



## Buzz Bitesize: December 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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### Christmas on campus

Buzz would like to wish all University staff and students a happy festive break, and remind readers that the University will be closed from 23 December 2013 until 2 January 2014. There is still plenty going on before the end of term including:

- **University carol service**, 9 December, 6.15pm, Great Hall, Aston Webb Building. A feast of music and readings, all are welcome and registration is not required.
- **Galleries night**, 11 December, 5.00–9.00pm, The Barber Institute, Ikon, RBSA, Eastside Projects, and mac Birmingham. Enjoy the delights of the collections at five of Birmingham's top galleries, with the free Art Bus between venues, a glass of wine and mince pie, and guided tours at each.

### Vice-Chancellor's Open Forum

**Date:** 28 January

**Time:** 12.30pm



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

Join the Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood, for his first Open Forum of 2014. He encourages all staff to attend and further details will be circulated shortly.



## UBSport release inspiring new video

University of Birmingham Sport are delighted to announce the release of the pioneering new video that encompasses the passion and dedication of sport at Birmingham. Taking a song that is considered the University's sporting anthem, 'You Are My Birmingham', UBSport enlisted the help of MA Music student Charles Lockwood. Along with vocals from BMus student Katie Levine, the anthem has been brought to life with a modern twist. Enjoy the video and read about the concept behind it on the [UBSport website](#)



## Arts & Science Festival 2014

The University's Arts & Science Festival will return in 2014 for its second year. Running 17–21 March and themed 'Life & Death', the festival will be a free programme showcasing culture, research and collaboration at the University through talks, exhibitions, performances, workshops and screenings. The Cultural Engagement team is inviting departments across campus to submit events – these may be already scheduled, or events developed for the festival. For more information and an event submission form, please email [Laura Coult](#), Cultural Partnerships Manager. Deadline for submissions is 18 December 2013.

## News

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### New £6.8 million biomedical hub to open at Birmingham Research Park

The University is investing £3.4 million in a new biomedical hub after winning match-funding from the European Development Fund. The facility, due to open next summer at Birmingham Research Park on Vincent Drive, will provide laboratory and office space for new, and growing, biomedical businesses in the local area. Learn more and view an artist's impression of the new building in a recent [Birmingham Post article](#).

### HR Excellence Award success

Congratulations to colleagues in Human Resources who have achieved the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research Award, which acknowledges their commitment to researcher development. The Award demonstrates a university's commitment to improving the working conditions and career development for research staff, which will in turn improve the quantity, quality and impact of research for the benefit of UK society and the economy. Birmingham is one of only 15 UK universities to retain the award after their two-year review.

### Success for Academic Practice Team

The Academic Practice Team had a great 2012–13 academic year. They welcomed 1,019 attendees to Introduction to Teaching and Learning workshops aimed at postgraduates who teach. The Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice course is also growing strong with 12 participants graduating from the programme and 92 participants currently enrolled. They also launched new bespoke credit-bearing courses for doctoral researchers and anatomy demonstrators. Further details can be found on the [intranet](#).

## Business Engagement Team

A newly formed Business Engagement team, within Development, Alumni, and Business Engagement (DABE), is tasked with enabling interaction between the University and industry, promoting knowledge exchange, and developing mutually beneficial relationships. They will support, simplify, connect, facilitate and help our academic team to work with business effectively so that they, their research teams, and the University as a whole, can benefit. Business Engagement Partners (BEPs) are attached to the Colleges and are on hand to support their academic colleagues to work with business in a streamlined, productive, timely and coordinated way. They can signpost to business opportunities, provide support and advice at meetings, in proposal preparation and project management. To find out more about Business Engagement visit the [intranet](#).

## The Birmingham Project launches

The Birmingham Project is a ten-credit Personal Skills Award module offering first-year undergraduates the opportunity to collaborate on an interdisciplinary research project for two weeks at the end of the academic year. Students will work in 'Challenge Groups' to produce an open educational resource addressing a particular interdisciplinary research question. Students will also receive a series of training sessions with input from partner organisations. Spaces for the 2013–14 trial are limited and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Please direct students with any questions to email [the project team](#).

## Views

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### Your views on FindIt@Bham

Library Services are undertaking research to see what staff and students think of the [FindIt@Bham](#) service, the University's 'one stop shop' for identifying and accessing print and electronic library collections. You can complete the [online survey](#) which takes less than ten minutes and includes a prize draw for a £100 voucher for John Smith's, the new University bookshop. The survey is open until 13 December. You can also participate in a 90-minute focus group being held in December, for details or to register e-mail [resource discovery](#).

## Events

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### BBC Radio 4's *The 3rd Degree* comes to Birmingham

**Date:** 12 December

**Time:** 6.00pm (doors open from 5.30pm)

**Venue:** Debating Hall, Guild of Students

Come to the Guild next week to join the audience of Radio 4's famous *The 3rd Degree* hosted by Steve Punt. Recording for its fourth series, the quiz show pits three undergraduates against three academics in a general knowledge/specialist subject quiz. The event is free to attend and is sure to be an entertaining evening. Please note that entrance will be on a 'first-come' basis. If you have any queries please contact [Samantha Williams](#).

## Free nutrition session with UBSport

**Date:** 5–6 December

**Time:** 6.00–8.00pm

**Venue:** Munrow Sports Centre

UBSport scientist Eleanor Jones, and twice-crowned Mr Universe and current UKBFF Super Heavyweight Champion Dave Titterton, will be giving out [tips and advice](#) on training regimes from their own experience in this session. Attendees will be entered into a prize draw and be able to sample products from UBSport's partners [USN](#) and [Kezie Foods](#). Spaces are limited, for more information or to book your place contact [Lee Costin](#), Health and Fitness Manager.

## Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly!

**Date:** 7 December

**Time:** 12noon–4.00pm

**Venue:** Winterbourne House and Garden

There will be Christmas-themed craft activities for children and a magical grotto where you can meet Father Christmas. Seasonal food and Christmas treats will be available in the tearoom and traditional carols will be sung. Pick up gifts from the shop, including soaps, decorations, homewares, plants and National Garden Gift Vouchers. Normal admission prices apply, and there will be a small charge for some of the extra activities.

## ICCS Seminar Series

**Date:** 9 December

**Time:** 5.00pm

**Venue:** Room 420, Muirhead Tower

Professor Catarina Kinnvall will present: 'Trauma and the Politics of Fear: Europe at the Crossroads', concerned with the unfolding of traumas as structural and socio-psychological narratives focused on the bordering of identity and the governing of past, present and future. Catarina Kinnvall is professor at the Department of Political Science, Lund University, Sweden. To register, contact [Leigh-Ann Cragg](#).

## #DearShakespeare

**Date:** 13 December

**Time:** 6.00–8.00pm

**Venue:** Royal Shakespeare Theatre

If you could ask Shakespeare anything, what would it be? Starting from your questions, students from The Shakespeare Institute, supported by the Royal Shakespeare Company, invite you to join them for a [performance](#) which explores how societies over time have celebrated Shakespeare and his relevance to individuals and communities today. Tweet your questions to @ShakesUnbard, or share them using #dearshakespeare.

## Barber Institute exhibitions

The Barber has two stunning [exhibitions](#) to see out 2013: 'John Monks: The Process of Painting' (until 26 January 2014) is an exceptional showcase of the London-based artist's work. Through a range of painterly processes, Monks has created a series of large, atmospheric and sometimes haunting interiors – including a vast triptych especially made for this exhibition. From cutting-edge contemporary to ancient relics, discover coins in 'Faith & Fortune' (until 30 November 2014). These artefacts play host to myriad dramas: from religion and politics to marriage and succession.

## Opportunities

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### John Smith's staff discount

John Smith's the University's campus bookshop is offering all University staff a 20 per cent discount on books this Christmas! To use the offer simply print the [intranet voucher](#) and take it, along with your staff ID card, to the John Smith's store at University Centre before 24 December. Terms and conditions are as detailed in the voucher.

### CBSO staff discount for Christmas shows

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) are offering all University staff a 25 per cent discount on tickets booked for our fabulous Christmas Concerts: *Wonderful Christmastime* with Carl Davis and *Festive Favourites* with Mark Williams. Further details are on the [intranet](#).

### Cardless Christmas

Are you tired of sending Christmas cards? Wish there was a simpler way to let friends, family and colleagues know that you're thinking of them? Now is your chance by taking part in our 'Cardless Christmas' to raise money for cancer research at the University of Birmingham. Simply [make a donation](#) to cancer research and let [Laura Fairbanks](#) in the Development Office know, and she will send you an electronic card to send in place of a card.

### Birmingham-Nottingham Strategic Collaboration

In March 2011, the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham signed a historic framework agreement for collaboration. As part of this, [the Birmingham Nottingham Strategic Collaboration fund](#) was launched in Autumn 2012. Following the success of the first three rounds, a further call will take place with a deadline of 17 January 2014. Two streams of funding are available: Creativity funding will support projects which seek to create the foundations for new collaborations. Accelerator funding will support projects that build on existing relationships to forge significant, sustainable activities to deliver a genuine impact for both institutions. Funding is available for research and knowledge transfer projects as well as teaching and professional services initiatives to drive improvements in performance in all areas of the universities' missions. Queries relating to this scheme should be directed to [Tariq Khan](#) 0121 414 7093.

### Teaching and Learning support

The Academic Practice Team within CLAD provide a range of support to academics in teaching and learning, and academic practice:

- Educational Enhancement Network events (EEN) offer a platform for discussion, debate and dissemination of academic practice
- Academic Practice Reading Group discusses selected short readings with a pedagogical theme
- Academic Practice Research Group is a forum for anyone who is either planning or in the process of undertaking research related to teaching, learning or other aspects of academic practice

Further information is on the [intranet](#).

### Universitas 21 Staff Fellowship Programme

The Fellowships were set up to demonstrate the University's commitment to staff

development and enhance its relationship with some of the world's leading universities through the Universitas 21 network. Five awards of up to £5,000 are available to provide support to staff who demonstrate innovation and excellence in their field. Applicants apply for travel to take place between August 2014 and July 2015. Fellowships are open to all academic and non-academic staff. Application deadline is 14 March 2014. Further details and forms are on the [intranet](#).

## U21 PhD Scholarships now open

International Relations offer a number of scholarships each year to assist PhD students in travelling to our U21 partners to further their research. Each scholarship pays up to £1,500 to assist a student with travelling and accommodation costs. A visit would be expected to be for a period of approximately one month between August 2014 and July 2015. The deadline for applications is 29 March 2014. Further details are on the [intranet](#).

## FameLab deadline extended

If you're passionate about communicating science, technology, engineering or maths it's not too late to compete in this year's [FameLab](#) as the deadline has been extended until after Christmas. There's the chance to win entry to communications masterclasses as well as prize money and public engagement funding. Training and support is available from IdeasLab to help with your entry. Contact Sam Walter for details: [s.h.walter@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.h.walter@bham.ac.uk) or ext47809

## Undergraduate Internship Programme

Following the success of last year's Birmingham Undergraduate Internship Programme, which saw departments across Academic Services and the University host student interns during the summer vacation, you are invited to submit proposals to host an intern in summer 2014. Further details are on the [University website](#) or via [Sue Welland](#).

## Talent Pool – Enterprise Skills Training

*Looking for enterprise/professional development opportunities for your students?* Through this free three- to five-day intensive training programme students are challenged to develop key enterprise skills that will put them in a strong position to focus on their career aspirations and lay the foundations for achieving career goals. Further details and dates are on the [intranet](#).

## Participants needed

School of Psychology questionnaire: parents of children aged 4–11 with, and without, autism spectrum disorders are required to complete an [electronic questionnaire](#) to compare eating behaviours of typically developing children and children diagnosed with ASD.

## Contact Buzz Bitesize

**Next edition:** 9 January 2014

**Copy deadline:** 19 December 2013

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Email not displaying properly? [View it in your browser](#).