



Buzz Bitesize: October 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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Vice-Chancellor's Open Forum

Date/time: Thursday 16 October, 12.30–1.30pm

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

Join the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, for his first staff address of the new academic year. He will be using this opportunity to look back at our progress over the last five years and to launch the consultation process for the new Strategic Framework. All staff are encouraged to attend and there will be an opportunity to ask your own questions on the day. If you would prefer you can submit a question in advance, and in confidence, however these will be put to the Vice-Chancellor after those asked on the day. Questions can be submitted to internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk or via [@buzzunibham](https://twitter.com/buzzunibham).



Nominations are now open for the BUAFTAs

The Birmingham University Awards For Tremendous Achievement (BUAFTA) celebrate the exceptional work of administrative, technical and support staff across the University. Launched in 2008 and held annually, the BUAFTAs were created by staff, for staff, and enable colleagues to nominate individuals or teams who go the extra mile.

The categories for the BUAFAs are: Team Player of the Year, Team of the Year, Best Customer Service, Best Newcomer, Change Leader of the Year, Idea of the Year, The Student Experience Award, Best Support for Research, Unsung Hero of the Year and The Vice-Chancellor's Award. Nominations for all award categories are open until 28 October and everyone who completes a nomination will be entered in to a prize draw to win an iPad! The BUAFAs ceremony will be held on Friday 27 February 2015. [More information](#).



Black History Month

For the fourth consecutive year the University is hosting a diverse programme of events and activities to mark the occasion and be part of the national celebration of the contributions black people have made to British society. Join in throughout October and take part in an inspiring season of exhibitions, film screenings, talks and a poetry competition exploring Caribbean, Asian and African cultures, past and present. [Find out more](#).

News

British Science Festival

Claire Doggett, British Science Festival Project Manager Birmingham 2014, would like to say thank you to all colleagues who assisted with the Festival, ensuring it was an enormous success. If you missed the festival, [watch a video of the highlights](#).

University of Birmingham academics participate in this year's ESRC Festival of Social Sciences

Academics from across the University of Birmingham are participating in this year's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Festival of Social Sciences. The festival, which runs from 1–8 November in a number of venues across the city, highlights some of the leading social science research taking place within the field through a variety of free lectures, workshops, seminars and exhibitions. Learn how Birmingham Means Business, participate in conversations about Birmingham's religious diversity, debunk myths about language and social media, investigate Crime, Policing and the Community, and question how we mature in our ability to make decisions as we go from our early twenties to retirement, all at this year's ESRC Festival of Social Sciences. To find out more about your colleagues' events visit the [website](#).

Download the new UoB Me app

The University has launched a new mobile app to replace UoB Student. UoB Me is relevant to both staff and students and can be downloaded from the iTunes or Android stores. The app includes campus information, maps, latest news and events, social media and important notices. Please note that the UoB Student app will no longer be updated. For other University mobile apps please visit the [University app store](#).

think Business

The second edition of the external Business Engagement e-newsletter, [*think* Business with Birmingham](#), was mailed at the beginning of September to over 1,000 business contacts. Through case studies and related news articles, *think* aims to demonstrate the different ways that businesses and the University can work together. If you would like to find out more about working and collaborating with business contact our [Business Engagement Partner](#) in your college. And if you have ideas for content for the next edition of *think*, due out in September, please email the [Business Team](#).

New edition of *Old Joe* out now!

The latest edition of the University's alumni magazine [Old Joe](#) is available online now. Delivered to over 170,000 alumni across the world, this edition is packed with University news and views including profiles with alumni such as Dr Rodolfo Neri-Vela, the first Mexican astronaut; Mike Coupe, CEO of Sainsbury's; and Alumna of the Year Amanda Beaufoy. There are also features on University research into areas as diverse as flood management and 3D printing, the latest college news, and updates on campus developments. Hard copies of are available on request from the [Alumni Team](#).

Academics examine effects of integrating workplace wellbeing activities into organisations

Academics from Birmingham Business School and the School of Health and Population Sciences have been awarded funding for a new project with Health Exchange, a leading health and wellbeing organisation in Birmingham. Funding from the Accelerating Business-Knowledge Base Innovation Activity (ABIA) will support a group of PhD students, supervised by Professor Fiona Carmichael, Birmingham Business School and Dr Steven Sadhra, School of Health and Population Sciences, to undertake a review of the effects of integrating workplace wellbeing activities into organisations. To learn more visit the [website](#).

Fresher fun from DABE

Colleagues in Development Alumni and Business Engagement (DABE) are increasing their student engagement activity with the launch of two new student schemes:

- [#UoBmugshot](#) – what do a mermaid, a clock tower, and a canal have in common? They're all on the welcome mug that each new student will receive from DABE in their halls or at the 'Staying at Home' fair. The welcome mug introduces students to some of the words that they will come to know and love during their time at Birmingham along with a postcard written by alumnus, comedian and actor Chris Addison (BA English, 1994). There is even a social media 'mug selfie' competition; look out for entries via [#UoBmugshot](#).
- [Hands Up!](#) Hands Up is a new fund offering University of Birmingham students the chance to bid for up to £2,000 to make their idea for the student community a reality. This could be anything from support to attend a conference, equipment for a society, or even a pop-up festival. All individual students and societies are eligible to apply for the fund which has been made possible thanks to donations from alumni. Entry is via a short application form and a panel of University staff and alumni will decide on winning bids.

Medici Enterprise Training Programme

The prestigious Medici Enterprise Training Programme expands to Leeds Beckett University. We are pleased to announce a partnership with Leeds Beckett University

(formerly Leeds Metropolitan University) that enables them to run our successful Medici Enterprise Training Programme for universities in the north of England. [Read more](#).

Secure email guidance

The majority of staff will now have been enabled for Secure Email, which is a service that allows you to send and receive encrypted email from your University email account. A guidance document has been produced by IT Services that explains what the service does and how to use it. [View guidance](#). Secure email is also covered by the Information Security Awareness Training course on Canvas. [More information](#).

High-quality digital scanning for free in the Main Library

Library Services has installed a new digital book scanner in the Main Library. Easy to use, the book scanner produces high-quality digital copies that can be saved to USB for free. Designed especially for books and periodicals, books sit face up, meaning scanning is quick and can capture text where tight binding prevents traditional copying. With significantly lower power consumption than a photocopier and using no paper or toner, the scanner is also helping to reduce our carbon footprint.

Events

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

Book to the Future is back!

Date: Tuesday 14–Saturday 18 October

Venue: Edgbaston campus

Launched last year to celebrate the wealth of student, alumni, and staff creative talent in the spoken and written word, Book to the Future is packed with workshops, lectures, poetry and performances from students, staff and alumni authors, poets, and journalists. During the festival you can learn how to self-publish, write a novel in a month, recover from writer's block, and be part-time and published! From poetry and publishing, to postcards from the trenches, and Tasmina Perry, there is something for everyone. All events are free to attend but require advance booking. For more information on the festival and the full schedule visit the [Book to the Future website](#).

Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture: Science and Policy

Date/time: Thursday 16 October 2014, 6.00pm

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

The University is delighted to welcome Lord Krebs, Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, to deliver a talk entitled 'Science and Policy.' Lord Krebs is an internationally renowned scientist and Crossbench Peer, who was Chair of both the UK Climate Change Committee and the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology until earlier this year. His previous roles include President of the British Science Association, inaugural chair of the UK's Food Standards Agency, and head of the UK's Natural Environment Research Council. Lord Krebs has published over 300 scientific papers and was knighted for services to behavioural ecology in 1999. He was appointed to the House of Lords as an independent Crossbench Peer in 2007, where his particular areas of interest include environment, science, education and food. [Book online](#).

Birmingham Professional Forum

Date/time: Friday 7 November, 10.30–11.30am

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

The Birmingham Professional Forum is a termly event for all professional service staff introduced by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders. The Forum is an opportunity to hear from colleagues on a range of topics. Further details including the agenda will be published on the [staff intranet](#) shortly.

UK National Badminton League Launch

Date/time: Monday 6 October 2014, 7.30pm

Venue: National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

In October the first ever National Badminton League (NBL) launches when the Birmingham Lions play Team Derby. Hosted in the National Indoor Arena, you will be able to witness a brand new, faster paced version of badminton. The NBL features a new scoring system, which will see matches being played in a first-to-nine-points format to reward attacking gameplay, a Power Play point and shorter breaks between games making this a thrilling atmosphere to experience world-class badminton. Six teams will compete for the national title in front of a worldwide audience as matches are shown on Sky Sports and streamed live online. The University will host the Birmingham Lions' second home game in the Great Hall in December, which will be televised live on Sky Sports. Purchase your tickets to see the NBL live via [Sky Tickets](#). Adult tickets are £12.00 and child/student tickets are £6.00.

The Hip-Hop Fellow documentary UK premier

Date/time: Tuesday 7 October, 6.15pm

Venue: G15, Muirhead Tower

As part of the Black History Month activities, *The Hip-Hop Fellow* documentary will premiere on campus. The film has already featured in The Guardian and is showing at urban festivals in Paris, New York and Johannesburg. Entrance is free and there will be a post-show discussion with Birmingham academics. There is no need for advance registration.

Lighting up molecular interactions with metals: φσσ and energy

Date/time: Thursday 9 October, 5.15pm

Venue: G33, Mechanical and Civil Engineering Building

Zoe Pikramenou, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry and Photophysics in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, will be delivering her inaugural lecture. During her lecture, Professor Pikramenou will describe research developments studying the processes that occur when light interacts with molecular and nano-sized probes, alongside a career path traversing multiple cultures, motherhood and a passion to understand energy transport and conversion mechanisms and apply that to create functional agents. Professor Pikramenou's research cuts across inorganic chemistry, photophysics and nanoscience for the design of new functional molecular and nanosized probes. There will be a drinks reception with light buffet to follow the lecture. [Book online](#).

West Midlands Military Education Committee (WMMEC) Annual Lecture

Date/time: Thursday 9 October, 6.00pm
Venue: Noble Room, Staff House

The lecture will be given by Sir Brian Burrige, Vice-President Strategic Marketing at Finmeccanica UK and currently the Technology and Enterprise Team Lead in the Defence Growth Partnership. He will talk on The Next Strategic Defence and Security Review: Strategic Shift or Tactical Tinkering? Attendance is open to all and you can book your place [online](#) or email [Sarah Proctor](#) (telephone: 0121 414 3976).

The Responsibility to Protect and the Unreasonable Veto

Date/time: Monday 13 October, 5.00–6.30pm
Venue: Room 714, Muirhead Tower

The Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS) launches its Autumn Term Seminar Series with a talk by visiting speaker Justin Morris, University of Hull. The roots of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) are to be found in the international community's attempts to navigate a route through UN Security Council (UNSC) inaction in the face of mass human rights atrocities. The likelihood of such inaction is exacerbated by the ability of UNSC permanent members to veto actions which they oppose, but given the level of human suffering which characterises such crises, should this right of veto, unfettered by the UN Charter, be subject to some degree of constraint? [Further information.](#)

Insider's View: a festival of Russian art, performance and research

Date/time: Monday 13–Friday 17 October
Venue: Across campus including the Bramall Music Building

Insider's View will celebrate the work of Russian and British artists and academics through exhibitions, lectures and performance art. The festival will coincide with the Institute for Advanced Studies workshop day – Russia's Place in the World in the Last 100 years: Culture, Society and Environment. Key events include an exhibition by Russian graphic artists Victoria Lomasko and Kirill Mamonov examining social problems and communication, a round-table discussion of contemporary performance art practice in Russia and performances by Russian artists Elena Kovylyna and Andrey Kuzkin. [Full details.](#)

Fuel Efficient Car Lease Scheme – cost-effective and fuel-efficient cars for University employees

Date: Tuesday 14 October, 10.30am, 12.15pm, 1.30pm and 2.30pm
Venue: Bramall Music Building

Launching during the Autumn Term the University is offering members of staff the opportunity to lease a car through a salary exchange scheme. The scheme has thousands of vehicles to choose from, all under an emissions cap of 120 grams of CO₂ that the University is setting as part of its carbon reduction strategy. This special launch will include workshops throughout the day, the opportunity to have your questions answered and the chance to understand how the scheme works. So come and join us to see how you can save money and reduce your CO₂ emissions. [Further details.](#)

BUPA Great Birmingham Run

Date: Sunday 19 October, 10.00am
Venue: Birmingham city centre

Come and cheer our half-marathon runners on; more than 50 students, alumni and staff will be joining the local community in raising vital funds for the University and Cure Leukaemia in support of their work in life-saving leukaemia research. [Find out more.](#)

Institute of Advanced Studies: A Future for West Midlands Devolution?

Date: Friday 24 October, 1.30pm

Venue: Nettlefold Room, Nicolson Building

London or Local? Devolution to England is once more on the UK political agenda. With greater local and regional powers up for debate is a 'Greater Birmingham' City–Region enough, or do we need elected regional government – with or without a West Midlands Boris or Ken? How is England as a country of 40 million to be represented without worsening Westminster centralism? Chaired by Gisela Stuart, MP for Edgbaston, join speakers with national, regional and local policy experience to discuss the voice the West Midlands region requires to better meet the needs of its 5.2 million people. [Further information.](#) Contributing organisations include Unlock Democracy, Futures Network West Midlands, and the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Birmingham. Admission is free but booking is essential. [Book online.](#)

Study Abroad Fair

Date: Friday 24 October, 12.00noon–3.00pm

Venue: Great Hall, Aston Webb Building

Our Study Abroad Fair will be of interest to any students you have who want to learn more about taking a year abroad as part of their studies. They will have the opportunity to speak to people about studying and living in a wide variety of countries. They will also have access to advice and guidance from our Study Abroad and Exchanges team. Stalls will be hosted by partner universities, incoming international exchange students and our returning year abroad students. We also have staff from our International Careers Team in attendance. Last year we had representatives and literature from France, America, Spain, Canada, Australia, China, Japan, Germany, Italy, Austria, Singapore, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Korea, New Zealand, Portugal, Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Norway! Students do not need to register to attend, simply come along on the day.

Rebel Visions: The War Art of C R W Nevinson

Date: 24 October 2014–25 January 2015

Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts

The powerful art and contradictory personality of British war artist Richard Nevinson will be explored in Rebel Visions, timed to mark the centenary celebrations of the outbreak of World War One. Famous for his dramatic, often haunting images of the battlefield and its soldiers, Nevinson's arresting paintings, drawings, prints and posters also acknowledged the sometimes unpalatable effects war had on British society. Always a rebel, he produced work that ranged in variety from official war propaganda to anti-war condemnation; some of which was censored. With important paintings and key drawings and prints from major UK public and private collections, including Tate and the Imperial War Museum, the exhibition is accompanied by a full programme of related lectures, talks and other exciting events. Admission is free. [Read more.](#)

The Premier Squash League returns

Date: Tuesday 28 October, 7.00pm
Venue: Munrow Sports Centre

The Birmingham Lions are taking part in the Premier Squash League (PSL) again this year; with a selection of the world's top 15 players, it is one of the greatest international sporting events to spectate in Birmingham. Come and watch this spectacular fast and furious squash event. The first home game is against Leicester and tickets go on sale on 10 October. You can purchase them via the Munrow Sports Centre reception. [Further information](#). Follow on Twitter [@UBSportPSL](#).

Enterprise Skills Seminar

Date: Wednesday 29 October, 12.00noon
Venue: BizzInn, Birmingham Research Park

This seminar will look at effective management of technology development and commercialisation projects; including how to accelerate and de-risk the technology commercialisation process by bringing clarity to the problem to be solved and the commercial opportunities arising from it. This includes understanding and resolving technical and regulatory risk, building an effective team, avoiding some common pitfalls and effective communication of the opportunity to stakeholders and investors, the elevator pitch. The speakers are Patrick Hall from Maddison, Product Design Consultants and Nick Duggan from Viadynamics, Innovation Consultancy. Lunch will be provided. [Book online](#).

Hobbes's Dilemma and the Liberal Quest for World Order

Date: Wednesday 29 October, 4.00–5.30pm
Venue: G15, Muirhead Tower

The Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) and the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS) are delighted to host Robert Keohane, Professor of International Affairs at Princeton University, for the first of our distinguished lectures for 2014–15. He is the author of *Power and Governance in a Partially Globalized World*, and has served as the editor of the journal *International Organization* and as President of the International Studies Association and the American Political Science Association. Professor Keohane will be joined by Dr Tim Haughton, the Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies and Professor Nicholas J Wheeler, Director of ICCS. [More information](#).

Birmingham Business School: Maxwell Fry Global Finance Lecture

Date: Wednesday 29 October, 5.15–7.00pm
Venue: G12 Main Lecture Theatre, University House, Birmingham Business School

Join Andrew G Haldane, Chief Economist at the Bank of England and Executive Director of Monetary Analysis and Statistics. In addition to being a member of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee, Andrew also has responsibility for research and statistics across the Bank. In 2014, TIME magazine voted him one of the 100 most influential people in the world. Andrew has written extensively on domestic and international monetary and financial policy issues. He is co-founder of Pro Bono Economics, a charity that brokers economists into charitable projects.

University Of Birmingham Poetry Competition

As part of Black History Month the University is running a very special competition. You can submit a poem or a letter celebrating someone that has inspired you to make a change in your life. It could be a family member, friend, an historical figure, artist, musician or scientist that has brought about inspirational change. A selection of the poems and letters will be displayed in creative and surprising ways across campus as part of a Poetry Trail during October. The closing date is 12.00noon on Sunday 12 October. There are three competition categories: under 12 years, 13–17 years and 18 years and over. Prizes will be awarded to the winning entry in each category. Poems can be any style to a maximum 150 words. Please email entries to blackhistorymonth@contacts.bham.ac.uk. Please include your name, mobile number and the age category you are entering.

Join the Academic Practice Writing, Research or Reading Group

The Academic Practice Team in the Centre for Learning and Academic Development (CLAD) and Learning Spaces hosts monthly Writing, Research and Reading Groups. The groups provide a friendly setting for colleagues to explore topics related to higher education for example teaching and learning, academic practice and higher education leadership. We write together, share research ideas and progress, and discuss and debate the implications of particular readings on our practice. For further details, please visit the [website](#).

The search is on for the University's most entrepreneurial researchers

Launching on 13 October the Enterprising Birmingham Innovation Competition is seeking out enterprising academics that have identified a commercial opportunity based on their research and have the drive and vision to transform their innovation into enterprise. [Read more](#).

Contact Buzz Bitesize

Next edition: 6 November 2014

Copy deadline: 29 October 2014

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