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GW4 Highlights 2020



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2020 has been a year like no other.

Take a look at some of our successes over the past year from developing new collaborative research communities, initiatives to support our early career researchers and technical staff plus our new Climate and AMR Alliances.



GW4 Crucible

We kicked off the year with our GW4 Crucible programme with the theme Interdisciplinary approaches to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

30 competitively selected future research leaders from across the Alliance received training and mentoring, exploring how to enhance their career by working with researchers in other disciplines and how their research can have greater impact.

This year saw our first ever twitter takeover with two attendees tweeting their experiences of Crucible live on the GW4 twitter channel.



[#GW4Crucible](#) [#GW4TwitterTakeover](#)



GW4 Data Science Network

In collaboration with The Jean Golding Institute at the University of Bristol we launched our new [GW4 Data Science Network](#).

The Network acts as a hub for news, events and funding opportunities in data science research that are available to staff and students throughout GW4.

In particular, the Network highlights opportunities and events coming from The Alan Turing Institute that are open to all GW4 institutions.

The logo for The Alan Turing Institute, featuring the text "The Alan Turing Institute" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines: "The" on the first line, "Alan Turing" on the second line, and "Institute" on the third line. The logo is set against a white rectangular background.

**The
Alan Turing
Institute**

GW4's Response to COVID-19

From our world-class research and expertise to producing thousands of items of PPE and medical equipment for frontline staff, plus providing practical advice and resources for those in isolation.

Just some of many ways our GW4 universities and staff harnessed our strengths to help tackle this unprecedented challenge.

£90M Investment for GW4 Region

GW4 Universities; Bristol, Bath and Cardiff, received a major funding boost from UK Research and Innovation's flagship Strength in Places Fund.

The selected projects, [MyWorld and CScnnected](#), will supercharge our regional strengths to become global powerhouses in both digital media and compound semiconductor industries.



**UK Research
and Innovation**

Collaborative Research Communities

We launched our new Generator Awards and funded eight [research communities](#) tackling some of society's biggest questions and global challenges including climate change education, mental health and the gender pay gap.

Highest Ever Return on Investment

A hand is shown dropping a coin into a dark piggy bank. A large pile of various coins is scattered on the surface around the piggy bank.


To date the GW4 Alliance has invested over £2.9m in 93 collaborative research communities, which have generated over £46m in research income.

This means that for every £1 GW4 spends on collaborative research communities, GW4 captures over £15 in external research awards.

GW4WARD

We launched our new initiative, [GW4WARD](#), designed to drive forward the professional development of our technical staff across GW4.

We announced GW4WARD at this year's Technician Commitment Signatory Event.

The logo for GW4WARD is displayed in a white rectangular box. The text "GW4WARD" is in a black, sans-serif font. The number "4" is stylized in red with a handwritten, cursive appearance, crossing through the letter "W" that follows it.

- Driving forward the professional development of our technical staff -

The logo for Technician Commitment is displayed in a white rectangular box. The word "Technician" is in a black, sans-serif font, and the word "Commitment" is in a white, sans-serif font, set against a solid yellow background.

GW4 Water Security Alliance Conference



Water in a Changing World

Keynote presentations from the International Water Association and FRANK Water set the scene with over 30 speakers and panelists covering a wide range of research themes



Engaging with Funders

We continue to strengthen our relationship with UKRI and other funding bodies.

We hosted the Wellcome Trust Reimagine Research Virtual Townhall for GW4 universities and our regional partners.

We also hosted a webinar with EPSRC for our researchers on 'How to handle impact in EPSRC proposals'.

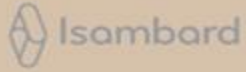


GW4 Isambard

Due to the success of GW4 Isambard, the world's first Arm-based supercomputer to go into production use, GW4 and our partners secured a further £4.1m from EPSRC to create [Isambard 2](#).

The powerful new £6.5m facility, to be hosted by the Met Office in Exeter, will double the size of GW4 Isambard, to 21,504 high performance cores and 336 nodes.

Isambard 2 will also incorporate the latest novel technologies from HPE and new partner Fujitsu, including next-generation Arm CPUs in one of the world's first A64fx machines from Fujitsu.



Responding to Global Challenges

We launched two new research alliances – GW4
Climate and GW4 AMR

The aim of the interdisciplinary GW4 AMR Alliance
is to become the UK's leading 'One Health' AMR
research consortium, recognised globally.

The GW4 Climate Alliance is uniquely placed to
address the global challenge of climate change,
due to both our regional 'ecosystem' and the
complementary critical mass of expertise across
the GW4 institutions.



GW4 Early Career Symposia Scheme

Our new Early Career Symposia Scheme offered up to £2500 for successful teams of Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) and Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to deliver flagship PGR- and ECR-led symposia focusing on Climate and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

Both groups held very successful Symposia events with fantastic speakers and interactive workshops and discussions.

[#GW4AMR2020](https://twitter.com/GW4AMR2020)

[#GW4Climate2020](https://twitter.com/GW4Climate2020)





A big thank you to everyone who helped us achieve all this and more over the past year.

GW4 has much to celebrate and we look forward to delivering more innovative research, developing exciting partnerships, and creating new collaborations in the future.