

## Case Study 2

**Fixed-term Fellowship project (developed by Sian Davies, European Funding Officer, Research Business and Innovation)** (Case Study of Effective Practice: Recognition of the importance of recruiting, selecting and retaining researchers with the highest potential to achieve excellence in research (Concordat Principle 1)



Aberystwyth University have been actively involved in the promotion of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual fellowships scheme within Wales and since 2016 have engaged with other Welsh Universities in coordinating annual proposal writing workshops to increase success rates. The workshops were funded through application to Welsh Government initiatives - Supporting collaborative research and innovation in Europe (SCoRE) and NRN-LCEE research development Funds.

These fellowships bring fully funded talented postdoctoral fellows from outside of the UK, to Welsh HEIs for up to 2 years to work on specific research projects however they are highly competitive with low success rates (between 10% and 15%).

Success rates achieved from these workshops exceed overall success rates e.g. In 2016 there was a 19% success rate, overall success rate was 13.4% (UK - 15.3%) and for 2017 the success rate was 16.6% proving to be higher than the 15.2% UK average.

In addition Aberystwyth university have had 14 successful Ser Cymru II COFUND applications since 2016 which are effectively Marie Curie fellowships part funded each through the European Commission, Welsh Government and the host institute. The promotional video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoG\\_TOAy6Vo&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoG_TOAy6Vo&feature=youtu.be)