



Buzz Bitesize: December 2014

Welcome to Buzz Bitesize. Circulated monthly, Buzz Bitesize provides the latest news, views, events and opportunities from across campus. Take a look at the Buzz Facebook and Twitter accounts for the latest campus news and opportunities throughout the month.

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Christmas on campus

Buzz would like to wish all at the University a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, we do hope you enjoy the festive period. Please note that the University is closed from Wednesday 24 December 2014 and reopens on Monday 5 January 2015. There is plenty happening around campus until then including:

University Carol Service

Date/time: Monday 8 December, 6.15pm

Venue: Aston Webb Great Hall

The Carol Service is a Christmas celebration for all staff, students and families. There will be carols, festive readings and poems followed by mince pies. All are welcome, no tickets required. For more information, please contact chaplaincy@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Major Infrastructure Maintenance Window – January 2015



IT systems, like our cars, need regular maintenance to ensure trouble-free operation and the University's complex IT infrastructure is no different. IT Services has a rolling schedule of agreed 'Major Infrastructure Maintenance Windows' for the coming two years, when planned work will normally be undertaken. The idea is to allow all organisational units, staff and students to plan for these dates in order to avoid arranging any activity, with a critical dependence on IT, during the 24-hour period. The next date is **Wednesday 7 January 2015**. IT Services will use service resilience, where feasible, to mitigate any disruption to core services but cannot guarantee that there will not be disruption to any or all services. [More information](#).



BUAFTA update – raffle tickets now on sale

Congratulations to all staff who have been nominated for a BUAFTA 2015. There were over 900 nominations this year and the standard of entry was extremely high. Tickets for the BUAFTA raffle are now on sale and proceeds will go to the Birmingham Children's Hospital Magnolia House appeal. Staff at the Hospital offer excellent counselling and bereavement services for families, but they do not have a dedicated space where they can deliver what can be devastating information and news. The Hospital aims to raise £1 million to build a unique unit that will provide palliative and bereavement care in peaceful, caring surroundings. We would urge staff to buy a raffle ticket and support this amazing cause. The prize draw will take place on 27 February 2015 at the BUAFTA awards ceremony and winners will be notified after the event. Staff can buy tickets from their local BUAFTA champion or the online shop via the [staff intranet](#).

News...

Support our researchers developing a new treatment for cancer patients

Research has led to the development of a potential new treatment for Epstein–Barr virus (EBV) cancers; a therapeutic vaccine to alert the immune system of patients with an EBV-related cancer to attack the cancer cells. The vaccine could help the 200,000 people diagnosed with an EBV-related cancer each year. The researchers hope to get additional scientific data from the trials by using the very latest cutting-edge techniques and are currently raising funds with Cancer Research UK to do this. They need to reach their £40,000 target by the 11 December 2014 – to find out more about the research and how to donate visit the [staff intranet](#).

National award for Careers Network

The University's Careers Network with Careers in Business have won a [national award](#) in the category Prospects Postgraduate Best Careers Employability Team. This is the first year for this category so it is great to win this inaugural award. The judges were impressed with the well-thought-out approach, and the joined up and integrated model which was evident in the submission. They also made reference to the support provided across the pathway for students considering further study and pre-starting a postgraduate course, and also for students currently on course with programmes such as Talent Pool and in to employment.

What is Character? New online course

Registration is now open for [What is Character? Virtue Ethics in Education](#), a new, free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) run by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues. This two-week course will help answer important questions around the issue of character, its importance and whether it can be taught. No previous knowledge is necessary to take part and the course is relevant to anyone who is interested in learning more about character and virtues and the role they play in helping both individuals and society flourish. The MOOC will begin on 19 January 2015 and will be delivered through the FutureLearn platform. The course will tap into the increasing public and political interest in character and character education. Anyone can sign up, and by doing so, will gain access to the expertise of world-class academics from the University, as well as teachers and head teachers who have experienced first-hand the transformative power of implementing character education in day-to-day practices within a school. [Register online](#).

Improving Your Image: Dental Photography in Practice

The Dental MOOC launches on 5 January 2015. Learn how to achieve consistent and excellent results in all aspects of dental photography. Sign up now by visiting the [FutureLearn website](#).

College Facilities Manager honoured

Donna Willmetts, College Facilities Manager for the College of Social Sciences, was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to higher education in June. In November, Mrs Willmetts, who has worked at the University for 29 years, was officially presented with her medal by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands, Mr Paul Sabapathy CBE. [Read more](#).

Self-help guides

The University's Counselling Service has launched a series of 19 online self-help guides, which are available to all students and staff on the [intranet](#). The guides cover common issues that students typically seek help for, such as bereavement, anxiety, eating disorders and sleep problems. The self-help guides are free to download and are also available as audio files. Please share with any students who could benefit from this information.

Events...

A full list of events can also be found on the [University's website](#) including performances, lectures, workshops, cultural activities and exhibitions.

Sport Policy Centre Launch Event

Date/time: Thursday 4 December, 6.30–9.00pm

Venue: Atrium and G12, University House (Birmingham Business School)

The evening marks the launch of the Sport Policy Centre (SPC), which sits within the School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences, one of the highest ranked schools of its kind in the UK. The SPC seeks to provide a bridge between first-class academic research and innovative policy making. The launch event, hosted by the Institute of Advanced Studies, consists of a drinks reception followed by an interactive panel discussion on the gap between research and policy, featuring both academics and policy makers. The event is free to attend, please contact [Verity Postlethwaite](#) to book a space. Follow us on Twitter [@SPC UoB](#).

Ethics in Syria: Analysing the International Response

Date/time: Monday 8 December, 6.00–7.30pm

Venue: Room 417, Muirhead Tower

Over the last three years, more than 100,000 Syrians have been killed and nearly half of the population have fled their homes. There are currently no credible prospects for peace in the near term and many analysts expect the war to continue for many years. In these circumstances, what, if anything, should the international community do to respond to the widespread and severe human suffering? Leading academics and human rights activists convene a panel to discuss the ethics of responding to the crisis in Syria. This event is presented by the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security and the Centre for the Study of Global Ethics, and is chaired by Professor Heather Widdows, Department of Philosophy. [More information](#). To register please email [Tina Aston](#).

Business Club's Breakfast Briefing

Date/time: Tuesday 9 December, 7.30am

Venue: Bizzinn, Birmingham Research Park

Each briefing is an opportunity for Business Club members to collaborate with academics at the University. December's theme is 'The Chancellor's Autumn Statement and the Implications for Business'. Those attending will be able to hear from our two expert speakers; Professor Andy Lymer, Birmingham Business School, and Peter Jelfs, Senior Tax Manager at Mazars in Birmingham. There will also be the opportunity to make short elevator pitches to the Club, of no more than four minutes in duration, to promote new products, services or recruit partners for Collaborative R&D projects. Registration is free; [book online](#).

Barber Book Club: *The Kreutzer Sonata* by Leo Tolstoy

Date/time: Tuesday 9 December, 2.00–3.00pm

Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Come along to this month's book club to discuss the 1889 novella *The Kreutzer Sonata* by Russian philosopher, author and playwright Leo Tolstoy. This thought-provoking work is an argument for the ideal of sexual abstinence and an in-depth first-person description of jealous rage. The event is £2, including refreshments, and booking is essential. [More information.](#)

How to Run a Medical School

Dates/times: Tuesday 9 December, 6.00–7.00pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 3, Medical School

Professor David Adams, Dean of Medicine at the College of Medical and Dental Sciences, is offering us his time to discuss the trials and tribulations associated with running our medical school. As Professor of Hepatology, lead for translational research in the MRC Centre for Immune Regulation, Director of the Centre for Liver Research and NIHR Birmingham Liver Biomedical Research unit, not only will this talk provide a fascinating insight into the leadership and management skills required to accomplish his inspirational role as Dean, but also how he manages to balance such a pivotal role both within the University and with numerous leadership roles within both clinical and academic work. Find out more on [Facebook](#), via Twitter [@UoBMedLeaders](#) or via [email](#).

Jazzlines presents: Laura Jurd Quartet

Dates/times: Thursday 11 December, 5.00–6.30pm

Venue: Foyer of Bramall Music Building

Trumpet player, composer and improviser Laura Jurd draws on classical, jazz and folk influences in her music. This event is free, no registration required.

Bramall Comedy Night

Dates/times: Thursday 11 December, 8.00pm

Venue: Bramall Music Building

An evening of comedy featuring Paul Sinha, John Robins and Suzi Ruffell. Tickets are only £5 when purchased in advance or £7.50 if purchased on the night. [Book online.](#)

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

Dates/times: Sunday 14 December, 3.00pm

Venue: Bramall Music Building

First and Last performed by Soprano Alison Roddy and Conductor Michael Lloyd. Works include:

- Butterworth: *Rhapsody, A Shropshire Lad*
- Strauss: *Four Last Songs*
- Mahler: *Symphony No 1 in D major*

Tickets cost £14 for adults, £12 for concessions and £5 for students. [Book online](#).

Music and Alabaster

Dates/times: Monday 15 December, 9.00am–5.00pm

Venue: Evesham Room, Hornton Grange

Hosted by the Institute of Advanced Studies, this workshop brings together scholars, museum professionals and musicians to explore the interaction of the sounding and the visual in the English late Middle Ages, with a particular emphasis on polyphonic music and Midlands religious alabasters and their devotional contexts in the long 15th century (c.1380–1520). This workshop offers an important cultural parallel, which will function as a showcase for national and local patrimony as well as a potential boost in national and international profile for important, but neglected, regional collections. Discussions will take a different view: while precise archaeological and archival knowledge offers valuable signposts, these phenomena operated within a context of typology and exemplarity that allowed for a wide range of musical-visual juxtapositions within any given context. This typological frame, based on contemporary functionality, thus allows us to derive historical insights from the combination of its component elements. [Book online](#).

Birmingham Professional: What Does an Alumni Officer Do?

Dates/times: Tuesday 16 December, 11.00am–12noon

Venue: G13, Arts Building

These short, informal sessions present an opportunity to hear from a variety of professional services colleagues from around the University doing a range of jobs that might interest you. Find out what the job is about, what skills you need and how they got into that role. Register by emailing the [Birmingham Professional team](#) and find out more on via [the intranet](#).

Two-stage exams: Learning Together?

Dates/times: Monday 19 January, 4.00pm

Venue: Edgbaston campus

Exams are typically used for evaluation in post-secondary education; two-stage exams are a simple technique that changes exams into powerful learning experiences. At the University of British Columbia, two-stage exams are very popular, used in well over 40 classes. In this workshop, led by speaker Brett Gilley, Earth and Ocean Sciences, University of British Columbia, we will discuss the features we believe make these exams successful, and how you can deploy them in your own classes. There is no charge for attending this event, however registration is essential. [More information](#).

Performing Under Pressure

Dates/times: Tuesday 20 January, 1.00–2.30pm

Venue: Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre, Medical School

Former Royal Air Force fast jet pilot and University alumna Mandy Hickson will be joining us for a special guest lecture. As one of the first female pilots on her frontline Tornado GR4 squadron, she worked in a constantly challenging, yet exhilarating environment. At this event, Mandy will offer her unique and fascinating insight into this elite world, supported by anecdotes about her time on the front line. Mandy will also share her expertise on coping under extreme pressure, team work and leading quite literally from the front, in order to get the best from herself and her team.

To book please email the [Birmingham Professional team](#).

Finding Common Ground

Dates/times: Thursday 22 January, 5.15pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences Building

The College of Life and Environmental Sciences invites you to attend 'Finding Common Ground: The Benefits of Diet and Physical Activity in Reducing Risks for Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes in Diverse Communities', the Inaugural Lecture of Janice Lee Thompson, Professor of Public Health Nutrition and Exercise. Living and ageing in diverse communities pose challenges and provide unique opportunities to address the substantial rise in obesity and type 2 diabetes occurring globally. Professor Thompson will highlight how we can, and should, use a range of methods and approaches to tackle barriers and promote factors that facilitate healthy eating and more active lifestyles. The event will be followed by a drinks reception in the SportExR Atrium. [Register online](#).

Opportunities...

Current Universitas21 (U21) opportunities for staff and students

There are currently a number of opportunities to apply for funding to support travel to our U21 partner universities for both staff and students.

- U21 Early-Career Researcher Workshop: Innovation and Entrepreneurship; University College Dublin, 4–6 March 2015; four £200 bursaries; deadline 12 December 2014
- U21 Staff Fellowship awards of up to £5,000; deadline 1 March 2015
- U21 PhD Scholarships of up to £1,500; deadline 29 March 2015
- U21 Summer Event Bursaries for undergraduate students to travel to Guatemala, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Scotland; various deadlines

For more information and/or promotional material please contact [Matt Clulee](#) in International Relations or visit the [U21 intranet page](#).

Superdiversity Research Funding

The Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRiS) in the College of Social Sciences is offering seed-corn funding to support researchers from across the University to undertake some research, produce a publication or prepare a research proposal in the field of superdiversity. Up to £1,000 is available to support those wanting to apply a superdiversity

lens to their research interests. [Find out more.](#)

Enter the Enterprising Birmingham Innovation Competition

It is your last chance to enter the University's prestigious Enterprising Birmingham Innovation Competition and win up to £10,000. We are seeking out the University's most inventive and entrepreneurial researchers, who have identified a commercial opportunity, based on their research and have the drive and vision to transform their innovation into enterprise. For an application form please email [Sofia Hansrod](#) or visit the [BizzInn website](#) for further information. The deadline for applications is 15 December 2014.

Free coaching sessions

Dee Partridge is a member of staff in the College of Social Sciences currently studying towards an ILM Level 5 Coaching Award through POD. In order to meet the practice requirements and finalise her qualification, Dee is offering an opportunity for University staff to turn hopes and dreams into real possibilities and solutions, through a 1:1 coaching partnership. This highly confidential work will consist of up to six, one-hour coaching sessions in a mutually convenient location on the Edgbaston campus. Dee will provide the structure; all you need to do is bring your hopes and dreams. So if any of the following apply to you:

- Feeling stuck?
- Wondering where to go next in your career?
- Having trouble seeing the possibilities?
- Keen to improve your communication skills?
- Wondering what is holding you back?
- Struggling to maintain effective work/life balance?

Please get in touch with [Dee Partridge](#) or telephone 0121 414 5734.

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Email: university-buzz@bham.ac.uk
Web: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buzz



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