



## Buzz Bitesize: February 2015

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:** Wednesday 11 February, 12.30–1.30pm

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

During the forum, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood will be interviewed by the BBC's award-winning Education Correspondent [Sean Coughlan](#), on key issues facing the higher education sector and the University of Birmingham. Following a successful year as *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* University of the Year 2013–14, how can the University maintain this momentum and cement its position as a leading global institution? The forum is your chance to hear from the Vice-Chancellor and share your thoughts.



### Not On campaign against sexual harassment

On Monday 26 January, the University and the Guild of Students launched a joint campaign to raise awareness of sexual harassment

issues. The Not On campaign includes a statement, a pledge to sign up to and a video featuring a number of influential senior staff members from the University, high profile students, and Pam Relph MBE, a gold medal-winning Paralympian and Birmingham alumna. Staff and students are strongly encouraged to join the campaign and show their support, by signing the pledge and challenging unacceptable behaviour on and off campus. For more information about the campaign please visit the [intranet](#) or [Guild website](#).



## Celebrating equality, championing diversity

It's a double celebration for diversity during February, as not only does the University mark Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans (LGBT) History Month, it is rejoicing at being ranked among the top gay-friendly employers in the country. The University has been placed 79th overall in the prestigious Stonewall Top 100 Employers 2015, reflecting the University's ongoing commitment to creating an inclusive workplace. The University will observe LGBT History Month, which takes place every year in February and celebrates the lives and achievements of the LGBT community. Acting as a focal point for LGBT History Month in the city, the University offers a range of events and activities across campus that are devised and hosted by both staff and students and open to all. [Full programme of events](#)

## News...

### General Election: Voter Registration

Are you registered to vote in this year's General Election? On Thursday 7 May the UK general public will go to the polls to elect MPs for the next five years. For this election new voter registration rules have been introduced meaning you will need to register as an individual rather than as a household. To ensure you are registered you should contact the elections office of the local authority where you live. You can register [online](#); the deadline for voter registration is Monday 20 April. The Guild of Students also has more information on its [website](#).

### Pioneering Collaboration with the RSC

The University is pleased to announce an exciting five-year collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC). This pioneering project will see the reinstatement of the iconic studio theatre, The Other Place. Opening in 2016 to coincide with the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, it will be a hub for cutting-edge research and creative practice. Originally built in 1973, The Other Place closed in 2006 but will be redeveloped in Stratford-upon-Avon, home of both the RSC and the University's Shakespeare Institute.

[Read more.](#)

## Birmingham Student Survey and Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey

Now in its sixth year the Birmingham Student Survey is aimed at all non-final year undergraduates and shares common questions with the National Student Survey. The Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey aims to assess the experience of postgraduate taught students and identify areas where improvements can be made. This national survey is conducted by the Higher Education Academy and is open to all higher education institutions across the UK.

Both surveys launch on 16 February and all students who are eligible for each survey will be sent an email inviting them to complete the survey. Your help in encouraging them to complete the survey would be greatly appreciated. Students will be able to complete both surveys via the [intranet](#).

## Birmingham, Let's Cure Leukaemia

The University is proud to have joined forces with Cure Leukaemia in the fight against blood cancer. As part of the Birmingham Let's Cure Leukaemia campaign we are supporting the London 2 Paris: Inspiring the Revolution charity bike ride in June. You could join former England footballer Geoff Thomas and other sporting celebrities in an event featuring peloton-style racing groups, rolling road closures, a full support team and an inspirational final ride to the Arc de Triomphe. All participants will be raising funds to help the 30,000 people diagnosed with leukaemia every year in the UK, with research taking place at the University. [Further information](#).

## Pro-Vice-Chancellor appointed as Honorary Professor in Nanjing

Professor Richard A Williams, Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, was appointed Honorary Professor at South East University in Nanjing, China, in acknowledgement of his work on energy policy and technology. The University has extensive links to South East in engineering and science, not least the famous Birmingham Alumni, Li Siguang (1907), who was president of the institution in 1932.

## BUAFTA supports Birmingham Children's Hospital

This year, BUAFTA's (Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement) chosen charity is Birmingham Children's Hospital. We will be raising money for this valuable cause via the annual BUAFTA raffle. Birmingham Children's Hospital aims to create modern and child-friendly environments, purchase state-of-the-art medical equipment and fund research into the prevention and treatment of childhood illnesses. While the Hospital offers excellent counselling and bereavement services, they do not have a dedicated space where they are able to deliver what can be devastating information and news. Improving and developing the hospital environment is important for all families. That's why the Hospital is endeavouring to raise £1 million to build this unique unit; Magnolia House. Raffle tickets cost £1 and are available from your [BUAFTA Champion](#), or via the [online shop](#). More information on the raffle and Birmingham Children's Hospital is available on the [intranet](#).

## New Director of the Birmingham International Railway Academy

The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) is pleased to announce the appointment of Anson Jack as Director of the Birmingham International Railway Academy (BIRA) and Professor of International Railway Benchmarking. Anson will work closely with the BCRRE to promote international railway benchmarking and other research, and to develop the extensive international relationships the University has already established across the globe. Anson brings with him to Birmingham a wealth of knowledge and expertise from the rail industry. He began his career at British Rail where he joined as a graduate trainee in 1979. He also worked at Railtrack and Network Rail, before joining the Rail Safety and Standards Board in 2003. Anson continues to work at the company as Director of Commercial and Strategy. [Read more.](#)

## International Recruitment Resources

There is a new collection of international student recruitment resources on the intranet, written specifically for University staff members. These include: a step-by-step guide (college toolkit) to help you meet international recruitment targets; reports on different markets; how to participate in upcoming trips, and travel advice for staff. Each college has a dedicated member of staff to support you with this process. If you are involved in the recruitment of international students you can view the resources on the [intranet](#). Please contact your [college contacts](#) with any further questions.

## Bob the Robot visits the Main Library

In November the Main Library was the venue for part of the STRANDS Robot Marathon 2014. Bob, a robot developed by the University's Intelligent Robotics Lab, was one of seven robots around Europe that took part in the marathon to see which robot could run for the longest. Bob was 3rd in this competition. He had a particularly challenging time trying to move around the ground floor of the library during very busy times and was very popular with the majority of students.

## New Password Manager System

University of Birmingham has launched a new self-service password management system. This new service will allow you to change your password quickly and also offers a password reset feature should you forget your password at any point. You can access the new system [here](#) or via the [IT Service Desk](#) with any further questions. [More information.](#)

## Library Services – Procedures for scanning

With the new term under way, now is the perfect time to ensure that all of the scans and digitised extracts you use in your teaching are reported. All scanning must be logged with Library Services so that a University-wide report can be submitted to the Copyright Licensing Agency. To report these scans, if you haven't already, simply follow the process described on the [procedures for scanning webpage](#), with the online reporting form itself accessible under Step 3. Remember, we must own a copy of the item scanned, it must be included within the CLA repertoire of texts, and there are limits of how much can be

scanned too. Full details are available via on the [Copyright webpage](#) with any further questions. If you have any queries please contact [Library Services](#).

## Events...

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

### Alumni vs Students vs Staff Pub Quiz

**Date/time:** Thursday 26 February, 6.30pm

**Venue:** Joe's, Guild of Students

Put your general knowledge to the test and compete against teams of current students and alumni at DABE's second annual quiz in Joe's Bar, Guild of Students. An alumni team won in 2014 so we need you to get your colleagues together and show them what you're made of! Teams must be a minimum of two and a maximum of five people; it's £1 per person to enter. Teams must be captained by a student, alumnus or staff member. Visit the [website](#) for full details and to register your team. There are limited places available so book now to avoid disappointment.

### Edgbaston Parliamentary Hustings

**Date/time:** Thursday 19 March, 6.00–7.30pm

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

All University staff and students, as well as local residents, are invited to attend this General Election event. The University will welcome Prospective Parliamentary Candidates for the Birmingham–Edgbaston constituency to campus. The incumbent, Gisela Stuart MP (Labour) will be joined on the panel of prospective candidates by Luke Evans (Conservative), Lee Dargue (Liberal Democrats), Phil Simpson (Green Party) and Graham Short (UKIP). Further candidates may be added to the panel. Candidates will present their election addresses before an open debate. Questions from the audience will be sought ahead of the event. This event provides a great opportunity to hear from local candidates from across the political parties on local and national issues in the run-up to the General Election. To register for this event [click here](#).

### Fairtrade Fortnight

**Date/time:** 22 February–7 March

**Venue:** Edgbaston campus

The University has maintained its Fairtrade status consistently since 2003 and offers a selection of Fairtrade products. Each year the University celebrates Fairtrade Fortnight and hosts events around campus to support the Fairtrade initiative. This year's events include:

- Fairtrade Wine Tasting, Café Aroma, Staff House, 25 February, 6.00pm
- Green Drinks, Bratby Bar and Café Aroma, Staff House, 27 February 4.00–6.00pm

- Oxfam's Ethical Market, Great Hall, 5 March, 11.00am–3.00pm

**[Further information.](#)**

## New Art West Midlands

**Date/time:** 13 February–17 May

**Venue:** Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Subjects as diverse as voyeurism, idolatry and orange-phobia are the focus of this year's 'New Art West Midlands', the third in a collaborative annual series. With works created in a range of media, from oil and photography to textiles and boiled sweets, the exhibition showcases some of the best, critically engaged work by recent graduates from the five West Midlands university art schools. **[More information.](#)**

## Bridging Business and Research: How to Accelerate Your Business Using EU

**Dates/times:** Wednesday 18 February, 1.00pm

**Venue:** Bramall Music Building

Funding EU officials will be at the University to discuss opening up opportunities to access the new raft of EU funding that is available. This is a not-to-be-missed free event where you will hear first-hand how academia and business can work together to access EU funding. Attendees will:

- Learn about the different EU funding streams and how easy it is to access them
- Understand the benefits of European collaboration
- Hear from others who have successfully accessed EU funding and the impact it has had
- Network and share best practice with business contacts, academics and policy officers

The event will be followed by a networking reception in the Great Hall. **[Register online.](#)**

## Cells, Bugs and Rocky Road: Adventures in Infection Biology and Cake Baking

**Dates/times:** Thursday 19 February, 5.15pm

**Venue:** Lecture Theatre G15, Muirhead Tower

The College of Life and Environmental Sciences invites you to attend the Inaugural Lecture of Professor Robin May. 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. This event will be followed by a drinks reception in the Atrium. **[More information.](#)**

## School of Social Policy: General Election Debates

**Dates/times:** Thursday evenings from 19 February to 26 March.

**Venue:** Room 417, Muirhead Tower

The School of Social Policy is hosting a series of student-led debates in the run-up to the forthcoming General Election in May 2015, which will bring together a range of different actors from across the political spectrum, to discuss the importance and need for being both politically engaged and informed. Each event will include a talk followed by a question and answer where attendees will be invited to discuss the issues important to them. The events will bring together a range of different individuals from across the political spectrum, from Gisela Stuart (Labour) and Lee Dargue (Liberal Democrats) to Andrew Mitchell (Conservative), John Blewitt (Greens) and Steven Brookes (UKIP). Registration is essential; if you would like to attend any of the events, please visit the [website](#).

## Chinese New Year Celebrations

**Dates/times:** Friday 20 February, 11.00am–2.00pm

**Venue:** Elgar Concert Hall and Rotunda, Bramall Building

Celebrate Chinese New Year, the Year of the Sheep, with the China Institute. Events and activities include a lunchtime concert featuring renowned Chinese musicians, a mini fair to showcase the University's engagement with China and a networking lunchtime reception. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the University's work in China and to network with everyone who has an interest in China.

## University of Birmingham Business Club Breakfast Briefing

**Dates/times:** Tuesday 24 February, 7.30am

**Venue:** BizzInn, Birmingham Research Park

The next Breakfast Briefing is fast approaching, with the theme of 'How to expand your business through Growth Funding'. Once again we will have key speakers offering their expert advice as well as the opportunity to present shorter, four minute elevator pitches. Pitches are open to both businesses and academics and are a fantastic forum to talk about an idea, product or piece of research in front of a receptive audience. Support is available from the business team on how to structure your pitch. Refreshments are provided and there will be opportunities for networking throughout the event. Registration is free; please visit the [website](#) for more information. Those interested in pitching at this or a future Breakfast Briefing should email the [Business Team](#).

## Quo Vadis Olympism: a multidisciplinary exploration

**Dates/times:** Tuesday 24 February, 10.00am

**Venue:** Michael Tippett Room, Third Floor, Staff House

An Institute of Advanced Studies workshop bringing together academics from the School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences, the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage, and the Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics. The workshop is a unique opportunity to explore the Olympics from three unique angles: politics,

linguistics and heritage. [More information.](#)

## I've got an innovative idea. Will anyone buy it?

**Dates/times:** Wednesday 25 February, 12.00noon

**Venue:** BizzInn, Birmingham Research Park

Most of us have brilliant ideas for new innovations all the time but if you actually want to take your new product/process or service to market, then you need to be able to understand who the users are and why they would invest in what you are offering, rather than in a competitor product. With this knowledge you can start to convince other people to buy into your idea and this could be collaborators, investors or your technology transfer office. This seminar will show you some of the tools that you can use to assess the commercial potential of your idea and carry out a basic market analysis to identify potential markets; it will also help you to prepare impact statements in research council applications for funding and to write a basic market research brief. [Register online.](#)

## The Power & Energy Internet

**Dates/times:** Wednesday 25 February, 5.15pm

**Venue:** Lecture Theatre 2, Gisbert Kapp Building

The College of Engineering and Physical Sciences invites you to attend the Inaugural Lecture of Xiao-Ping Zhang, Professor of Electrical Power Systems. Xiao will discuss the scope of the Power & Energy Internet in the contexts of the 3rd Energy Industrial Revolution and then explain the architecture of Power & Energy Internet. In addition, the key technologies and major challenges for building up the Power & Energy Internet will be presented, highlighting the technological developments and achievements at the University. [More information.](#)

## Fighting the battle in liver disease; fat versus stem cells

**Dates/times:** Wednesday 4 March, 4.30–6.00pm

**Venue:** Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre, Medical School Building

The College of Medical and Dental Sciences invites you to attend the Inaugural Lecture of Philip Newsome, BMedSci, MBChB, PhD, FRCPE, a Professor of Experimental Hepatology in the School of Immunity and Infection. He joined the University in 2007 as a Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant Hepatologist, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 2009. His research is focused on understanding the mechanisms by which stem cells can reduce liver damage, as well as the design and delivery of stem cell trials in patients with liver disease. [More information.](#)

## Green Supplier Fair

**Dates/times:** 11 March, 3.00pm

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

The Green Supplier Fair, organised by the Procurement Team, showcases how suppliers are supporting the University to reduce carbon through a variety of sustainability initiatives.

Suppliers attending will include Carillion (who are building the new Library), Cadbury, Office Depot, Stone Computers, Nestlé and many more. Alongside the Fair will be Oxfam's Ethical Market selling Indian crafts, locally made pies, jams and chutneys, and Ethiopian crafts. [Further information.](#)

## Arts and Science Festival

**Dates/times:** Monday 16–Sunday 22 March

**Venue:** Edgbaston campus

The University's Arts and Science Festival will return for its third instalment on the theme of 'Sight and Sound'. The festival will offer a free programme showcasing culture, research and collaboration at the University through talks, exhibition, performances, workshops and screenings. The programme is now [available online](#).

## The Edward Cadbury Lectures 2015

**Dates/times:** 16–21 March, 5.00–6.30pm

**Venue:** Lecture Room 1, Arts Building

The School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion is pleased to invite all academic and professional services staff, students, alumni and members of the public to this year's Cadbury Lecture series. The theme for 2015 is 'God Over All', which will include a series of lectures given by Professor William Lane Craig, Research Professor of Philosophy at Talbot School of Theology and Professor of Philosophy at Houston Baptist University. The events are free and open to all but registration is essential, as a limited number of seats are available for each event. [Further information.](#)

## Events off-campus...

### Film Screening: *Nowhere to Call Home: A Tibetan in Beijing*

**Dates/times:** Thursday 5 February, 6.00pm

**Venue:** Mockingbird Theatre and Bar, Custard Factory, Birmingham city centre

*Nowhere to Call Home* tells the powerful story of a Tibetan widow (Zanta) who stands up to her authoritarian father-in-law so that her son can get an education. The groundbreaking film has won accolades in China from both Tibetans and Han Chinese and is paving the way for a new conversation. A panel discussion will follow the film, featuring the film maker, Jocelyn Ford, and a panel of specialists from the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham. [More information.](#) There is no need to register and the event is free; however, a donation of £5 by non-students would be welcome to support Zanta.

### Book Launch: *Quite A Good Time to be Born: A Memoir 1935–1975* by David Lodge

**Dates/times:** Tuesday 10 February, 6.30–8.00pm

**Venue:** Ikon Gallery, Birmingham city centre

Renowned literary critic and award-winning novelist David Lodge CBE is an Emeritus Professor at the University. He was four when World War II began and grew up through decades of great social and cultural change. In this record of his life up to the publication of his breakthrough book *Changing Places* (1975), Lodge looks back over his childhood and youth. This event includes a book signing and a conversation hosted by Professor of English and Creative Writing Steve Ellis. Tickets are £4. More information is available via the [Ikon website](#).

## Opportunities...

### Arts and Science Festival – call for volunteers

The University's third Arts and Science Festival will take place 16–22 March 2015 and there are plenty of exciting opportunities to get involved as a volunteer. The organising team are looking for friendly, reliable and enthusiastic individuals to help out during the festival from Monday to Friday. Please forward details of this opportunity to any students looking to gain events experience. To apply for a volunteering position, students should email the [Arts and Science Team](#). The deadline for applications is noon on Monday 16 February.

### Fellowships for Women in Science

Applications for the L'Oréal–UNESCO UK and Ireland Fellowships for Women in Science are now open. Four outstanding female post-doctoral scientists in the UK or Ireland will be granted a fellowship worth £15,000 each. The Fellowships provide flexible and practical help to female post-doctoral researchers. The winners may choose to spend their fellowship grants in any way that is helpful to them in furthering their research, from buying lab equipment to hiring an assistant. [More information](#).

### Start a new MOOC in 2015

A MOOC is a Massive Open Online Course – these are free, open, online courses designed to offer a taste of higher education to learners from across the UK and the world. Choose from a range of topics; from Dental Photography to Hamlet, from Liver Disease to World War 1 Aviation. Delivered by world-class academics from the University, the courses enable learners worldwide to sample high-quality academic content and interact with learners from across the world. MOOCs are offered in partnership with FutureLearn. [More information](#).

### Current Universitas21 (U21) opportunities for staff and students

There are currently a number of opportunities to apply for funding to support travel to our U21 partner universities for both staff and students:

- Universitas 21 Staff Fellowship awards of up to £5,000, deadline 1 March
- U21 PhD Scholarships of up to £1,500, deadline 29 March

- Universitas 21 Summer Event Bursaries for undergraduate students to travel to Guatemala, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Scotland, various deadlines, February and March 2015

For more information and/or promotional material please click [here](#) or contact [Matt Clulee](#), International Relations.

## Santander: Staff Offer

To celebrate its relationship with the University, Santander is giving away ten free shares to University staff when they open a new 123 Current Account, or if they are an existing Santander customer, upgrade to the 123 Current Account. The offer runs until Friday 20 March, and 15 sets of ten free shares are available to the first 15 customers whose applications are processed through a Santander University Branch, and this offer is only available in 54 Santander University Branches.

To find out more visit the branch in the Guild of Students, call 0551 1482 170 or email the Branch Manager, [Greg Martin](#).

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**Email:** [university-buzz@bham.ac.uk](mailto:university-buzz@bham.ac.uk)  
**Web:** [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buzz](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buzz)



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