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Institution: Swansea University: Prifysgol Abertawe
Unit of Assessment: 28b - Modern Languages and Linguistics (Celtic Studies)
a. Overview

Staff included in this Unit of Assessment are based within Academi Hywel Teifi or affiliated to it. Established in 2010, it champions the Welsh language throughout the University and includes the Welsh for Adults Centre for south-west Wales and the former Department of Welsh. The research of the Unit specifically focuses on three fields in relation to the Welsh language: its literature, its cultural media and applied linguistics, with more staff currently involved in the first field.

The Unit is supported in all activities by the wider structures of the College of Arts and Humanities (**COAH**). COAH is home to the Research Institute for Arts and Humanities (**RIAH**) and its Graduate Centre. COAH's large team of nine staff – director, assistant director, research and administrative officers – support Academi researchers and postgraduates. Two members of the Academi sit on its Management Board and the College's Research committee. A member of the Academi currently directs the Graduate Centre. Since RAE 2008, these new structures have dramatically transformed the research environment of Welsh and Welsh studies at Swansea for the better.

The Unit runs its own seminar series, Seminar y Gymraeg, organised by Academi Hywel Teifi and attended by colleagues from several departments.

In addition to Seminar y Gymraeg, our researchers within the Unit are active members of other COAH interdisciplinary research centres and groups, including the Centre for Research into the English Language and Literature of Wales (CREW) and the Language Research Centre (LRC), and attend events with a Celtic Studies theme at other centres such as the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Research (**MEMO**). These centres provide a broad, interdisciplinary framework for the Unit's research.

The Unit supports the Richard Burton Centre for the Study of Wales, which was set up by the University in 2009 to maximise synergies across disciplines. It operates as an interdisciplinary research forum, with a rolling programme of events. Its board membership includes a research professoriate of Welsh, Welsh History, Welsh writing in English and Modern History and Politics. Both the Academi's Director and Director of Research are on the board.

b. Research Strategy

In its RAE submission, creative writing, interdepartmental collaboration and the continuation of publishing work in the areas of literary history, textual editions, and literary theory and criticism were the main strategic foci for the UoA beyond 2008. These objectives were achieved and can be evidenced through the continued active participation of members within a variety of interdisciplinary research centres, the continuation of the work and notable successes of several writers in the field of creative writing (see the creative writing impact case study) and the publication of monographs providing textual editions of Hywel Dda's laws, the poetry of Huw Jones and literary criticism in relation to key early modern and twentieth-century figures and texts. The composition of the Unit has changed during the past 5 years but has incorporated new staff members and their research interests to develop the strategy.

The Unit's strategic goals for the next five years, which are fully supported by the University's Senior Management Team and well aligned with its strategic ambition to be a research-intensive Top 30 UK University by 2017, are:

1. to embed impact into all research activity, as outlined in the impact template.
2. to develop a multi-institutional research institute for the study of modern Welsh literature, based on the History Research Wales model, and to further explore ways of collaborating more closely with other research units in Celtic Studies, building upon the joint seminar series between Bangor and Swansea in 2012-13 and discussions with other universities.

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The idea of a pan-Wales research institute for the study of modern Welsh literature has been discussed by all Welsh departments in the past at a one-day event held at Gregynog. The UoA plans to revisit this idea and approach HEFCW in 2014 to discuss this possibility with others.

3. to continue to develop research across a spectrum of periods predating 1900, ensuring a broad range of expertise and projects, especially in the early modern period.

The Unit has very strong ties with other departments of Welsh and centres for Celtic Studies and will work collaboratively to build upon its current expertise in scholarship and criticism in relation to the rich and varied literary tradition of Wales. The Unit's plans for 2014-20 include a monograph on Siôn Rhydderch, an edition of Hywel Dafï's poetry, revisiting Lewys Glyn Cothi, organising an annual conference on the 18th and 19th century literary heritage, and developing work on the ballad in the early modern period, in collaboration with MEMO and other research partners.

4. to develop work in the field of applied linguistics by means of collaboration with other universities and to work with others in the field of Welsh for Adults, responding to the strategic goals set by the Welsh government in its Welsh Language Strategy.

As exemplified by the impact case study, Swansea's research has informed and influenced local and national government policy and practice. Strategically, this work needs to be tied in to the research carried out by other universities and also Welsh language campaign groups, such as Mentrau Iaith, Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg and Dyfodol i'r Gymraeg. New research is needed in this field of study, as there is currently limited expertise in Wales in this area. A framework will be developed to encourage literary or cultural researchers to engage with aspects of language planning. Future projects include turning the *Geirfa Graidd* project, which established a core vocabulary for A1 and A2 levels in Welsh for Adults courses, into a large corpus project, in collaboration with Cardiff University and Newcastle University; influencing policy by further developing the impact of the *Canolfannau Cymraeg* report, which looked at the social networks of adult learners of Welsh in areas where Welsh is not the main community language; working with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (CCC) to develop training for translators.

5. to consolidate Swansea as a leading centre for creative writing, working alongside colleagues in the English department and with external bodies such as the Arts Council, Literature Wales, Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru, National Theatre Wales, S4C and independent media companies and using space for writing and performance and engagement with these companies created on the Swansea Campus, with the opening of Swansea's new Science and Innovation Campus in the third quarter of 2015.

Future projects include further biographies of prominent twentieth century authors, including Waldo Williams, D. J. Williams and Gwenallt; producing a new edition of Waldo Williams' poetry and an edition of T. Gwynn Jones' poetry, along with a comparative critical volume on his and W. B. Yeats' work and a biography; collaborating with others to commemorate and interpret the First World War; publishing further volumes of original poetry and prose and adapting a novel and a biography for commissioned films. A recent research report on behalf of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (CCC)'s Welsh Language and Literature Panel observed that school children feel disengaged from Welsh literature. The new creative industries space, and working across performance media, will encourage the development of creative writing for theatre, radio, web and television, and incentivise students and other users.

This strategy seeks to respond and inform the government's Strategy for the Welsh language. These ambitious but achievable aims will drive our staffing and resource strategies, and influence sabbatical leave, grant applications and professional review procedures.

c. People, including:

I. Staffing strategy and staff development

The creation of the Academi within COAH facilitated a number of strategic promotions. In 2011 Ffrancon was appointed Director of the Academi and Hallam as Director of Research and Chair of Welsh – the Chair having been vacated by Dafydd Johnston's appointment as Director of the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (**CAWCS**). Rhys commenced his directorship of the Graduate Centre the same year. Morris joined the Academi from the Department of Adult and

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Continuing Education; Price and Ffrancon from the Department of Languages, Translation and Communication. In terms of gender, the Academi presently has an even balance. New research appointments included Dr Rhianedd Jewell (joining from St. Anne's Oxford) on a fixed-term appointment to cover Lake's research leave in 2012-13; Llwyd appointed to a personal Chair in January 2013; Llŷr Gwyn Lewis, from Cardiff University, as a lecturer in Welsh in September 2013. Other teaching and administrative appointments since 2010 are helping the Unit to develop and strengthen its research strategy as outlined above.

Equal Opportunities: The Unit is committed to the University's Strategic Equality Plan. Many staff have caring or parenting responsibilities, and so the ability to balance work and home requirements is vital. Staff work within the University's Flexible Working Policy, and the teaching timetable of the Academi, along with Seminar y Gymraeg and other research fora within COAH, are organised with this in mind. All of the Academi's academic vacancies are advertised as suitable for job share, part time or flexible working as the norm. The University is a Charter Member of Athena SWAN, gaining a Bronze Award in 2009, which we retained in 2013. Initially focused on advancing the contribution of women in STEMM subjects, the University and Academi are committed to extending this vital initiative across all disciplines. The University is also a member of Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme – the UK's good practice employers' forum on sexual orientation – and is proud to participate in the Women in Universities Mentoring Scheme (WUMS).

Progressing careers: Within the census period, over half of our established researchers were promoted: Hallam to Professor, Rhys to Reader, Price from PhD student (CCC funded) to Lecturer, Lake to Reader, and Morris to Associate Professor. The University monitors promotions data for academic staff, and any adverse trends are highlighted for action. Within COAH, sabbatical leave is managed by RIAH on a qualitative and strategic basis. Within the census period, all established researchers submitting outputs in the RAE were granted research leave for at least a term. We also have the support of WUMS.

Professional Development: All staff benefit from the University's formal **Performance Enabling Programme**, which, in 2012, won both a Times Higher Leadership and Management Award and a Universities Human Resources Excellence Award. This Professional Development Review scheme, through which research plans and progress are monitored twice a year, ensures that staff are effectively guided and supported. The increase in the volume and quality of publications from the Unit's staff, and the increased number of postgraduates in 2011-13, demonstrate the effectiveness of the Programme in supporting and incentivising staff.

Like RIAH, the University's Department of Research and Innovation identifies strategically important funding opportunities for the Unit. It trains and develops both new and experienced research staff through themed seminars and workshops, and helps with writing grant applications and managing projects. It also provides risk assessment for grant applications above £100,000, as was the case with Lake's successful British Academy Fellowship, and RIAH's successful application to CADW, which has led to a research MA into Welsh chapels in the Hafod area.

Supporting ECRs: ECRs are developed through mentoring programmes (e.g. Swansea University's Research Forum's coaching scheme, developed bilingually via collaboration with Academi Hywel Teifi, and the COAH's mentoring programme for ECRs). Staff are also developed by College and University training courses through the Academic and Professional Enhancement Centre, Swansea (APECS), whose **skills development programme** is aligned to the *Vitae Research Development Framework* e.g. best practice in the supervision of research students, project management, and applications for external funding. Teaching and administrative loads within the Academi are monitored and reviewed twice a year. On a more personal level, senior academics within the Unit often read the work of ECRs, offering support and advice, and the same applies to research applications. This is sometimes done anonymously via RIAH's peer-review procedures, but within the Unit, informal advice between colleagues is always forthcoming. Such help is readily available to fixed-term lecturers (e.g. Jewell, who succeeded in her application to the Saunders Lewis Memorial Fund in 2013). ECRs are proactively encouraged to publish their work in

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periodicals edited by senior staff, who read first drafts and suggest further possibilities (e.g. Price in *Cyfrwng 9*, Price and Jewell in *Ysgrifau Beirniadol XXXII*).

The Unit arranges appropriate training for its researchers, drawing upon the **2008 Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers**. We were one of the second tranche of HEIs to be awarded the *HR Excellence in Research Award* from the European Commission, which we successfully retained in 2013. The Director of Research regularly reports to RIAH and the University's Department of Research and Innovation (DRI) on the needs of the Unit. These needs are professionally addressed within the University, with staff feeling very effectively supported.

Developing relationships with industry and schools: In view of the Unit's research strategy, developing partnerships with the media industry is important. In 2012 two members of staff, an experienced radio and television producer, along with an experienced public relations specialist, joined the team as lecturers, and they are both facilitating the development of partnerships with the industry and advising on possible project partners. That same year an experienced tutor and administrator in further education also commenced work at the Academi and is helping the Unit foster partnerships with schools and colleges.

c. II. Research students

Expanding numbers and diversifying funding: The number of postgraduate research students (PGRs) and the disciplinary range of their projects have increased markedly in the latter part of the REF census period, since the inception of Academi Hywel Teifi in 2010. A new MA by Research in Welsh was launched in 2011, replacing the one-year MPhil, and three have completed their theses to date with more pending. Similarly, the number of PhD students has increased markedly in the latter part of the REF period. The number of on-going PhDs, supervised by Academi staff, is currently 12; and whereas the Welsh Department of the RAE specialised in literary supervision, the Academi supervises PhDs in the fields of literature, applied linguistics, theatre, creative writing, media studies and health studies, and co-supervises interdisciplinary PhDs with COAH colleagues.

Most of these PGRs have received funding. Sources include an AHRC Block Grant Partnership in 2010, COAH scholarships, the James Pantyfedwen Foundation and the CCC. Research staff advise students as they prepare their applications, and students stand a good chance of obtaining financial support, if not a full bursary. Currently, the Unit is part of a successful consortium bid to the AHRC, led by Glasgow, to fund **26** post-graduates in Celtic Studies, and a new scholarship in Celtic Studies was set up in partnership with Rice University, Texas in 2013.

Training, Progression and Supervision: The progress of PhD students within the Unit is carefully monitored, with a structured probation scheme in place for new PGRs, which must be completed by the end of the first year. PGRs and their two supervisors work with the Graduate Centre which monitors progress under the direction of the University's Postgraduate Research Board. It is RIAH policy that colleagues on sabbatical leave should continue their PGR supervision to ensure continuity of provision. At the end of years 2 and 3, supervisors' reports are considered by the University Board; support is offered and remedial action recommended where necessary.

RIAH's Graduate Centre supports postgraduates financially to attend conferences or to visit libraries and archives abroad, and helps organise work placements and visits to professional partners, e.g. visiting Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru or visiting translation units at the European Union. Part-time study is presented as a viable option (e.g. the Unit currently co-supervises the work of a professional health manager).

Through the Graduate Centre's skills programme, along with the CCC's training supported by the Unit, PGRs are carefully developed and prepared for their future careers. Price herself completed her PhD while a teaching fellow for CCC and was appointed lecturer in 2011, and has since published several papers. Similarly, post-graduates are encouraged to publish their work in *Ysgrifau Beirniadol*, co-edited by Hallam (as did Sams in 2012). PhD students in their second year are invited to contribute to taught seminars, only after preparatory training and if mentored. Our PGRs are attached to various research fora and centres, including Seminar y Gymraeg and the

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Richard Burton Centre for the Study of Wales. Both are well attended by students, and in 2012 PGRs decided to form the Academi's own postgraduate forum. Such developments at the UoA level are supported by the University's excellent care and provision for postgraduates in general, exemplified by its recent success in winning the Outstanding Student Services Team category at the Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards in 2013.

Seminars and Conferences: Our PGRs take part in local, national, and international seminars, colloquia, and workshops. They present their topics at the multi-disciplinary RIAH Postgraduate Conference held each October, at which they receive advice from staff outside the Unit. Topics have included: Journeys (2009), Human Nature (2010), Telling the Truth (2011), Pushing Boundaries, Crossing Borders (2012), and Brave New Worlds (2013). PGRs also submit papers to the CCC's annual conference. The Burton Centre for the Study of Wales has also held its own postgraduate conferences, in which the Unit's post-graduates have participated (2011-12). One PhD student, Huw Dylan Owen, has presented papers at two conferences of note, (i) Welsh in the Health Service and (ii) the Royal College of Nursing's Common Purpose International Workshop. Owen has also presented his research to the Welsh Assembly's Welsh-language steering committee and to the Bevan Commission, and has published a paper with Morris. Another interdisciplinary PhD student in translation, Gareth Watkins, has presented papers at Bangor, Manchester and Barcelona, as has published in *Gwerddon*.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Support from RIAH: The creation of RIAH within a collegiate structure provides a supportive research infrastructure for Welsh as an academic discipline at Swansea. All staff and PGRs are members of RIAH. RIAH fosters an interdisciplinary research culture with special lectures, conferences and guest speakers, and provides administrative expertise in research support, maximising income from external sources. Two dedicated research support officers advise on funding applications, and all prospective bids are scrutinised by a peer-review college whose members are drawn from senior researchers across the College (including four researchers from the UoA). RIAH works closely with the University's Department for Research and Innovation, whose external funding officers have College-specific responsibilities.

Over the past two years, research funding associated with the Richard Burton Centre for the Study of Wales has been £1.2 million, including the Unit's British Academy fellowship of £111,520. RIAH administers grants for conference attendance and other activities from which all of our researchers have benefitted over the REF period. RIAH manages the HEFCW-funded publishing grant, available to research relating to the study of Wales, which will fund two forthcoming publications by researchers from this UoA.

Along with postgraduate conferences mentioned above, RIAH has helped organise or fund several conferences in the REF census period, including two Translation and Technology Conferences and the *Cyfrwng* Conference (for full list see section e). Other conferences in Welsh Studies organised or supported by the Burton Centre included the Theorising Wales Conference (Gregynog, July 2010); Medievalism in Wales (Sketty Hall, October 2012), and the Welsh Copper Project Day, with events taking place all over Swansea and in Murrison (March 2011).

Richard Burton Centre and Library Resources: The Burton Centre organises a seminar series, an annual public lecture, postgraduate conferences, and National Assembly briefings, and is responsible for developing (with the University's Library and Information Services) the valuable collections held at the Richard Burton Archives, which include the Richard Burton and Raymond Williams papers. The Library itself is an excellent resource for researchers of Celtic Studies, with all newly published Welsh literature and criticism purchased for users. It is equipped with modern facilities and a popular café, Hoffi Coffi, envisaged as a bilingual café, adjacent to the Academi building. The University's South Wales Miners Library acquired the S4C newspaper clippings archive in 2013, which is an invaluable resource for the study of broadcasting in Wales since 1980.

Academi Hywel Teifi Structures: While the new collegiate structures of RIAH and the Richard Burton Centre for the Study of Wales ensure that Celtic Studies is interdisciplinary at Swansea, the

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creation of the Academi in 2010, located in its own space over two floors, with separate rooms for each researcher, has secured for the discipline of Welsh a new sense of prominence and vitality. In 2012, £30,000 from the CCC made possible a new multi-media centre, including video-conferencing equipment used for research seminars and meetings.

Supported by RIAH, the Unit organises Seminar y Gymraeg, and two distinguished memorial lectures – the annual televised Hywel Teifi Memorial lecture at the National Eisteddfod, and the Henry Lewis memorial lecture. The Unit, in collaboration with the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, also hosted two distinguished lectures in Celtic Studies in 2012; the J. E. Caerwyn Williams memorial lecture and the O'Donnell.

Through Seminar y Gymraeg, the memorial lectures and hosting prestigious lectures in Celtic Studies, leading researchers come to Swansea regularly and engage with the research community here. In 2012-13, the Unit co-organised its seminar series with the School of Welsh, Bangor University, via video conferencing, enabling immediate intercollegiate discussion.

The Unit's staff enjoy working in a very vibrant research community within the COAH, RIAH and Academi framework. Research matters are discussed at each departmental meeting and the College forum, with successes celebrated and good news shared throughout the University.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Anticipating the Welsh government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy (2010), the research published by Swansea researchers between 1996 and 2004, aimed at normalising Welsh-medium education, has contributed significantly to the discipline and research base. Such research was, and remains, crucial for the future of all Welsh departments. As stated in the Strategy, future graduates of Welsh must emerge from those who have chosen to study Welsh in school. Thus, this body of research which influenced government policy in the REF census period has had a direct bearing on the academic study of Welsh in universities. It is a major contribution to Welsh-medium education, including the academic study of Welsh at universities.

As the government's Strategy suggests, as does the closure of a once prominent Welsh department, increasing the number of possible students of Welsh in the higher education sector is a pressing challenge. It is part of a complex sociolinguistic landscape where reversing language shift is proving difficult. So the role played by the Academi as research lead for the Welsh for Adults Centres across Wales is important to the discipline. Swansea University has been responsible for co-ordinating the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the two national Welsh for Adults research programmes, spanning 2006-2009 and 2010–2013, of which the *Canolfannau Cymraeg* report is a recent publication. The Unit's research in this field contributes to the discipline as several academic departments of Welsh seek to work more closely with Welsh for Adults Centres or indeed to incorporate them in a school or academy structure, with some tutees progressing from intermediate and advanced adult courses to BA schemes.

The Academi houses the Swansea branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. It is fully committed to the Welsh Language and Literature Panel and the Creative Industries Panel, and contributes to curriculum discussions with the Welsh government. The University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Welsh sits on the managing board. The Unit advised the CCC on its post-graduate programme and members of the Unit deliver expert lectures for the CCC and its members, including a workshop on teaching methods for postgraduates and ECRs.

In order to further support the research base, our staff organise publications and conferences for the benefit of academics in Welsh. In the REF census period, we co-edited with others: *Taliesin* (08-09); *Cyfrwng* (08-13), *Dwned* (08-13), *Ysgrifau Beirniadol* (12-13). As regards conferences, the Unit co-organised with others, two international conferences on Translation and Technology (2010-11) with Bangor University; the Creative Industries Postgraduate Conference Wales (2012); a bilingual one day event on International Women's Day, partly funded by CCC (2013); the Adrodd ein Stori conference in Clydach (2011) and *Cyfrwng's* annual conference (2012). James in 2013 commenced co-organising a conference with the Society of Welsh Place Names for 2014. Lake

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has acted as secretary and organiser of an annual conference for the multi-institutional 18th and 19th Century Culture Forum, including the conference held at the National Folk Museum in 2012.

Our researchers also serve the discipline as external examiners or reviewers for research degrees in other HEIs: for the Welsh BA at the University of Glamorgan; for the Film and Television BA and the MA in Creative Practical Media at Aberystwyth University; for the post-graduate Translation scheme at Bangor and Aberystwyth universities (2013-); and for Welsh undergraduate and MA schemes at Bangor (2012, 2013). PhDs were examined at Cardiff and Bangor universities. Members of staff have also acted as adjudicators for the University of Wales' Ellis Griffith Memorial Prize (2010, 2012) and for the Celtic Media Festival (2012); and served on the awarding panel of the University of Wales' Hywel Dda Prize (2009, 2011-13). All staff review regularly for a number of leading academic periodicals, and senior academics review for the AHRC and act as readers for the Welsh Book Council. Morris reviews for BAAL (the British Association of Applied Linguistics).

The contribution made by researchers from this Unit has been recognised by others, particularly by prestigious Fellowships to James by the Learned Society of Wales (2013) and Literature Wales (2010). Other awards include the Ellis Griffith memorial prize in 2009 for Hallam's *Canon Ein Llên*, which was also awarded to Llwyd's *Kate: Cofiant Kate Roberts*. Llwyd received a D. Litt from the University of Wales in 2012, and several creative writing honours have been awarded to members of the Unit, as discussed in one of the impact case studies. James in 2012 was also selected as the first female Archdruid of Wales at the National Eisteddfod. Hallam was invited by Professor Ioan M. Williams to join the artistic committee of Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru.

Staff regularly deliver academic papers at other research institutions and frequently attend national and international conferences in the fields of literature, linguistics and media studies. Prominent invitations in the census period include the British Academy's Chatterton Lecture on Poetry (to be delivered in 2014); the T. H. Parry-Williams memorial lecture at CAWCS (2013); a lecture at the National Library, Aberystwyth, for the Learned Society of Wales (2012); the Griffith John Williams memorial lecture at Cardiff University (2012); and a seminar paper at Jesus College Oxford (2009).

Considering the impact and engagement agenda of this relatively small Unit, our contribution to the academic discipline of Welsh is enormous. Named in honour of Hywel Teifi Edwards, affectionately remembered as 'ysgolhaig y bobl' [*the people's scholar*], the Academi's vision is to ensure that its academic study of Welsh, in terms of linguistic, literary and cultural study, enriches the research base and contributes to the larger picture of reversing language shift in Wales. Modernising how Welsh is viewed by children and adults and taught by educators in all sectors contributes as much to the discipline base as conference collaborations and editing journals. This vision is at the heart of our research into the cultural traditions of Welsh, from medieval law texts to contemporary multi-platform performance-poets, inspiring us to build collaborations and drive our discipline forward.