

Taith Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday 26 February 2025, 10.00am – 12.00pm
Meeting held via Teams

Attendance List	
In Attendance:	(KW) Kirsty Williams, Advisory Board Chair (AMG) Anne Marie Graham (CL) Chelsea Ljutić (HB) Hayley Bendle (HP) Hannah Pudner (KR) Kieron Rees (LVE) Lem van Eupen (NA) Nabil Ali (ZS) Zenny Saunders (Ex Officio member)
Guests:	(IT) Ioan Teifi, Wavehill
Apologies:	(SH) Sian Hughes
Taith Programme Executive (TPE):	(SG) Susana Galván (EM) Dr Elid Morris (EB) Ellie Bevan
Secretariat support:	(DJ) Delyth Johnson

Agenda Item	Item
1	Welcome and Introductions
1.1	KW welcomed all members to the meeting.
1.2	Apologies have been received from Siân Hughes.
1.3	KW informed the Advisory Board (AB) that the meeting was being recorded to support minute-taking and asked members to reserve the chat function for operational matters.
1.4	KW mentioned praise of the Taith scheme recently as it was featured in a prominent journalist's blog, Will Hayward, Wales correspondent to the Guardian.
2	Approval of minutes of the last meeting on 24 October 2025
2.1	The minutes of the meeting on 24 October 2025 were approved.
2	Taith: General update
2.1	<p>A paper (paper 2) had been provided in advance of the meeting providing a detailed update of the work of Taith so far. A presentation was given by SG at the meeting and it will be shared with the Board following the meeting. The following highlights/discussions were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pathway 2 2024: Outcome notifications for this pathway funding call will be sent to the applying organisations in the next few weeks. - Country data includes the UK as countries can send participants on a mobility within the UK as preparation for an outward mobility. - One-week mobilities for the Higher Education sector: This policy amendment from Pathway 1 2025 moving forward has been a result of a period of consultation with the sectors, to support inclusivity and accessibility of opportunities has been welcomed by the sectors. This will piloted in 2025. EB mentioned a UKI Going Global report which will be published later in the year which also supports shorter term minimum mobilities. - Sustainability considerations: Taith has implemented a measure that you have to have a minimum duration if you go a longer distance away e.g. Australia you must be there for at least 2 weeks. - Taith is planning to run a workshop with Movetia, the Swiss Mobility programme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Taith Programme Executive thanked KW for her support in raising the profile of Taith in the last few months. - Taith Celebration event: The date has been confirmed as 16th October 2025 at the Senedd and the Advisory Board will be invited. Participants from funded organisations will be invited to share their experience of Taith at the event. - New case study on the website: A new video on the Betty Campbell scholarship students exchange to New Zealand was highlighted. - Pathway 1 2025 was launched on 30th January 2025. - Budget update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisations applying for Pathway 1 2025 will be able to apply for a 2-year project. Two more 1-year project pathways will be run, with the last being held in January 2026. - Vikki Howells MS, Minister for Further and Higher Education gave a statement last week detailing an investment of £500k to the Global Wales programme for a transitional year. Taith understands that it continues to only be £200k that will be taken out of the Taith budget for this transitional funding. ZS confirmed that the responsibility for Global Wales will be moving from Taith to the Welsh Government and the transition budget will be managed by the Welsh Government. - Programme data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NA asked if there have been any comparisons made between Taith and Erasmus: Taith asked the British Council for some Erasmus+ data and this has been shared with the Welsh Government and others. With the Erasmus operations closing in the UK this year, it would be helpful if the Advisory Board knew of any other sources of Erasmus data moving forward. - 1st time mobility data: Data on individuals who have completed a UK mobility and then those who go on to an international mobility would be of interest. Taith will look at collecting this data moving forward. - HP queried the drop from 14 to 6 organisations applying in the HE sector in 2024 pathways: SG clarified that the sector was originally split into two, HE and Research until 2024. These have now been merged into one HE sector bringing the number of organisations that could apply down to 8. 2 universities decided not to apply in P1 2024 bringing the number down to 6. - Countries data: KR asked if there are there are variations in the pattern of destinations across the sectors, are there variations? SG confirmed that there are variants across the sectors and Taith will provide this trend data. - LvE queried why Lesotho is in the list of top destinations: KW explained that this was due to Wales having a strong partnership with Lesotho through the work of the Dolen Cymru charity. - Stakeholders: ZS asked about the Stakeholders Group meetings and feedback from the sectors. SG confirmed these continue and recently have been held as cross-sector meetings on particular themes e.g. intercultural awareness. The Project Officers and Grants team are constantly in communication with the sectors, and this has supported changes made
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	to the programme such as 1-week mobilities, the creation of a small grants scheme, streamlining the assessment process, and amendments to the reporting process.
3	Taith Interim Evaluation (Wavehill)
3.1	Ioan Teifi of Wavehill attended the meeting to present the high level findings of the interim evaluation of Taith to the Advisory Board. The presentation had been shared with the Advisory Board in advance of the meeting.
3.2	<p>The following highlights/discussion points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall the report shows a positive response, showing wide, strong sector engagement. - Draft recommendations and next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft recommendations: A follow up discussion between Wavehill and the Advisory Board will be arranged. The Teams group was highlighted as a place where the Board can post comments and questions. - SG will consider how best to facilitate the final recommendations with the Welsh Government and Taith Boards. - The report will be completed by the end of March 2025.
4	Any Other Business and Date of next meeting
4.1	There was no other business raised.
4.2	The date of the next meeting is 28th May 2025.