



## Buzz Bitesize: May 2015

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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### The Chancellor's Forum: *Old Joe, New Billy*

**Date/time:** Tuesday 2 June, 12.30–1.30pm

**Venue:** Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

Join the University's Chancellor, Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea CBE, for his first staff address. Lord Bilimoria will begin the event by offering his reflections on his first year as Chancellor and there will then be an opportunity to put your questions to the Chancellor. This event is open to all staff at the University.



### Don't miss your chance to #UoBpartofit

Celebrate the impact of the University's *Circles of Influence* fundraising campaign, which entered its final 100 days on 23 April. *Circles of Influence* is on track to exceed its £160 million target, making it the most successful higher education campaign outside of Oxbridge and London. The [#UoBpartofit](#) website is packed with

videos, photos and more showcasing all that the campaign's 10,000 donors and 5,000 volunteers have achieved so far. Explore campus developments, meet a graduate of the A2B scholarship scheme, and find out more about the £5.5 million of funding for life-saving medical research. *Circles of Influence* is making a difference locally and across the globe and it's not too late for you to join in. You can still [make a donation](#), share [campaign success stories](#) and retweet our fascinating campaign facts – look out for #100days daily updates on Twitter [@birminghamalum](#).



## Academics to speak at Hay Festival

**Date:** Monday 21 May–Sunday 31 May

**Venue:** Hay-on-Wye

The College of Arts and Law (CAL) hosts its fourth series of talks at the Hay Festival of Literature & the Arts this summer, showcasing our top academics and the breadth of arts and humanities subjects at the University. The speakers for this year's series are Dr Rosie Harding, Dr Bharat Malkani, Dr Abigail Rokison, Dr Erin Sullivan, Professor Wendy Scase, Dr Peter Gray and Dr Chris Laoutaris, who will speak on subjects such as capital punishment, dementia and vulnerability, the Simeon manuscript and *Romeo and Juliet*. View the [full programme](#), [book tickets online](#) and follow CAL on [Twitter](#).

## News...

### *Just For You* – UBSport all-inclusive membership

*Just For You* is a pilot membership for University staff giving you unlimited use of the gym, swimming pool, group exercise classes and squash courts alongside a personal programme and continued support from one of our fitness instructors for three months. So get yourself ready for summer and feel the benefits of a varied exercise routine for the equivalent of just £1.61 per day. The three months will begin from the day of purchase and must be purchased between 27 April and 19 June 2015. [More information](#).

### Employee Benefit: Staff Extras

As an employee of the University, one of the many benefits you have access to is Staff Extras. Staff Extras gives you access to offers at over 3,500 national and local merchants including Argos, M&S and Virgin Media. You can receive upfront savings or earn WOWPoints on your purchases. WOWPoints are Staff Extras' exclusive currency that can be earned on many Staff Extras online purchases; 100 WOWPoints are the equivalent to £1 to spend on the site at a wide range of retailers. [Register online](#).

### Summer League is coming, are you ready for kick off?

Summer League is a fun, six-a-side men's football league open to all students and staff. Teams are of mixed ability so everyone is welcome. Matches will take place on Mondays

(12.30–1.30pm) or Wednesdays (1.00–2.00pm) starting on 22/24 June 2015. The league will last ten weeks with the finals being played on the 31 August/2 September 2015. Entrance is £75 per team with a maximum of ten players per team. To register a team please download a registration form from the [UBSport website](#). To register as an individual please [email Catherine Adams](#) to express your interest and you will be assigned to a team. Registration closes on Friday 12 June.

## Careers Network: Working Wonders Fortnight

Careers Network will be running 'Working Wonders Fortnight' from 3–17 June. The event is available to all students from all disciplines and is aimed at giving students the opportunity to proactively engage in their career planning and preparing them to make the most of the summer vacation period. It is particularly useful for undergraduate and postgraduate taught students. Careers Network staff, alumni and other professionals will be available throughout the fortnight to offer individual support and advice to students. Please promote to your students and if you would like any more information about the event please contact [Alex Boys](#).

## The 2015 Undergraduate Awards is open for submissions

The Undergraduate Awards runs the world's only pan-disciplinary academic awards programme. The University is affiliated with the Undergraduate Awards and is part of a network of innovative universities, identifying and encouraging the best undergraduate research around the world. Students are encouraged to submit their best work online for the chance to attend a three-day Global Summit networking event, be published in an international academic journal and be recognised as the best in their field. Please let students know about this fantastic opportunity to raise their profiles. [More information](#). The deadline for the 2015 programme is Friday 29 May.

## Events...

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

## Walk to Work Week

**Date:** Monday 11–Friday 15 May

**Venue:** Various

Every May, national charity Living Streets encourages everyone to take to their feet and celebrate the benefits of walking during National Walking Month. You can sign up for individual or team activities, including two led walks from campus. [More information](#).

## Bigging up society? Evidence, assertion and policy in debates about the UK's third sector

**Date/time:** Wednesday 13 May, 4.30–6.00pm

**Venue:** G15, Muirhead Tower

Beyond the direct impacts of voluntary action and voluntary organisations themselves on their beneficiaries, claims are also made about the wider public benefits of a strong voluntary sector. Professor John Mohan will consider the extent to which voluntary action and the third sector can rise to contemporary societal challenges. [More information.](#)

## ICCS Seminar Series: Take a Chance – Trust Building Across Identity Groups

**Date/time:** Thursday 14 May, 5.00pm

**Venue:** Room 420, Muirhead Tower

Professor Andrew Kydd, University of Wisconsin, will be speaking at this Institute of Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS) event. Trust is central to cooperation and it is often taken for granted that trust is higher among members of an identity group than between groups. However, apart from assimilation or creating new overarching identities, we lack a compelling explanation for trust building. In this paper we develop a model for trust building between members of different identity groups that considers the role of ingroup attachment and outgroup hostility, and which is based on taking chances with others in order to observe their behaviour and determine their trustworthiness. RSVP to [David Norman.](#)

## ICCS Distinguished Lecture: Violence, Civilization and Humanity

**Date/time:** Monday 18 May, 5.00pm

**Venue:** Room 417, Muirhead Tower

Professor Andrew Linklater, arguably one of the 50 key thinkers writing in the field of International Relations today, argues that the idea of the civilizing process provides students of international relations with an important resource for explaining long-term developments in relations within and between human societies. The talk will be followed by a wine reception. [More information.](#)

## MEX/BHX: Mexico in Birmingham

**Dates:** Monday 1–Friday 5 June

**Venue:** Across campus

To celebrate the Year of Mexico in the UK the University will celebrate Mexican culture and research through exhibitions, lectures, film and food. The festival will centre on exhibitions by two Mexican artists, Edurne Esponda and Amador Montes. Both from the region of Oaxaca, they take food and migration as their respective subjects and the festival will take inspiration from these themes across the programme. [Further information.](#)

## Water in a changing environment: too much, too little, too hot?

**Date/time:** Thursday 18 June, 5.15pm

**Venue:** G15, Muirhead Tower

The Inaugural Lecture of David Hannah, Professor of Hydrology and Head of School for Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences will look to understand how water in our environment responds to climate and how other drivers of change are a major challenge for the hydrological sciences. Too much water (flood), too little water (drought) or water that is too hot (extreme temperature) can have profound consequences for aquatic ecosystems and people. [More information.](#)

## The Value of the Urban Forest

**Date/time:** Friday 19 June, 1.00pm

**Venue:** G34, Civil and Mechanical Engineering Building

The College of Life and Environmental Sciences is proud to host Dr David Nowak, Project Leader with the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. David's research investigates urban forest structure, health, and change, and its effect on air quality, water quality and greenhouse gases. The event will be followed by a complimentary drinks reception in the Biosciences Undercroft. [Book online.](#)

## Ya' gotta' love baseball: resource caravan passageways and immigrant integration

**Date/time:** Thursday 2 July, 5.30–6.30pm

**Venue:** G15, Muirhead Lecture Theatre

With Steven E Hobfoll, the Judd and Marjorie Weinberg Presidential Professor, Rush University Medical Center Chicago, Illinois, USA. Personal, social and material resource loss and gain is instrumental in immigrant life and host-immigrant conflict. Using the 'love of baseball' metaphor, which has long been a standard for immigrant acceptance in the United States, Professor Hobfoll will examine demands on both immigrants and society to allow and observe pathways of integration along resource caravan passageways that enable, impede, or disenable integration. [Register to attend.](#)

## Opportunities...

### Clearing 2015 – call for volunteers

Clearing is a critical time of the year for the University. This is a large and complex operation that not only rounds off the undergraduate recruitment cycle, but is also vital in attracting additional, high-quality students. We are planning another large-scale operation this year, but we cannot do it without enthusiastic volunteers to help us! There are a number of teams that we need to staff so there are jobs for everyone from answering the phones to verifying applicant details – volunteers will receive full training so all colleagues are welcome regardless of background and experience. [More information.](#)

## Teaching & Learning Conference – call for proposals

The University's 12th annual Teaching & Learning Conference will take place on Tuesday 23 June in Muirhead. The theme of the conference is 'The Student Experience', with keynote presentations on Student Engagement and Collaboration, the Inclusive Curriculum, and Personalised Learning and Learning Analytics. There will also be some open presentations and poster sessions for colleagues to share their own educational innovations as well as opportunities for discussion and debate about the issues raised. The call for proposals for presentations and posters is now available on the [conference website](#). The deadline for submissions is Monday 11 May, 4.00pm.

## Book to the Future is back – be a part of it!

Join our well-known authors, poets, playwrights, journalists and scriptwriters on campus from 15–17 October in celebrating the written and spoken word. From writing workshops to poetry performances, we're developing a packed programme of events. Could you follow in the footsteps of previous guests such as Sir Tony Robinson, David Lodge and Tasmina Perry? If you would like to take part in the festival, please contact [Charlotte Heap](#), College of Arts and Law Alumni Relations Manager by Friday 29 May.

## Professional development opportunity for academic and professional staff

The Birmingham Project is a research project exclusively available to undergraduate first-year students. The project intends to develop students' research and enterprise skills, along with highlighting the benefits of interdisciplinary teamwork while tackling real-world challenges. If you are interested in getting involved in this project as a professional development opportunity for the academic year 2015–16, you can attend a showcase event on Friday 19 June, to experience the project first-hand. The showcase will give you the opportunity to attend the morning presentations at 9.30am–1.15pm and/or the awards giving ceremony at 3.00–5.00pm. If you'd like to find out more please email [The Birmingham Project](#).

## Birmingham Heritage Week

The University is participating in city-wide plans to recognise, celebrate and promote the story of Birmingham in the inaugural Birmingham Heritage Week taking place 10–17 September. If you would like to host an event on or off campus as part of the initiative, please contact [Sue Franklin](#) with details by Friday 29 May. The Cultural Engagement Team will collate and forward University events to the organisers at Birmingham City Council.

**Next edition:** 4 June, 2015  
**Copy deadline:** 27 May, 2015

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