

Buzz Bitesize: May 2013

Welcome to Buzz Bitesize. Circulated monthly, Buzz Bitesize provides the latest news, views, events and opportunities from across campus. Why not take a look at the Buzz Facebook and Twitter accounts for the latest campus news and opportunities throughout the month.

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Universitas 21 Staff Fellowship Programme

This is an excellent opportunity for both academic and non-academic staff to benefit from travelling to one of our U21 partner institutions in 2013-14. Fellowships facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills within the network and encourage the sharing of best practice. Bids should show the initiation of a collaboration within U21 that will benefit the individual and University, and have sustainable value. Application deadline is 30 May, further details are on the [intranet](#) or by contacting Matt Clulee, U21 Officer at m.clulee@bham.ac.uk (ext

45323).



‘Can the UN ever be really neutral’?

Date/Time: 5 June, 6pm

Venue: G12, Birmingham Business School

This year’s John and Elnora Ferguson Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Sir John Holmes, Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. Further details and registration are on the University [website](#).



Birmingham Professional Conference – Maximising your Competitive Advantage

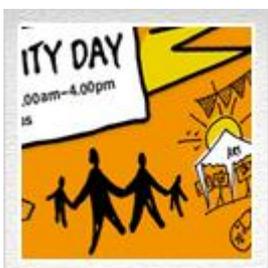
Date/Time: 12 June, 8.45am–2pm

This half day event will focus on competitive advantage from both an institutional and a personal point of view. The conference will cover ‘turning threats into opportunities’ highlighting how, in the current climate, the University seeks to differentiate itself from its competitors. A choice of workshop sessions will also focus on maximising your own competitive advantage followed by an informal lunch and an opportunity to chat with colleagues. Full event programme and registration details are on the [intranet](#).



Inaugural Lectures

Inaugural lectures are a great opportunity to learn more about the ground-breaking research and teaching being carried out by colleagues across the University. All new Professors are asked to give an inaugural lecture on any aspect of their work, in recognition of their appointment. Entrance is free, and all staff are encouraged to attend to learn more about the wide range of teaching and research across the University. Details on upcoming lectures across all Colleges are on the [intranet](#).



Community Day 2013

Date/Time: 9 June, 11am–4pm

Come along to the University’s [Community Day](#) for free fun for all the family! Activities will include bungee-trampoline, build a rocket, create a dinosaur, and much more.

UoB Virtual Campus

A new site allows users to take an interactive virtual tour of our stunning 250 acre Edgbaston campus, via photos, videos and 360 panoramas. [The virtual tour](#) contains information about key University buildings, attractions and facilities, plus guided tours that focus on Birmingham's heritage, culture, sport, student services and study areas. The site will be used to help promote the campus to prospective students and as a 'virtual open day' for those unable to attend campus based events.

University strengthens its league table position

The University of Birmingham has been ranked 11th place in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2013, and 17th out of 124 UK universities in The Complete University Guide for 2014. These results further strengthen Birmingham's position as a top 20 university and reflect its recent performance in other highly regarded league tables, such as the Sunday Times University Guide 2013, which ranked the University in 13th place overall.

Birmingham summer tunnel closures

A new [website](#) has been launched to help commuters to plan ahead for closures of the A38 tunnels through the city centre this summer. The site provides an overview of the works, plus advice on suggested routes and alternative transport into the city centre. The St Chad's and Queensway tunnels will be completely closed to all traffic from 19 July to 2 September while essential refurbishment is carried out. The closure will be preceded by four weeks of overnight closures, from 10pm to 6am, and followed by up to two weeks of similar overnight closures.

Department of African Studies and Anthropology launches

The College of Arts and Law will be launching the Department of African Studies and Anthropology (DASA) for 2013–14. Incorporating the Centre of West African Studies (CWAS), DASA will formalise the long-established expansion of teaching, research and supervision beyond West Africa to include the entire African continent, and the growing place of Anthropology in staff expertise and teaching. CWAS, which celebrates 50 years in 2013, will continue as a centre within DASA to promote the development and dissemination of specifically West African-focused research.

Reporting scanning activity

If you scan material for teaching use please ensure that all scans undertaken up to 31 May 2013 are reported using the digital copy [record form](#). This is a requirement of the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) Licence, and helps to ensure royalty payments to the authors and involved. Completed forms should be submitted to copyright@contacts.bham.ac.uk no later than 31 May.

Professional Development Module

The College of Social Sciences will pilot a new Professional Development module in 2013–14. This innovative initiative, comprising an optional 20-credit final-year module will help students to bridge the gap between academic study and their future professional life, and help students' personal and professional development. Further information is available on the [University website](#).

Views

University joins The Conversation UK as a founding partner

Launching its pilot phase in May, [The Conversation UK](#) is an open access news and commentary website produced by academics and journalists. The website's team of editors will work with academics and the University press office to unlock expertise, apply it to topical issues, and make it available to the public. As a complementary media outlet, The Conversation offers an excellent platform for academics to showcase their research in a safe publishing environment, where articles are only published with the academic's approval. It will also give students access to extensive additional academic resources produced by their own lecturers and the wider research community. The UK version is a partnership with the original Melbourne-based [website](#), which in less than two years has become Australia's largest independent news, commentary and analysis website. For further information, contact pressoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

IAS – Saving Humans

The second IAS theme 'Saving Humans' launches in September and is led by Professors Heather Widdows, Paul Jackson and Nick Wheeler. IAS workshop proposals are welcome at any time and you will receive a decision within a week. Further details are on the University [website](#) or by contacting Sue Gilligan at S.Gilligan@bham.ac.uk.

New Open Access publication policy

A new policy on research papers is available on Open Access (OA) that aims to increase the impact of scholarly research by supporting access to peer-reviewed research findings. Publicly-funded work will be widely available, and the rights of authors properly acknowledged and cited. The policy applies to [peer-reviewed papers](#). Papers arising from research funded by the UK Funding Councils must be published in a compliant journal, acknowledge the funder in a standardised way, and include a statement on how underlying research materials can be accessed. Further details are available on the [intranet](#).

Events

Barber Institute events

The Barber Institute reaches the climax of its 80th anniversary celebrations with a month of exhibitions and events:

- **About Face:**
17 May–1 September,

European Portrait Masterpieces from the National Gallery London, the Royal Collection and the Courtauld Gallery

- **Family Open Day – Lady B’s Big Birthday Bash**

18 May, 11am–4pm

Join Lady Hattie Barber, and her favourite portrait-painter, Nestor Cambier for storytelling, crafts, gallery tours, and even a Krazy Kazoo Orchestra.

- **Galleries Night**

16 May, 5–9pm

Enjoy the delights of collections at six of Birmingham’s top galleries - the Barber, Ikon, RBSA, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, mac, and Eastside Projects, with the free Art Bus.

For more information visit the [Barber website](#).

Medical School Dean’s lecture

Date/Time: 15 May, 6.45–7.30pm (followed by a drinks reception)

Venue: Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre, Medical School

The Dean of Medicine, Professor Paul Stewart will be giving a lecture on ‘Our Medical School 2013’. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception and an opportunity to mingle with other guests. Contact Clare Gordon, c.h.gordon@bham.ac.uk, (ext 48904) for more information and to register.

CRRE Lecture: Different Realities: from Colour Bar to Post Racial Britain

Date/Time: 20 May, 4.45pm

Venue: Vaughan Jeffreys Lecture Theatre, School of Education

Lord Herman Ouseley, Chair of the [Kick it Out campaign](#), will give the first annual lecture for the Centre for Research in Race and Education. Lord Ouseley will discuss the changing nature of racism and discrimination in the UK over the past 50 years, and how organisations have responded to the challenges posed in seeking both equality of opportunity and equal and fair treatment for Black and minority ethnic communities. Register for this event [online](#).

Birmingham Speakers at Hay

Date/Time: 23 May–2 June

The full programme of talks for the ‘Birmingham Speakers series’ at the Hay Festival, supported by the College of Arts and Law and our partner, the Library of Birmingham, has been announced. Talks include Professor David Parker on ‘The World’s Oldest Bible: How technology shapes belief’; ‘Citizen Reader’ delivered by Dr Danielle Fuller, and the history of ‘Doggerland’ with Professor Vince Gaffney. Tickets are available from the [Hay Festival website](#) a full programme of talks is available on the University [website](#).

Medici Enterprise – recruitment event

Date/Time: 5 Jun, 12–2pm (Lunch provided)

Venue: Institute of R&D, Birmingham Research Park

Medici is an intensive training programme for research staff wanting to become involved in the commercial development of research, or who are already involved in a project and want to improve their business skills. This session will be an opportunity to find about the Medici programme and how it can benefit your research career, you'll hear from previous Medici fellows about how the course has developed the scope and applications of their research. The event is free but [registration](#) is required.

Summer Festival of Music

Date: 7–14 June

This week-long festival organised by students for performers from across the University and wider community. This 25th anniversary celebration has something for everyone including big band, opera, saxophone ensembles, and chamber music. A full programme is on the [festival website](#).

Teaching and Learning Conference 2013

Date: 24–25 June

Venue: Learning Centre

Bookings are now open for this year's 10th Anniversary of the University's annual Teaching and Learning Conference. Themes for this year's conference include Technology Enhanced Learning, closely linked with the launch of the VLE, and the 10th anniversary with retrospective and prospective consideration of teaching, learning, and educational enhancement across the University and sector. Further information, including keynote speakers, is on the [intranet](#).

BlueBEAR Conference 2013

Date: 25 June

Venue: Ground floor, Heritage Hub: European Research Institute (ERI) Building

The BEAR (Birmingham Environment for Academic Research) user-group is pleased to announce the 4th annual BlueBEAR conference. This is an exciting opportunity for postgraduate and early-career researchers to present their work in numerical modelling and high performance computing (HPC). Abstract and poster submission is now open, and prizes will be awarded for the best presentation and poster. For further information please see the conference [intranet](#) page.

Opportunities

Travel booking system training

Further training sessions are available for the University's online Travel Booking System:

- 15 May 2013 – 10am and 11am, UG06, The Learning Centre

- 11 June 2013 – 10am and 11am, Rm UG05, The Learning Centre

You will only need to attend one session. Please email Helen Foster (Procurement) at travelsystem@contacts.bham.ac.uk to confirm a place as numbers are limited.

Project Office Community

Spaces are still available during June and July on [Principles of Project Management](#) and [Practical Applications of Project Management](#) training, run in conjunction with POD. If you wish to discuss the suitability of any of these courses further, please contact projects@contacts.bham.ac.uk. The next Project Management Forum 'Sharing Knowledge from Projects' (5 June), will include a case study presented by Nadia Wood, Project Manager of the ERDF funded Digital Heritage Demonstrator Project. For more information and to book your place please visit the [intranet](#).

New Active Lifestyle class - High Intensity Interval Training

New High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) Spin classes have been added to the Active Lifestyle summer term programme. This class is the perfect 'save time, burn fat' training as classes are just half an hour and offer numerous benefits. For details on benefits, times and how to book visit the [UBSport website](#).

Student revision and exam skills

The Academic Skills Centre is offering a programme of workshops to help students with revision and exam skills, including sessions on 'Practical Revision and Exam Strategies,' 'Memory Techniques for Effective Revision,' and 'Tips for Emergency Revision'. Details and booking forms are on the [ASC intranet](#).

Social Enterprise Awards

The Social Enterprise UnLtd Awards offer all students and recent graduates up to £5,000 to develop an idea to make a difference in the local community. This is an opportunity for students to gain entrepreneurial skills while helping others and creating a positive change. The deadline for applications is 31 May 2013. Further details are on the [intranet](#).

Standing up for Science

The Voice of Young Science (VoYS) at the sense about science [website](#) is a useful resource for those, such as Doctoral Researchers interested in learning more about science in the media. Workshops include panels with journalists, examples of science stories that have made it to the news, and advice on how to take part in the "Ask for Evidence" campaign.

Participants needed

- £10 cash study: CANTAB, a computerised test, is being used to study cognitive processes. The study involves one hour long session that incorporates a questionnaire and simple CANTAB tests. Volunteers will need to be healthy, adult, native English speakers, and aged over 40. For details contact Iraidia Neira

lxn082@bham.ac.uk.

Contact Buzz Bitesize

Next edition: 6 June

Copy deadline: 30 May

Email: university-buzz@bham.ac.uk

Web: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buzz

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