



Buzz Bitesize: August 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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British Science Festival

Date: Saturday 6–Thursday 11 September

Venue: Edgbaston campus

Explore how science affects the world around you; from climate change to cosmic rays, there is something for everyone at the Festival. Join us for debates, workshops, comedy, exhibitions and tours – more than 250 events in total.

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

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#) @BritishSciFest



Community Day

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

Venue: Edgbaston campus

This year's Community Day is incorporated within the Festival on Sunday 7 September; featuring a fun fair, erupting volcanoes, arts and crafts, a climbing wall, an opportunity to make a robot and much more! Look out for CBBC's Stefan Gates's *Gastronaut Live* show

from 2.00–3.00pm, which is free to attend. View the programme and book via the [British Science Association website](#). Discover more about the [Community Day](#).



Welcome 2014

In September the University will be offering a wide range of events to welcome new students, their parents, friends and relatives, and welcome back returning students for the 2014–2015 academic year. Arrivals weekend (20–21 September) will include a Welcome Marquee in Chancellor's Court with information on colleges and support services. A range of activities will take place during Welcome Week (22–26 September) within colleges, halls of residence and at the Guild of Students. Wednesday 24 September is International Day, highlighting opportunities to learn a language, volunteer or study abroad, work with global employers and engage with world-class teaching and research. The Avon Coffee Lounge, University Centre will also be open during Welcome Week for international student visa checks and from 29 September to 3 October, to provide support for returning students. [More information](#).

News

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Buzz is pleased to bring news of the success of our colleagues who have been recognised in their fields by external institutions. During the past year staff from across the University have received awards and prizes and to celebrate, there will be a special edition of the magazine in the autumn term. For more information, scroll to the [Views](#) section below.

Economics professor becomes British Academy Fellow

[Roger Backhouse](#), Professor of the History and Philosophy of Economics, joined the British Academy's Fellowship in July in recognition of his outstanding research. The Fellowship has more than 900 scholars elected for their distinction in the humanities and social sciences. Each year, the British Academy elects to its Fellowship up to 42 outstanding UK-based scholars who have achieved academic distinction as reflected in scholarly research activity and publication. [Read more](#).

Dr Elizabeth Blackburn recognised with Institute of Physics award

[Dr Blackburn](#) was recently awarded the Moseley medal and prize by the Institute of Physics (IOP). The award is made annually for distinguished research in experimental physics and is intended to recognise physicists early in their careers. Dr Blackburn was recognised by the IOP for her pioneering experimental work in the field of novel superconductors and magnets using neutrons and X-rays, often in extreme conditions, to elucidate their complex structure and response. [Read more](#).

Entrepreneurial award for University researchers

Doctoral researchers Scott Hardman and Amrit Chandan won an award at the Midlands BQ (Business Quarter) Emerging Entrepreneur Dinner. The event showcased some of

the region's rising stars and recognised the most promising individuals likely to succeed in business. The independently judged awards were sponsored by the Business Engagement team and hosted in the Great Hall. [Read more.](#)

Visiting professor appointed as Special Adviser to the Treasury Select Committee

Professor Richard Roberts, a visiting professor at the Birmingham Business School's Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME), has been appointed as Special Adviser to the Treasury Select Committee in the House of Commons on Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Lending and related matters. As well as analysing and advising on SME lending, Professor Roberts will review The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)'s lending activities and the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) Review of SME Banking. He will also prepare questions for MPs, examine evidence and prepare reports. [Read more.](#)

Teaching and Learning Conference 2014

The conference, hosted by the University, provided staff with an opportunity to share and discuss teaching practices, hear presentations from across the sector and network with colleagues from other schools and departments. The theme was Educational Innovation and featured keynote speaker sessions from Dr Gus Cameron, University of Bristol, on virtual laboratories; Dr Holly Shiflett, Learning Solutions Consultant at Deltak Wiley on international and distance learning, and Dr Samantha Pugh, University of Leeds, on student-owned learning. Delegates participated in more than 20 presentations covering a wide range of topics from development of an online induction module (OIM) for postgraduate students, to student-led learning on the Personal Skills Award and interactive sessions. For further details and plans for next year visit the [Teaching and Learning intranet page.](#)

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.

Think Corner: the research pop-up shop

Date: Monday 25 August–Sunday 14 September

Venue: Pavilions Shopping Centre, Birmingham city centre

The research 'pop-up' shop will provide a free, flexible space for academics, students and staff to engage with the public. Showcasing the breadth of the University's arts, humanities, science and engineering excellence, the shop will provide a supportive framework to facilitate engagement with the public. From hands-on experiments and installations to quizzes, soapbox talks and discussion groups, this is your chance to inspire people to get engaged with research in a mind-boggling number of ways. So, to absolutely everyone who is interested – please do take advantage of this unique opportunity! Keep updated by visiting the [Think: Public Engagement website.](#) To submit an event or ask about support or volunteering opportunities email the [Public Engagement team.](#)

University of Birmingham Business Club 'Business and Science – Partners for Success'

Date/time: Monday 8 September, 1.30pm
Venue: Birmingham Business School

The University's Business Club joins forces with the British Science Festival to present an afternoon of business and science! Successful businesses innovate by drawing on scientific and technological advances to develop products, processes and business practices. At the same time, scientific research and technological development is often driven by the needs of business. We are delighted to present an afternoon of talks, discussion and networking to examine the critical factors for their successful partnership between science and business. At 1.45pm, Professor John Bryson will lead a session on 'Manufacturing Renaissance' followed at 3.15pm by The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education discussing 'Where Next for Major Infrastructure Investment in the West Midlands?' The sessions will be followed by a networking drinks reception. Contact [Laura McKenzie](#) for further information.

SHIP AHOY! Bank Holiday Family Day

Date/time: Monday 25 August, 11.00am–3.00pm
Venue: The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Ahoy m'hearties! Be sure not to miss our swashbuckling bank holiday event! Become a pirate and go on a voyage with our seafaring storyteller. Make a nautical flag and enjoy our ocean-themed selection of animations and films, then hunt for the treasure in our galleries using a secret treasure map! This event is free, no booking required. [More information.](#)

The Art of Anatomy

Date/time: Sunday 7 September, 2.00–3.00pm
Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

Alice Roberts, Clinical Anatomist and Professor of Public Engagement in Science, will be giving her popular lecture The Art of Anatomy, about the history and development of anatomical illustration, as part of Community Day and the British Science Festival. Tickets must be booked in advance through the [British Science Festival website](#).

Advancing Equality in Employment Conference – Achievements and Challenges

Date/time: Tuesday 16 September, 10.00am–4.30pm
Venue: Lecture Theatre G12, Birmingham 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 series of workshops on Wednesday 17 September. Further details, including how to register, are available [here](#).

Big Data – Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS)

Date/time: Friday 19 September, 9.00am
Venue: Worcester Room, Horton Grange

This workshop aims to bring together researchers from across the University to ascertain the nature and range of big data research being conducted; to determine interdisciplinary synergies and opportunities for research collaboration, and to identify methodological intersections in approaches to big data research across campus. To register for this workshop please email [Sarah Jeffery](#) and visit the [IAS website](#) for further information.

‘Bud’s Run’ – charity 5k fun run

Date/time: Saturday 4 October, 2.00pm
Venue: Edgbaston campus

Marathon legend Paula Radcliffe will be on campus for this 5k run, which is being held in partnership with Parkinson’s UK, to support the long-time athletics coach Bud Baldaro. Bud has been based at the University for over ten years and was diagnosed with Parkinson’s in 2009. Visit the [UBSport website](#) for more information.

Conscience, Service and Sacrifice: the Friends Ambulance Unit in the First World War

Date/time: Wednesday 29 October, 5.00–6.00pm
Venue: Cadbury Research Library

Historian Paul Handford MBE will be talking about the experiences of those individuals, who for conscience and other reasons, chose to serve in the non-combatant Friends Ambulance Unit during the First World War. The event is free to attend but please book via [Special Collections](#) (ext 45839).

5th Annual BEAR PGR Conference on Computing

Date/time: Monday 15 December, 9.00am–5.00pm
Venue: The Shell Lounge, Civil and Mechanical Engineering Building

This event will be hosted by the Schools of Civil and Mechanical Engineering. If you do any research using computational modelling, simulation, or analysis (especially if you use the BlueBEAR computer cluster) then submit your one-page abstract by Monday 8 September – or just register and come along if you don’t want to submit. The conference is a great opportunity for PhD students and post-doctoral researchers to present their work. Registration is free with lunch provided. Prizes are available for oral presentations and posters. For more information email the [PGR Secretary](#) or visit the [intranet webpage](#).

Arts & Science Festival to return

Date: Monday 16–Sunday 22 March 2015
Venue: Edgbaston campus

The theme for next year’s festival is ‘Sight & Sound’ and we’re looking to programme a range of exciting events that will engage audiences across campus and beyond. If you have an event idea, or even the seed of an idea, please contact the [Cultural Engagement team](#) to discuss further.

Views

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Celebrating Success

It has been an incredible year for the University with a great deal to celebrate. Colleagues across academic and professional services have continued to perform at the highest standard, with many gaining awards, prizes and grants in recognition of their exceptional efforts. There will be a special edition of *Buzz* magazine to formally recognise such achievements. In order to do so we will need your assistance to identify all the prizes and awards received by staff over the last academic year. We are not looking for research grants but would like to include as many other awards and prizes as possible, although cannot guarantee that everything will be included. Please could you send details of all the awards and prizes from your area to [Internal Communications](#) by Friday 15 August.

Life Sciences Review – your opportunity to contribute

The University is currently in the process of conducting a Life Sciences Review in order to develop a co-ordinated strategy at University level that allows us to deliver world-leading research and teaching. The review will assess our current portfolio of activity across the broad span of life sciences, identifying existing and potential future strengths. It will also define links with relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure that we continue to enhance our national and international profile in this area. To support the work of the academic advisory group conducting the review, the opinions and input from across the University community are actively encouraged. [Find out more](#).

Opportunities

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Black History Month – events contributions needed

The University will be taking part in the citywide celebration of Black History Month (1–31 October). If you're interested in contributing an event exploring Caribbean, Asian, and African cultures past and present, please [contact us](#) for an event proposal form.

Nominations for honorary degrees

Do you know someone who has made a major contribution to academic, regional or national life? Have you considered nominating them for an honorary doctorate of the University? Recent honorary graduates include the actor Adrian Lester, the historian and archaeologist Professor Ian Morris, and the Chief Executive of mac birmingham, Dorothy Wilson. Nominations can be made by anyone who is an employee, student, alumnus, member of honorary staff or lay member of Court or Council of the University. [Make a nomination](#) – the deadline is 23 September.

BBC training course

The BBC is running a series of day-long courses for academic experts, providing training in being interviewed on television, on the radio and online. Applications are invited from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic academics. There are dates in Birmingham, London, Salford and Bristol from October with the first application closing date at the end of August. For more information and support in applying please contact the University's [Ideas Lab](#) (ext 47809).

Join us for the BUPA Great Birmingham Run

There's just under 12 weeks to go until the BUPA Great Birmingham Run on 19 October. So get your training shoes on and run for Cure Leukaemia and the University of Birmingham as part of our 'Birmingham. Let's Cure Leukaemia' campaign. Find out more and register your interest via the [website](#).

Staff discounts and deals

To take advantage of some of the fantastic offers available to all staff, please visit the [discounts, offers and salary sacrifice schemes](#) and [other discounts and deals](#) websites. Offers include:

- Mortgages and banking offers from Santander
- A free will writing service from Dunham McCarthy Solicitors
- 80 per cent off hair treatments at Lewis Moore Hairdressers in Sutton Coldfield
- Airport and hotel offers from APH
- 10 per cent off Forest Holidays, Acclaim driving lessons, Sphere of Life handmade jewellery and Cloggs online footwear
- Supporting the University just by shopping online with Give As You Live
- Apple product discounts
- Orange mobile phone discounts

Contact Buzz Bitesize

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