



## Buzz Bitesize: May 2014

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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## Campus transformation underway

Work on a new University library and a £55 million University sports centre, which will be home to Birmingham's only 50m swimming pool, is underway with contractors now working at both locations. The former site of the Gun Barrels pub is being transformed into a state-of-the-art sports centre, complete with Olympic-sized swimming pool, sports hall and gym. Work on the student hub, to be housed in C Block of the Aston Webb Building, has also started. The projects are part of the £175 million [redevelopment of campus](#).



## First World War lecture

**Date/time:** 20 May, 6.00pm

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

Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture Series: Sir Hew Strachan 'The First World War: 100 Years On.' As the 100-year anniversary of the start of the First World War approaches, the University is delighted to welcome Sir Hew Strachan, one of the world's leading experts on the Great War, to deliver a talk as part of the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture Series. Sir Hew has been Chichele Professor of the History of War at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of All Souls College since 2002. He boasts an illustrious academic career, has been published extensively and is a member of

the UK National Committee for the Centenary of the First World War, advising the government regarding the anniversary's events and activities. The evening promises to give a fascinating insight into military strategy from one of Britain's most senior military advisors.

[Register here](#)



## Cultural studies conference

**Date:** 24–25 June

**Venue:** Main Lecture Theatre, Arts Building

A conference titled 'Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies 50 Years On' will explore the legacy and influence of the Centre half a century after its inception.

Marking the launch of an archive of the Centre at the University, the conference will reflect on the influence and legacies of the Centre. Following Richard Hoggart's pioneering decision to embark on the research of popular culture and the subsequent appointment of Stuart Hall, the Centre became one of the biggest influences on the development of cultural and media studies around the world. The aim of the conference is to bring together former members of staff with all those interested in its work and influence, both inside and outside universities. There will be a previously unseen video interview with Stuart Hall, who died in February this year.

The registration fee is £60 (full) or £20 (concessions - students, unemployed, retired). [Visit the website](#) for further information.

## News

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### Awards shortlisting

Academic Services teams have been shortlisted in two categories for the 2014 Times Higher Education Leadership & Management Awards (THELMA), which celebrate leaders in the field of leadership and management. They have been shortlisted for Outstanding Leadership and Management Team (Birmingham Foundation Academy) and Outstanding Registry Team. The team responsible for establishing the Birmingham Foundation Academy (colleagues across Academic Services and the wider University), has been recognised for successfully taking an innovative project from inception to completion with outstanding results and creating an international foundation programme that is delivered at pre-degree level across the University. Registry has been recognised for the success of its College Academic Policy Partner roles, which were established during 2012–13 and provide effective communication with the University's colleges and effectively deals with increased numbers of student complaints before they reach the Office of Independent Adjudicator.

The winners will be announced at the [THELMA awards](#) ceremony on 17 June.

## Events

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### Dilemma of military strikes

**Date/time:** 30 May, 5.00pm

**Venue:** Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS)

'The Ethics of Humanitarian Intervention', by Professor Jeff McMahan, Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers University, New York. Many on the political left view virtually all exercises of military force with suspicion – even those for which there might be a humanitarian justification. Others deplore the unwillingness of powerful states to intervene

in such conflicts as those in Rwanda, Sudan and Syria, when intervention could arguably save tens or hundreds of thousands of lives. Many on the political right think that no instance of humanitarian intervention can be a justifiable use of a state's resources unless it can be shown to be in that state's interest. In his lecture, Professor McMahan, Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the IAS, will address these different views and consider when humanitarian intervention might be permissible and when it might even be morally required.

Tickets for this event are free, but [registration](#) is required and early registration highly recommended.

## Walk to Work

Walk to Work Week 2014 takes place 12–16 May. To celebrate, why not sign up for a refreshing lunchtime walk around campus on Tuesday 13 May, leaving from Staff House Square at 12.30pm. Free pedometers and brollies are available, while stocks last. More details on the benefits of walking are available on the [sustainable travel website](#).

## 'Chinese Lives' launch

**Date/time:** 17 May, 11.00am

**Venue:** The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Join us as we celebrate the opening of the new exhibition '[Chinese Lives in Birmingham](#)'. Following opening speeches at 11.00am, younger visitors (and parents) can take part in Goddess Guan Yin's treasure hunt around the Barber galleries. Refreshments will be served throughout the morning. The event is free - no booking required.

## Research Poster Conference

**Date/time:** 10 June, 2pm

**Venue:** Aston Webb Building, Great Hall

The University Graduate School's annual Research Poster Conference returns in June. The conference showcases some of the best new postgraduate researchers, giving them a platform to engage a wider audience with the unique research that happens at the University. This is an opportunity to meet some of the minds responsible for pushing back the limits of human knowledge and hear a first-hand account of their work. Attendance is free but you need to register for a place in advance. Drinks and light refreshments will be provided. The conference is an opportunity for staff and students from around the University to learn more about the diversity of research carried out at Birmingham, and also an opportunity for members of the local community, including schools, community groups and businesses to come on to campus and talk to Birmingham researchers.

[Register here](#).

## University backs business awards

The Business Engagement Team sponsored the Chambers of Commerce Annual Dinner and Awards that took place at the ICC in Birmingham on 16 April. About 800 business leaders from the region attended. The University of Birmingham invited key business prospects including Caterpillar, Mercia Fund Management, East End Foods, DSTL, Acuwomen and Rail Alliance to join Adam Tickell, Simon Collinson, James Wilkie, Hilary Fanning, Nick Blinco and Gurmit Kler at their table. The event generated a number of leads for the Business Engagement Team to follow up.

## Sea-inspired writing workshop

**Date/time:** 24 May, 1.30pm

**Venue:** Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Voyages Writing Workshop with Jacqui Rowe. Be inspired by the seascapes in the Barber galleries, including recent loans by Jan van Goyen and Willem van de Velde, as you explore personal maps and journeys, then write about the sea in its many forms. This workshop is suitable for writers of prose and poetry, at all levels of experience. £6 (£4 concessions and students). Visit [barber.org.uk/voyages](http://barber.org.uk/voyages) for further information.

Booking essential (limited spaces available) – to book, contact 0121 414 2261 or email: [education@barber.org.uk](mailto:education@barber.org.uk).

## Galleries Night

**Date/time:** 15 May, 5.00pm

**Venue:** The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

The Art Bus returns for its summer outing, when it provides free travel between five of Birmingham's top galleries (The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Ikon Gallery, RBSA, Eastside Projects, mac birmingham), with guided tours available at selected venues. Whether you are a seasoned gallery-goer or just want a taste of Birmingham culture, this is guaranteed to provide a brilliant evening out. Free, hop-on, hop-off. Timetables will be available at participating galleries, tourist information centres and public libraries, and in downloadable format from the Barber website [barber.org.uk/galleries-night-3](http://barber.org.uk/galleries-night-3).

## Opportunities

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### Education enhancement

Do you have an idea to improve the academic experience of students? Applications are now open to fund staff and student project ideas under the overall theme of education enhancement. Student-led projects (deadline 18 June 2014) offer up to £1,000 per project, while staff-led projects (deadline 18 May 2014) have between £2,500 and £30,000 per project available. Larger projects with inter-school or inter-college collaboration are particularly encouraged. View online for more [information and application details](#). Project advisors are available to assist all applicants with initial project ideas, the application process and to answer any queries. Email: [cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

### Research staff training

**Date/time:** 19 May, 12noon–1.00pm

**Venue:** Institute of Research & Development, Birmingham Research Park

Medici Enterprise Training is holding a recruitment event (lunch provided). Medici is an intensive training programme designed for research staff wanting to commercialise their research or who want to improve their business skills and knowledge in order to engage with industry, both professionally and with confidence. The training is designed to give delegates an introduction to a wide range of business areas. The event will be an opportunity to find about the Medici Enterprise Training programme and how it can benefit your research career. You will hear from previous Medici fellows; Professor Andrew Peet, of the School of Cancer Sciences, and Professor Ed Rainger, of the School of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, about how the course has developed the scope and applications of their research. [Register here](#).

## Contact Buzz Bitesize

**Next edition:** Thursday 5 June

**Copy deadline:** Wednesday 28 May

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