



Buzz Bitesize: September 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.

[Headlines](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Opportunities](#)



British Science Festival

Date: Saturday 6–Thursday 11 September

Venue: Edgbaston campus

The Festival starts this weekend: do not miss your chance to enjoy, explore, investigate and discuss science. The programme offers something for everyone, with activities for families, adults looking for thought-provoking entertainment and stimulating debate, or professionals interested in the latest research. Many events are free to attend but may require advance booking.

[Book online](#) or call 08456 807 207

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#) @BritishSciFest #bsf14



Community Day

Date/time: Sunday 7 September 2014, 11.00am–4.00pm

Venue: Edgbaston campus

Come to campus on Sunday for Community Day, which this year, will be hosting extra talks, activities and some famous faces as part of the British Science Festival. Activities will include bungee-trampolining, rocket building, face painting, culture trails, creating a

dinosaur, gold panning, a carousel, mask making, a climbing wall, farmers' market, and much more! If you have an enquiry, please [email the Community Day team](#).



Advancing Equality in Employment Conference – Achievements and Challenges

Date/time: Tuesday 16 September, 10.00am–4.30pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre G12, Business School

The Advancing Equality in Employment Conference will explore examples of best practice in achieving equality in employment, celebrate what we have achieved at the University so far and examine the challenges that lie ahead to achieve true equality and diversity in the workplace. The conference will:

- Celebrate successes in our journey so far
- Welcome Keynote Speaker, Binna Kandola
- Embrace diversity through a variety of internal and external speakers and drama
- Explore key challenges
- Empower staff to embrace equality and diversity

The conference will be followed by a celebratory drinks reception and networking event from 4.30pm. Further details, including how to register, are available [here](#).

News

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Black History Month celebrations

In October the University will be taking part in city-wide celebrations of Black History Month and there are lots of ways to get involved. You could enter our poetry competition, submit a recipe, or contribute your own event exploring Caribbean, Asian, and African cultures past and present. Please [email us](#) for more information.

Poetry Competition

The University has launched a very special competition in advance of the Black History Month celebrations. We're inviting you to submit a poem or letter celebrating someone who 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 the University's Edgbaston campus as part of a Poetry Trail throughout Black History Month in October.

The competition is open to all and the closing date is 12noon, Wednesday 24 September. There are three competition categories: (i) under 12 years (ii) 13–17 years and (iii) 18 years and over. Prizes will be awarded to the winning entry in each category and any style will be considered – with a maximum 150 words. [Email your entry](#) and be sure to include your name, mobile number and the age category you are entering.

Recipe Competition

Send us your favourite African, Caribbean or Asian recipe to enter our special Black History Month recipe competition. The winning dish will be announced on 1 October and will be served up as part of a mouth-watering Black History Month menu in The Noble

Room, Staff House on Wednesday 22 October. Please [email your recipe suggestions](#) by 12noon on Wednesday 24 September.

LUCIA wins sustainability award

Life Uplifted by Change in Africa (LUCIA) is a charity founded and run by colleagues in Library Services. LUCIA and the University have won an award in the Community/Individual category of the 'Best Staff and Community Scheme' at the Birmingham Sustainability and Recycling Awards. Sylvia Gardiner and Jane Colbourne (Library Services) went to the Birmingham Council House to collect the award from Councillor Lisa Trickett, Cabinet Member for a Green, Smart and Sustainable City, Birmingham City Council. The award was presented for LUCIA's sustainable development work in Ethiopia such as the fuel saving stoves project and work with other self-help groups and the Saria School. For more information about LUCIA and how you can get involved as a volunteer visit the [LUCIA website](#).

Beech Boys tandem – Race Around Ireland

Norman Beech, Manager of the Raymond Priestley Centre, Coniston is competing in Race Around Ireland, the European Ultra-Distance Cycling Championships. He will be cycling the 1,350-mile route on a tandem bike with his son James. Starting on 31 August, each bike entered completes a 'lap of Ireland' within 132 hours. The equivalent would be cycling from Birmingham to Land's End every day for five days! No tandem has entered the race before. Two University staff members are helping as support crew; Jonathan Barton, from the Raymond Priestley Centre, is Crew Chief and Adam Walker, from Estates, is one of the support car drivers. It is a massive challenge and they are looking to support four great charities through their efforts, including the University's Circles of Influence Campaign. For further details and to follow their progress in real time visit [their website](#).

Events

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

Universitas 21 Early Career Researcher Workshop: Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Date: Wednesday 4–Friday 6 March 2015

Venue: University College Dublin

International Relations is offering four £200 bursaries to support staff participation in this year's U21 Early Career Researcher (ECR) workshop. Staff who have gained their doctorate within the past seven years are eligible to apply. The theme for the workshop will be Innovation and Entrepreneurship, aimed at researchers from all disciplinary backgrounds. The key objective of this workshop is to increase ECRs' research capabilities and develop skills associated with career development in academia. The workshop will also focus on networking and gaining an international perspective on the role and career route of researchers particularly as it relates to innovation and entrepreneurship. Please contact [Matt Clulee](#) for an application form. The deadline for applications is Friday 12 December.

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 academic year. All staff are encouraged to attend and there will be an opportunity to ask questions on the day.

Grounded (plus post-show discussion)

Date/time: Saturday 6 September, 7.00pm

Venue: Birmingham Repertory Theatre

Grounded is a gripping, compulsive and award-winning new play that flies from the heights of lyricism to the shallows of workaday existence. The pilot flies remote-controlled drones over the Middle East. She struggles through surreal 12-hour shifts far from the battlefield, hunting terrorists by day and being a wife and mother by night. This extraordinary play targets our assumptions about war, family, and what it is to be a woman. The Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS) will host a post-show discussion with leading experts in the fields of drone warfare and global security. Speakers include: Lucy Ellinson (performer), Dr Liz Tomlin (Drama and Theatre Arts), and Professor Nicholas J Wheeler (Director, ICCS). This event is part of the British Science Festival 2014. Tickets are available [online](#) or by calling 08456 807 207.

Community Day: Moon Day!

Date/time: Sunday 7 September, 11.00am–4.00pm

Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Come along to the Barber for arty, moon-inspired fun to celebrate the Chinese Moon Festival. Enjoy moon-inspired tales with storytellers Annamation, discover the many moons in the Barber's paintings with the gallery trails and then build your own rocket in the craft workshop! Storytelling at 12noon, 1.00pm and 2.00pm. Art workshop: 11.00am–4.00pm. Moon trail: 11.00am–4.00pm. FREE, drop in any time. [More information](#).

The Security Impact of Drone Warfare

Date/time: Wednesday 10 September, 3.30–5.00pm

Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts

From counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan, to Amazon delivery services, the use (and ownership) of drone technology has major implications for domestic and international security. But what are the legal and ethical implications of this technology, and can drones ever be fully autonomous? Join leading experts for a topical and timely debate on the civilian and military use of drones. Speakers include Professor Nicholas J Wheeler (Director, ICCS), Professor David H Dunn (Head of Department of Political Science and International Studies), and Paul Schulte (Non-Resident Senior Associate of the Nuclear Policy Program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington). This event is part of the British Science Festival 2014. Tickets are available [online](#) or by calling 08456 807 207.

Head Games: The Global Concussion Crisis

Date/time: Wednesday 10 September, 6.00pm

Venue: Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre, Medical School

The Institute of Advanced Studies will be screening Steve James's documentary *Head Games: The Global Concussion Crisis*, following Michael Grey and Tony Belli's talk, 'Tackling Sport Concussion.' This documentary features never-before-seen neurological findings related to sport and the devastating consequences of sports-related head injuries. The event is free, but booking is essential – [book online](#).

How to build the right prototype at the right time

Date/time: Wednesday 24 September, 12noon–2.00pm

Venue: BizzInn 2nd Floor, Birmingham Research Park

If you are a university researcher involved in the commercial development of a research-based innovation then the translation of a complex project into a credible proposition is not a simple process. Led by Dr George Rice, this seminar will look at how design methods, widely used in the commercial sector, can be applied to your research portfolio to accelerate the commercialisation of your projects. Lunch will be provided. [Book online](#).

Inspiration: Ideas into Words

Date/time: Saturday 27 September, 1.30–4.00pm

Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Though writers are never likely to be short of inspiration at the Barber, everyone, from time to time, finds it hard to begin to write. This workshop offers practical exercises to start the words flowing and tips to take away for when the ideas just won't come. Suitable for writers of prose or poetry at all levels of experience and led by writer Jacqui Rowe. Booking is essential, to book telephone 0121 414 2261 or [email the Barber](#). Costs are £6 standard, £4 concessions and £3 for University of Birmingham students.

Why London dominates and what the rest of the country should do about it

Date/time: Wednesday 15 October, 5.00pm

Venue: Vaughan Jefferies Lecture Theatre, School of Education Building

Birmingham Business School's Department of Economics is delighted to invite Evan Davis to speak. He has recently been appointed as a presenter of the BBC2 current affairs programme, *Newsnight*. Before that, he worked on the Radio 4 *Today* programme and is also well-known as the presenter of the BBC2 business reality show, *Dragons' Den*. For more information and to register, visit [the website](#).

Professor Robin May Inaugural Lecture – Cells, Bugs and Rocky Road: Adventures in Infection Biology and Cake Baking

Date/time: Thursday 23 October, 5.15pm

Venue: G15 Main Lecture Theatre, Muirhead Tower

Millions of microbes attempt to set up camp in our bodies every day. Most of them fail, defeated by the remarkably complex actions of our immune system. However, some of the most dangerous and fascinating human pathogens actively hijack our white blood cells, using them to provide a home or even as a vehicle to 'hitch a lift' to other organs. Discovering the molecular weapons that these pathogens use to hijack their hosts offers new opportunities to combat infection as well as providing an amazing insight into how new diseases evolve. Robin May is a Professor of Infectious Disease and Lister Fellow, School of Biosciences. Please email [Charlotte Jones](#) if you would like to attend.

Ironbridge Annual Lecture 2014: The Value of Heritage and the Heritage of Value

Date/time: Thursday 13 November, 5.30–7.00pm

Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts

In a world where everything has a monetary value how can cultural heritage be taken seriously by politicians? Simon Thurley, Historian and Chief Executive of English Heritage, claims that present arguments for the value of the nation's heritage are bankrupt. A new narrative is needed if we are to ensure that the best of our past is retained for the benefit of future generations. Simon sets out what he thinks this is and how it can help shape a better future for everyone. [Find out more and book online.](#)

Opportunities

Funding opportunity available for research in social sciences

The Impact Acceleration Account (IAA), recently awarded to the University by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), is a flexible and dynamic fund to support knowledge exchange and impact. Three new schemes will run from 1 September 2014 to 2018, offering awards of up to £20,000 to support the delivery of timely impact initiatives which will build upon excellent research in the social sciences, generate positive change and engage with non-academic stakeholders across all sectors. [Visit the website](#) for more information on the scheme, eligibility, applications and deadlines or to discuss please contact [Emily Hargreaves](#), Research Planning Partner.

Registrations are open for our new World War One MOOC

Delivered by academics from our Centre for War Studies, our new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) will enable learners to sample high-quality content via an interactive web-based platform. The 'World War One: Aviation Comes of Age' MOOC is a free course delivered in collaboration with the BBC and FutureLearn. There are no specific educational requirements for this course. If you have an interest in aviation and air power and share a thirst for knowledge and the fascination of flight you can register for the course at the [FutureLearn website](#). The course lasts three weeks starting on Monday 20 October. It is suggested participants set aside around three hours each week. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Advertise volunteering opportunities

As part of the University's Curriculum Review of Volunteering, the University and the Guild of Students have developed [new pages on the intranet](#) to pull together student volunteering-related activity across the University, the Guild and the local community. It includes information and resources on volunteering with external organisations for staff and allows you the opportunity to advertise any volunteering opportunities you may have in your department or school. It is hoped that the website will act as a hub for volunteering across the University, making it easier for you to promote your volunteering opportunities to students and for students to see the wide range of options available to them. If you would like to promote your volunteering opportunities please contact [Volunteering](#) or if you would like to add anything to the intranet please contact [Sue Welland](#).

Junior squash academy opens

University of Birmingham Sport (UBSport) have joined England Squash & Racketball to offer a new and exciting Junior Squash Programme for 6–16 year olds. UBSport Junior Squash Academy runs from 8 September–13 December 2014, providing youngsters the opportunity to learn how to play squash in a fun and safe environment. Targeted coaching will take place on a weekly basis at the Munrow Sports Centre where pupils will

have the chance to learn the tactical and technical aspects of the game. Youngsters will be able to develop their ability in the sport through attending weekly sessions at the Centre, and by doing so channel their energies into an exciting individual racket sport. One-hour sessions run Mondays (4.00–5.00pm and 5.00–6.00pm), Fridays (7.00–8.00pm) and Saturdays (10.00–11.00am and 11.00am–12noon), and cost £3.50 per session. For more information or to book a place please contact Andy Warmington on 07886 271954.

Contact Buzz Bitesize

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