**Introducing Taith, the international learning exchange programme for Wales**

Studying, volunteering or taking a work placement abroad broadens people’s horizons, expands their skills, and brings benefits to communities and organisations here in Wales.

Through the new Taith programme for international learning exchanges, we aim to give learners of all ages and from all backgrounds across Wales the chance to benefit from these opportunities.

Taith embeds an international approach into every level of our education system. It is for people in every part of Wales, and in every type of education – schools, further and vocational education, youth work, adult education or higher education. They will not only develop their own skills and experience, but will serve as Wales’ ambassadors to the world, carrying our message that Wales is outward-looking, collaborative, and open to educational innovation.

And, in exchange, we will bring students, learners and educators from around the world to Wales. They will enrich our education and youth sectors with new approaches and ideas and will bring even greater diversity and culture to classrooms and campuses in our bilingual country.

To make this ambition a reality, Taith will also support organisations develop their capacity and confidence to deliver international activities. Guided by an expert Advisory Board providing advice and oversight, we will actively work with organisations who wish to participate in Taith, a programme that is tailor-made for Wales and cohesive in its strategic approach across sectors.

The four-year programme, with Welsh Government funding of £65 million, will involve international exchanges for learners, volunteers, researchers and staff across the education and youth sectors, ranging from a number of days to a year in length.

We will be inviting organisations to apply for funding to make this exciting vision a reality. An additional resource to assist organisations participate in the programme will be the Taith sector organising bodies embedded in the schools, further and vocational education, youth and adult education sectors.

**Our aims**

We have five main objectives for Taith:

1. To deliver an inclusive, all-Wales programme to get more people involved in international exchanges, to broaden the horizons and confidence of young people, learners and staff at all levels in Wales, give them life-enhancing opportunities and support them to become ambitious, capable learners throughout their lives.
2. To promote collaborations between Welsh and international organisations that enable two-way learning exchanges to benefit everyone involved, build international links, and support the education sectors, including youth work and adult education.
3. To encourage ambitious, innovative and creative activities that represent the best in international education exchanges and collaboration.
4. To raise the international profile of Wales as an open, outward-looking and globally responsible nation, committed to building on its legacy of international partnerships and relations.
5. To help deliver Welsh Government priorities in transforming international engagement and developing the best in international education and youth sectors through sustainable actions that benefit current and future generations in Wales.

**Our cross-cutting commitments**

Because we want Taith to benefit everyone involved and the wider community, we are committed to:

• improving access for people with disabilities, additional learning needs, underrepresented groups, and people from disadvantaged backgrounds;

• promoting the Welsh language and culture to participants visiting Wales as well as showcasing Wales to the world;

• encouraging sustainable travel in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Wales Act commitments to act as a globally responsible nation.

**The benefits and how we will measure them**

We expect the programme to realise a range of benefits for individuals, organisations and Wales as a whole. These include:

• Improving learners’ linguistic and digital skills; improving their employability, intercultural awareness and career prospects; building their self-empowerment, self-esteem and motivation, and their sense of initiative and entrepreneurship.

• Improving staff’s teaching, training, research and professional skills; increasing opportunities for professional and career development; improving understanding and responses to social, linguistic and cultural diversity, and the connections between formal and non-formal education.

• Increasing organisations’ reputation and international standing; improving teaching and learning; increasing capacity and knowledge to participate in international programmes; incentivising student recruitment, and new research partnerships and links.

Working with the organisations receiving funding, we will develop monitoring and evaluation approaches that assess the programme’s value and improve our understanding of the impacts of international learning exchanges.

The Welsh Government has also set us a series of high-level targets. Together with targets monitoring participation by currently underrepresented groups, these will form the basis of our regular monitoring. The high-level targets are:

• 15,000 participants from Wales by end of August 2026

• 10,000 participants to Wales by end of August 2026

• 50 multi-annual partnerships established by end of August 2024

• 40 countries involved by end of August 2024

**How your organisation can get involved**

Organisations in Wales will be invited to apply for funding through a regular programme of calls for applications. These calls will:

• support international exchanges across the whole education sector in Wales, including youth organisations and adult education;

• help two-way exchanges from international partners for study, research, work placements or volunteering in Wales, provided through the participating organisations in Wales;

• fund organisations over variable periods, including options for multi-annual awards;

• support flexible exchanges, including short-term, blended and virtual exchanges;

• focus on involving more people from underrepresented groups and disadvantaged

 backgrounds;

• build capacity in the Welsh education sectors to be engaged in international activities;

• promote collaboration across and between the education sector in Wales and internationally.

**The activities we will support**

We will welcome applications for projects and activities that:

• Deliver global opportunities for young people and learners through international study, training, volunteer or work placements.

• Enable global professional development opportunities for staff.

• Increase Welsh organisations’ capacity to run international exchanges and to develop the structures, knowledge-base and experience to support the growth of international opportunities.

• Support collaboration between educational and training organisations in Wales and their international partners to deliver innovative projects that share good practice and learning locally, nationally and internationally.

The programme also provides for phase 3 funding of the Global Wales initiative. By bringing these programmes together, Taith will be able to support Global Wales in its mission to provide strategic support to the Welsh Tertiary Education sector to develop networks and partnerships in priority countries and grow Wales’ reputation and market share as an international education destination.

**Get in touch**

If you would like to know more about the Taith programme and find out how you or your organisation could get involved, contact us at enquiries@taith.wales