

Birmingham, 13th of February 2025

Prof Wendy Larner, Vice-Chancellor and President
Prof Walford Davies, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Mr Patrick Younge, University Chair of Council
Cardiff University

Dear Prof Larner, Prof Davies, and Mr Younge,

I am writing on behalf of the Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK/CERU) to express our deep concern regarding the proposed closure of the School of Modern Languages at Cardiff University. As an association dedicated to fostering academic collaboration and strengthening ties between Spain and the UK, we are dismayed at the potential loss of a crucial institution that has long contributed to research, education, and international exchange.

The study of languages is integral to global research and diplomacy. Spanish, as one of the most spoken languages in the world, plays a fundamental role in connecting academia, industry, and policy. The closure of the School of Modern Languages at Cardiff would not only weaken language education in Wales but also erode the UK's capacity to engage meaningfully with Spanish-speaking nations, undermining future academic and economic partnerships.

Cardiff University has historically been a key player in promoting language learning and research excellence. Its contributions to interdisciplinary scholarship, cultural exchange, and the professional development of language specialists are significant. The proposed closure risks severing vital links with institutions across Spain and Latin America, negatively impacting ongoing research collaborations and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Moreover, it would deprive students of opportunities to develop linguistic and intercultural skills that are increasingly valuable in today's globalized job market.

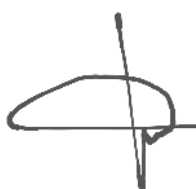
Beyond the direct impact on academia, this decision contradicts broader policy efforts to promote language education. The Welsh Government has demonstrated a commitment to fostering multilingualism through initiatives such as the Global Futures strategy, and the removal of Cardiff University's Modern Languages provision would stand in direct opposition to these aims. Additionally, businesses across the UK continue to highlight the need for language skills to support international trade and cooperation, a demand that institutions like Cardiff University help fulfil.



We recognise the financial pressures faced by universities, but we urge Cardiff University to consider alternative strategies that would allow the continuation of its language programs. Many institutions have successfully revitalised their language departments through curriculum innovation, increased postgraduate offerings, and enhanced outreach efforts. Eliminating an entire school of Modern Languages, rather than investing in its potential, would be a short-sighted approach with long-term consequences.

As an organisation representing Spanish researchers across the UK, we strongly believe in the importance of maintaining and expanding language education and research. We urge Cardiff University to reconsider its decision and to engage in dialogue with stakeholders to explore solutions that safeguard this essential academic field.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Javier Pardo Díaz

President
Society of Spanish Researchers in the UK (SRUK/CERU)

