



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

University Health Board/Trust Designation – Criteria May 2021

Introduction

The 'university' approach is a continual process which advocates continued close working arrangements with stakeholders, other organisations and partners, including Welsh Government, to ensure that we continue to make collective progress at pace.

University Organisations should during the last period have strengthened the links they have with partner organisation(s). University Designated Health Boards/Trusts should be able to demonstrate improved collaborative working and a shared strategic vision for university / Health Board /Trust activity.

Organisations should be strengthening formal arrangements on an ongoing basis with their principal partners, including reciprocal representation at a strategic level, enabling them to jointly discuss and consider the training, research and innovation agendas.

University designation is a commitment on behalf of the Organisation to ensure that university activity is demonstrably improving the quality of care and improving patient outcomes. We also want to ensure that university activity is promoted with confidence, strengthening workforce engagement, enhancing the reputation of Health Boards and Trusts and attracts people to work in Wales.

On an annual basis University Organisations shall provide evidence of purposeful university, to give examples of how that is improving services and benefitting their population, and to set out their plans for further improvement over the next period aligned to the Integrated Medium Term Planning process, against the following themes:

Research and Development

Research and development activity should be aligned to areas of strength, need or opportunity, going beyond clinical practice and extending to all health and care settings. For example, this activity could include:

- developing and managing an active portfolio and a future pipeline of commercial and non-commercial research, in a range of clinical and non-clinical areas across health and care settings.
- supporting the development of purposeful long-term partnerships, with universities and others, including industry and international partners.
regular review of current and future research activity and partnerships to ensure alignment to areas of strength, need, or opportunity.
- regular review of research activity to ensure that it is leading to more efficient and effective services, to better prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, and to improved health and wellbeing outcomes.
- ensuring that health board staff are making a positive contribution to research activity, across all health and care settings, and contributing to review and assessment.
- promoting the value of research to health board staff, partners, patients and the public, encouraging and supporting them to participate in research activity.
- ensuring that partnership working is strengthening future capacity, through developing research leadership, skills, and support mechanisms.

Training and Education

Training and education should be considered in its broadest sense, going beyond clinical practice, and extending to all health and care settings. For example, this activity could include:

- providing managed placement opportunities to students in a range of clinical and non-clinical areas across health and care settings
- providing managed undergraduate and postgraduate training opportunities, working with university partners
- regular review of placement and training opportunities to ensure they are aligned to current and future workforce needs, and to assess benefits to individuals and host organisations
- ensuring that health board staff are making a positive contribution to training and education activity, across all health and care settings, and contributing to review and assessment
- promoting the value of training and education to health board staff, encouraging and supporting them to participate in continuing professional development
- ensuring that partnership working is strengthening future capacity, through developing and sharing good practice in areas such as course design and delivery.

Innovation

Innovation activity should go beyond the training and education and research and development activity undertaken within the organisation, also drawing in good practice and research evidence from elsewhere, applying this knowledge in order to drive up the quality of care and improve health and wellbeing outcomes. For example, this activity could include:

- managing an active portfolio of innovation activity, in a range of clinical and non-clinical areas, across health and care settings
- managing innovation assets, including data and intellectual property, with plans where appropriate to realise value through joint working or commercialisation
- identifying and developing innovation opportunities, through the health board's own research and training activities, through its external partners and networks, and through other methods including health board staff and patients
- regular review of innovation activity to ensure that it is leading to more efficient and effective services, and to better health and wellbeing outcomes .
- ensuring that Health Board/Trust staff are making a positive contribution to innovation activity, across all health and care settings, and contributing to review and assessment
- promoting the value of innovation to health board staff, partners, patients and the public, encouraging and supporting them to participate in innovation activity
- ensuring that partnership working is strengthening future capacity, through developing innovation leadership, skills, and support mechanisms.

The above Criteria should be implemented in line with the guidance document for 'University Designation Status'.