

Candidate Information Pack



About the GW4 Alliance

Founded in 2013, GW4 is an alliance of four of the most research-intensive and innovative universities in the UK: Bath, **Bristol**, Cardiff and Exeter.

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do and it makes us greater together than the sum of our parts. We work with other universities, businesses and civic bodies, acting as the anchor institutions to support a knowledge-intensive economy.

Our Value

- **We add value** by creating research and innovation that address some of the biggest challenges and priorities facing society. Our activities **inform policy** and attract investment to support **regional economic growth**, respond to **skills needs**, and raise the **national and international profile** of our universities.
- The GW4 universities contribute substantially to the global knowledge economy with a combined annual research income of over **£465 million and a £2.4 billion annual turnover**.
- Our universities employ over **13,000** academic staff and educate over **33,000** postgraduate and **82,000** undergraduate students.

Our Impact and Scale



GW4 universities have worked together with more than **400** business and non-academic partners to deliver **world-class research and innovation**.

25:1

Our **125** GW4-funded research communities have generated over **£87million** in external research income. A return on investment of **25:1**, for every **£1** invested by GW4.



We are the **only** research alliance to collaborate across **England and a devolved nation**.

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Our Strategic Priorities

GW4 interventions do not just focus on our areas of collective strength, but also consider how, together, we can best address major national and international policy and strategic priorities. Our shared research missions will add value in:

- Tackling global challenges through **advanced cyber and digital**
- Effective routes to accelerate the transition to **sustainable Net Zero**
- Capitalising on **creative communities to foster sociocultural growth**
- Advancing **health and wellbeing** research and innovation for all.



Work with us

As the University Alliance representing your constituency's university, we are proud to work with local and national stakeholders to provide co-created solutions and increase our impact.

GW4 would be happy to work with you in the following ways:

- **Support our campaign:** GW4 is campaigning to improve accessibility of further education by extending the current undergraduate Childcare Grant to include postgraduate students. You can find out more about our campaign on [our website](#).
- **Informing policy through collaborative research:** GW4 funds and supports collaborative research and innovation that provides insights that can help inform and shape policy. [Contact us](#) to find out more about how we can connect academics and policymakers.
- Sign up to the [GW4 Newsletter](#).

For more information:

- Email GW4 Public Affairs Lead, **Billy Davis**, via b.davis@gw4.ac.uk, info@gw4.ac.uk or telephone **07483964611**
- Follow GW4 on [LinkedIn](#) or [X](#)
- Read more about our [Strategic Vision 2023-2028](#) on our website www.gw4.ac.uk



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GW4 Case Study: GW4 Isambard

GW4 Isambard is the world's first Arm-based supercomputer to go into production use.

Since 2016, GW4 has secured a total investment in GW4 Isambard of over £22.7 million from UKRI. Isambard is an award-winning, internationally-leading service, with nearly 1000 registered users worldwide. At the forefront of scientific and technological innovation, it has been used in climate modelling and next-generation healthcare research.



GW4 Isambard 1 and 2 provided one of the largest Arm-based supercomputer systems in the world. Hosted by the Met Office, it supported their efforts in developing more sophisticated weather forecasting and climate prediction modelling.

Working with industry partners, Isambard 3, located at the [National Composites Centre](#), in the [Bristol and Bath Science Park](#) will utilise the latest novel technologies, with a production system of at least 55,000 cores, making it one of [the top 500 supercomputers in the world](#).



Isambard has been used to investigate **next-generation healthcare** and develop innovations in medicine from understanding the mechanisms behind Parkinson's disease, to finding new ways to treat osteoporosis.



Research conducted on Isambard was **vital in the fight against COVID-19**, contributing to the design of the vaccines by modelling the virus and how vaccines might work against it.



Isambard 3 will support new user communities from **AI, life sciences, medical, astrophysics and biotech**. and provide **training courses and hackathons** for these new architectures.

GW4 Isambard was also the catalyst for the £225m, University of Bristol-led, Isambard AI, the UK's most powerful and sustainable supercomputer which forms part of the national Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (AIRR), designed to **make the UK a world leader in AI**.

Find out more about GW4 Isambard on the [GW4 website](#)

