

# Collaborate | Innovate | Evaluate

## Why is there a need for an Integrated Care Academy?

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Health and Care systems face critical challenges that require innovative solutions:

- Increasing demand for effective health and care services across our communities
- An innovative flexible and agile health and care workforce that embeds new future-ready skills such as AI and data analytics to inform best practice
- Challenge and work proactively with others to resolve worsening health inequalities, variable patient experiences, outcomes and productivity despite some increases in resources
- Requirement for better access to personalised care, delivered by the right person / role, at the right place and at the right time
- Resolve challenges in variable patient flow through health and care systems through collaborative working
- Create thriving health and care environments, where technology is harnessed to underpin and support effective patient-centred care through education, training, skills development and applied research

These challenges highlight the necessity for a transformation in workforce capabilities, service delivery models and the use of health technology. Connected with the University's [RISE Agenda](#) and the associated Pillars, the ICA@UWE Bristol further strengthens the opportunity for inter-disciplinary working and connectivity with partners, to achieve positive societal impact.

## What is the Integrated Care Academy (ICA)@UWE Bristol?

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The ICA@UWE Bristol will help achieve this transformation through building a collaborative space, bridging health and care systems, academia, industry and communities to create and test new disciplines, pathways and technologies. The three core priorities, underpinned by the need to reduce inequalities are:

1. **Workforce Development**
2. **Pioneering Research with Impact**
3. **Health technology and innovation**

More detail on the background, the partnerships, case study / impact and the past, current and future work can be found at the end of this document.

## Our Vision

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To pioneer a collaborative ecosystem where health and care, academia, industry, and communities, unite to transform health outcomes through innovative workforce development, education and impactful research.

## Our aims

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### The ICA@UWE Bristol aims to:

Pioneer a collaborative ecosystem where health and care, academia, industry, and communities, unite to transform health outcomes through innovative workforce development, education and impactful research.

1. Champion a culture of freedom to collaborate, innovate, and evaluate, informed by but independent of, routine services.
2. Help address the growing demand for health and care professionals across all skill levels amid existing and projected staff shortages, requiring greater role flexibility, skill diversity and staff retention.
3. Inform patient pathways through collaborative efforts between acute and social care provision.
4. Foster impactful innovation and connections at regional, national, and global levels, collaborating closely with regional Integrated Care Systems.
5. Create new knowledge through developing, enhancing, and testing future education and service delivery models and technology.

## The enablers

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To achieve these aims, the ICA@UWE Bristol will leverage five cross-cutting enablers:

1. Collaborative Environment: The ICA@UWE Bristol will bring together clinicians, academics, entrepreneurs, researchers, service users and system leaders to identify challenges and co-create solutions.
2. Academic and Research Expertise: Utilising UWE Bristol's subject matter experts to inform, guide and evaluate.
3. Technology Integration: Embracing innovation to enable new service models and educational approaches.
4. Industry Partnerships: Fostering productive relationships between health and care systems, communities, and industry driving economic growth.
5. Evidence-Based Approach: the development and implementation of new models and technology based on rigorous research.

## The themes

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### Key themes of an Integrated Care Academy@UWE Bristol



## Our partners

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To crystallise the key challenges and co-create innovative solutions, the ICA@UWE Bristol will collaborate with stakeholders across multiple health and care systems, including:

- Integrated Care Boards, NHS England, Health Education and Innovation Wales
- Healthcare providers and associated organisations
- Regional and local authorities and social care providers
- Combined Authorities
- Health Innovation Networks
- Academic and Further Education institutions
- Technology companies and innovators
- Voluntary, community, social enterprises and patient groups
- Health and social care regulators and professional bodies

## Implementation strategy

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The ICA@UWE Bristol will employ a multi-faceted engagement approach to define specific and time bound objectives that respond to both the needs of the partners and the opportunities created through collaboration. Objectives may be created within these areas:

- **Workforce Planning, Design and Evaluation:** Collaborate with Integrated Care Systems to forecast future workforce needs, design appropriate training pathways and inform system workforce and skills strategies.
- **Educational Programmes:** Develop new curricula and training programmes that focus on integrated care, digital skills, and collaborative practice. This approach will also support and shape the future economic growth strategy for the region and beyond, mapping across to the Industrial Strategy (2035) and the drive towards creating several growth zones across the region.
- **Applied Research Initiatives:** Collaborate on grant applications and conduct studies to identify best practices, evaluate new care models, and assess the impact of technological innovations in health and care.
- **Technology Design, Adoption and Evaluation:** Work with subject experts, industry partners and public and service users to develop, implement and test new health technologies that support integrated care delivery. This work includes the expansion of generative AI, predictive data analytics and machine learning.
- **Community Engagement:** Involve patients and local communities in the design and evaluation of new care models to ensure they meet their needs. This might be directly through the ICA@UWE Bristol, or through applying existing approaches used by integrated care systems, research organisations, and industry.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Share findings, best practices, and innovations through peer networks, publications, conferences, and workshops to benefit the wider health and care community.
- **Continuous Evaluation:** Regularly assess the impact of the ICA@UWE Bristol initiatives and adjust strategies as needed to ensure optimal outcomes.

## Conclusion

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The ICA@UWE Bristol and its collaborative network represents a significant investment in the future of health and care. This initiative will unite diverse stakeholders to foster impactful innovation and develop a tech-enabled and agile workforce to support the transformation of health and care and ultimately improving outcomes.

## The Integrated Care Academy @ UWE Bristol | Collaborate, Innovate, Evaluate



# Background and context for the ICA@UWE Bristol

## Background

The ICA@UWE Bristol emerged from the collaborative efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic, aiming to develop innovative approaches to health and social care. It draws on international experience and research, with connections to institutions in Europe the USA and India.

The ICA@UWE Bristol aims to extend its reach beyond traditional settings, serving acute care facilities, community hubs, homes, and broader social environments. Based in Southwest England, it will elevate the education and professional development of health and social care practitioners across various roles. The ICA@UWE Bristol will work closely with regional Integrated Care Systems to crystalise the challenges and seize opportunities to co-create and test innovative solutions.

Through interdisciplinary collaboration, ICA@UWE Bristol seeks to pioneer new care delivery pathways, leveraging partnerships between educational institutions, authorities, and industry. It aims to create new educational and workforce pathways while addressing current societal challenges.

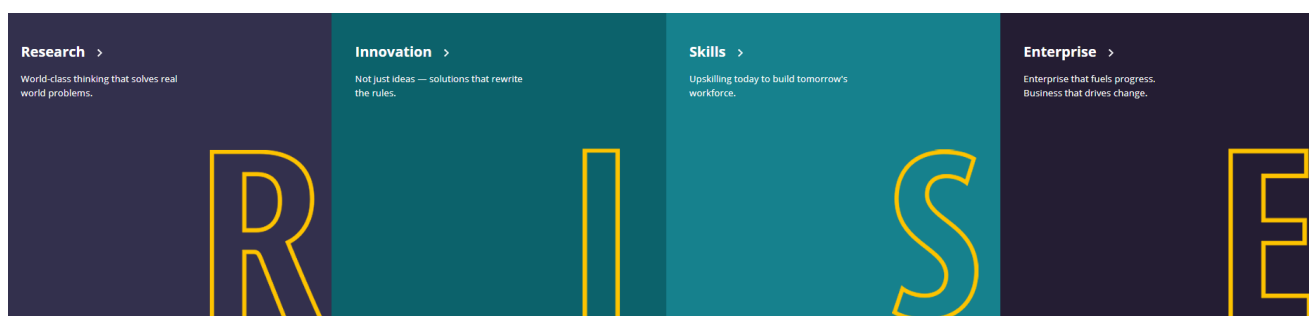
Key to ICA@UWE Bristol approach is forming thoughtful partnerships and incorporating diverse community voices. The academy emphasises equipping professionals to work collaboratively while prioritising patients and carers in care pathway design and delivery.

ICA@UWE Bristol aspires to be a model for innovation, research, and education in shaping health and care policy and practice. It will support organisations in developing future professional roles and talent, championing a culture of collaboration, innovation and evaluation

## Where will the impact of the ICA be seen?

The ICA@UWE Bristol will create a regional innovation network with a culture of collaboration, continuous improvement and innovation, intrinsically linked with the RISE Agenda to achieve:

1. Flexible, diverse health and care workforce.
2. Balanced, personalised care delivery through collaboration.
3. Future-ready service models and technologies, setting new benchmarks for best practice.
4. Stronger regional university presence with greater opportunities for skills development, collaboration, grant funding and other income-generating opportunities that will benefit all stakeholders.



## Partnerships and Collaboration

At UWE Bristol, we collaborate closely with partners across health and social care, contributing to workforce development and applied research. We will integrate healthcare assets with other disciplines, including applied sciences, technology, business, law, computing / cyber, AI, engineering, built environment and more.

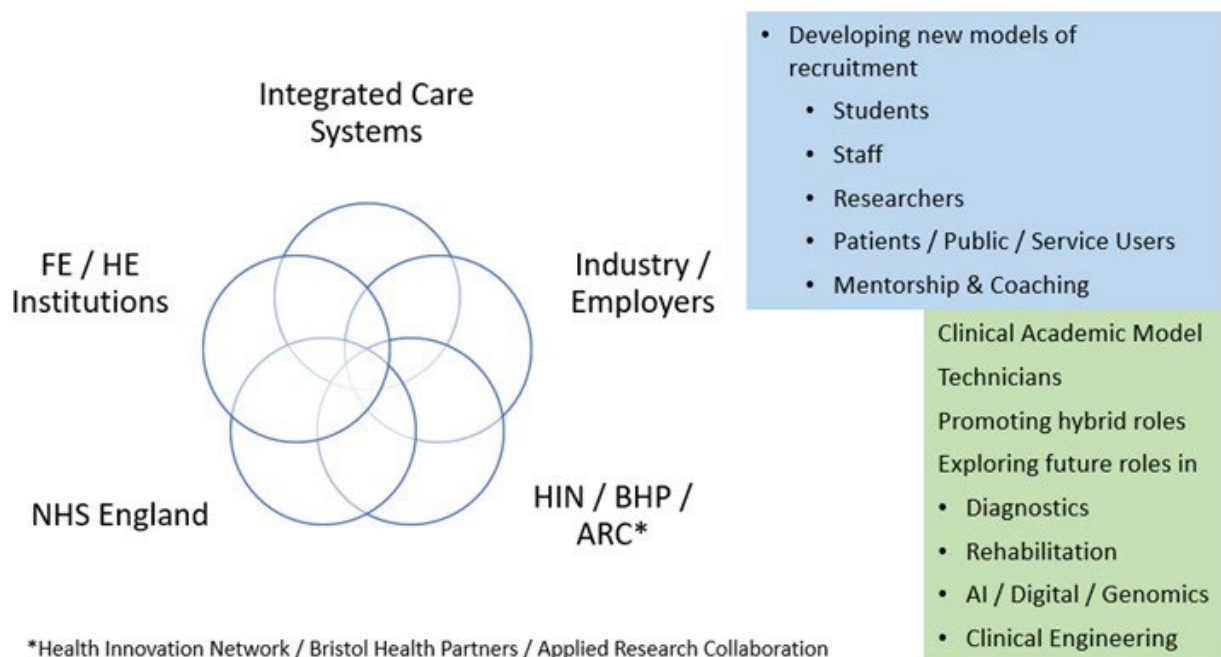
Our goal is to connect innovative spaces across the health and social care landscape. We will develop and connect the University's Enterprise Park including Bristol Robotics Laboratory, FutureSpace, Launch Space and the Health Tech Hub with the Engineering School, Computing, Cyber Security, the Bristol Business School, Health and Social Wellbeing, Applied Sciences, Education and Childhood, Built Environment, Social Sciences and Creative Arts and Design.

UWE Bristol offers strong expertise in Public Health and Environmental Health, focusing on population health and health inequalities. We also excel in diagnostics, robotics, Generative AI, data analytics, genomics, and health technology. This diverse knowledge base allows us to contribute to impactful partnerships and research.

Promoting innovation and skills among our partners is crucial for the region's health and social care systems. Our approach aims to transform local capacity, attract investment, and develop new care models with potential for national and international scaling.

The ICA@UWE Bristol promotes collaboration with international partners and key organisations like the Health Innovation Networks. Where appropriate, we will evaluate our work with the National Institute for Health Research Applied Research Collaboratives (ARC) and collaborate with the Health Bristol Health Partners Academic Health Science Centre to inform our research themes.

Connecting points of the ICA@UWE Bristol:



## Beyond the initial set-up of the ICA@UWE Bristol:

Through the first two phases of work within the ICA@UWE Bristol, several innovative approaches and case studies can be found [here](#) and are outlined over page.

Current and future work is now being focused on the following areas:

1. *Assistive technology, simulation, robotics and genomics:*

- Focus on developing assistive technology and living solutions, building on recent successes with NHS England and the Primary Care Lab.
- Strengthen connections with Bristol Robotics Laboratory and expand reputation in genomics education for nursing and allied health practitioners.

2. *Stakeholder engagement:*

- Engage with stakeholders and potential collaborators to understand the challenges and opportunities as well as align with system workforce strategies. This will lead to a stakeholder workshop in early 2025 to agree the specific objectives of the ICA@UWE Bristol.
- Continued integration with the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and collaboration with Further Education colleges to strengthen local and regional skills and education in line with the four priorities of the West of England Local Industrial Strategy.

3. *Quality and continuous improvement:*

Emphasise continuous improvement in practice-facing environments to address ongoing technological and service model changes. Ensure curricula remain at the forefront of practice through co-creation, collaboration, evaluation, and improvement.

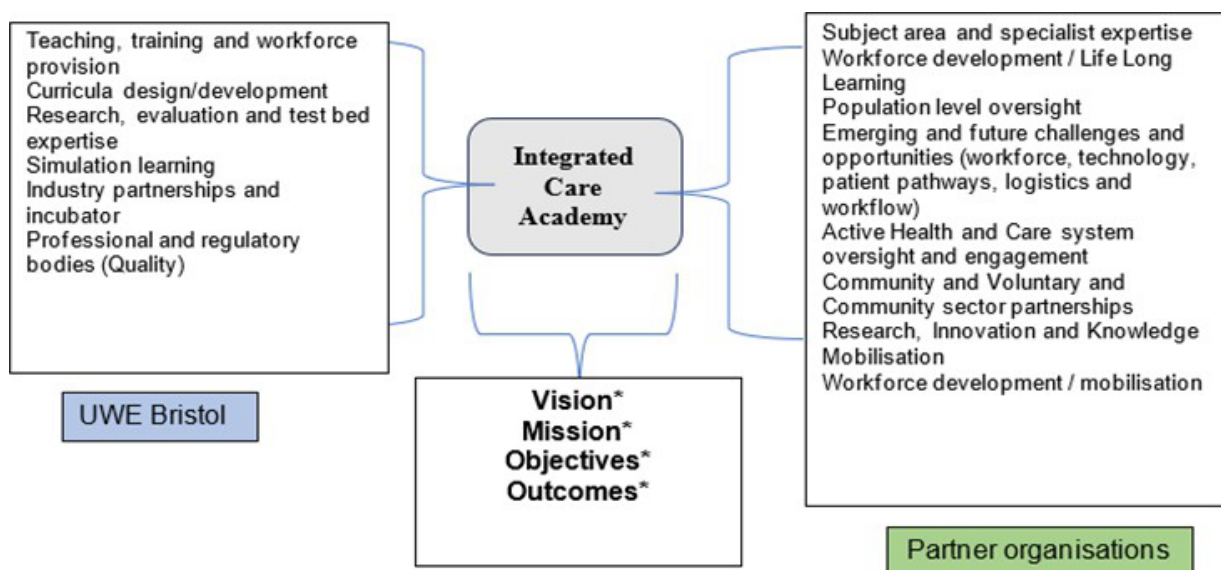
4. *New curricula, widening access, wellbeing and resilience:*

- Support innovative approaches and new technologies for patient care, workforce development, and NHS net-zero goals.
- Foster collaboration among Clinical Academic Practitioners, Technician Educators, and Clinical Researchers.
- Implement new models for integrating simulated learning with clinical, community, and social care environments.
- Develop an integrated Pharmacy Masters programme with a focus on community and technology-based provision.
- Widen access to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and deliver pre and post-graduate educational growth.
- Embed wellbeing and digital / data upskilling as a core competency for learners and staff.
- Explore and evaluate user-led methods like peer interventions, mental health technology, and analytics. -- Collaborate with health organisations and charities to create resilience and wellbeing 'boot camps' using a coaching model to enhance student and practitioner success.

5. *Digital skills and environmental monitoring within community practice:*

- Developing new capabilities around the digitally empowered workforce and developing different relationships with service users supported by technological advances.
- Connecting with local authorities, public health and industry partners to provide valuable data and insights within social housing from a health and economic perspective.





\*co-designed with stakeholders

## Case Studies and areas of impact:

### Case studies, themes and impact



#### Allied health professionals leadership in academia

As part of the ICA at UWE Bristol, funding was secured from NHS Health Education England (HEE) to explore allied health professionals (AHPs) leadership in academia through a three part project.



#### Inclusive training for healthcare students

This NHS funded project explores the South West's approach to inclusive training within practice for healthcare students and international staff.



#### Sonography extended practice

UWE Bristol has secured funding from NHS England for an exciting new project to further develop sonographer skills, and enable them to expand and advance their field of practice.



#### Biomedicine in allied health diverse internships

This project aims to enable a diverse health workforce environment by funding and supporting diverse placement opportunities for widening participation students from the School of Applied Sciences.



#### Procurement of healthcare science equipment to support training

UWE Bristol's has secured funding from NHS England for the procurement of equipment and software to support the delivery of training in healthcare science.



#### Reframe: Diverse images for healthcare

A collaborative project with NHS England and University Hospitals Bristol and Weston Foundation NHS Trust to create a diverse image library that reflects the communities it serves.



# ICA@UWE BRISTOL | Connecting across and beyond the University

