learning experience.***

9 If we receive more proposals than we can support at the current time, we have a set of selection criteria which the expressions of interest will be considered against (see paragraph 10).

What is the selection process and criteria?

10 The expressions of interest will be reviewed by QAA Cymru in terms of:

- number of institutions (and/or students' unions) actively engaged in the project (in general, this would be at least three to four) across the tertiary education sector
- potential for the tertiary education sector as a whole to benefit from the work once completed
- impact on/benefit to the providers involved in the working group and their students
- extent of student engagement in the activity
- consideration for the positive impact the project will have on Welsh medium/ bilingual provision and study opportunities
- plans for disseminating outcomes across the sector
- value for money
- ability to complete project by 31 July 2025.

What are the key dates?

11 Key dates relating to this call for expressions of interest are:

- expressions of interest should be returned to h.thomas@gaa.ac.uk and copied to ARCAdmin@gaa.ac.uk by **9 December 2024** (we welcome responses in English and Welsh)
- successful project leads will be notified in **January 2024**.
- successful project proposals will be required to commence and commit expenditure in 2024-25.

What is the level of funding support?

12 The money allocated to successful expressions of interest will depend on the nature of the activity and anticipated outcomes; expenditure per project will **not exceed £5,000**. Expressions of interest should include details of how much funding and other resource you are seeking and an indication of how the money will be used.

13 The funding could support your project in the following ways:

- providing funding to enable an institutional activity to be extended for the benefit of additional providers
- funding for student partners and / or interns to support project delivery

- incentives for student participation in consultations and focus groups
 - venue, catering, travel and subsistence for project meetings and events
 - production costs such as graphic design, printing, video editing and production
 - dedicated administrative support
 - delivery of dissemination events to the tertiary education sector.
- 14 The funding will also support your proposed outputs, which could include:
- development of practical resources to be published for the wider tertiary education sector
 - production of written material or multimedia resource for use by students and staff (for example, case studies)
 - establishment of a Network or Community of Practice
 - support for the evaluation of an existing initiative
 - assistance with developing a good practice or quick reference guide for students and staff.

This is not an exhaustive list - other proposed outputs will be considered.

15 Please note that all projects are expected to take account of Welsh translation requirements within their proposals and budget.

What are we asking providers to do?

16 If you are interested in leading a project, please complete the Expression of Interest Application Form.

17 Please indicate the kind of support you are seeking from QAA Cymru to facilitate your proposed work. As an indicative list, examples of support might include:

- directing to readily available material at QAA relating to the topic
- support for the evaluation of an initiative
- promotion of the project through QAA communication channels
- providing logistical support to allow a meeting to take place online or in person
- advice on the translation of final outputs.

Interested and want to be involved?

18 If you would like to discuss a proposal or thoughts for a project, we would like to hear from you. You can contact us at h.thomas@gaa.ac.uk or ARCAdmin@gaa.ac.uk.

Thank you for your interest and support in this Medr-funded opportunity in collaboration with QAA Cymru - we look forward to hearing from you.

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