



Attracting and Retaining Talented Researchers

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Content

- Background about the University of Birmingham
- Attracting future research leaders: The Birmingham Fellows Scheme
- The search for talent through international collaboration: Birmingham Guangzhou Centre, China



Research focussed initiatives

- The University has embarked on a number of research focussed initiative.
- In this presentation the focus is on two of these.
- Before that a little background about the University



Background about the University of Birmingham

- The University of Birmingham has five Colleges with an academic population of:

- Over 30,000 students:
 - 18,124 Undergraduate students
 - 6,101 Postgraduate (Taught)
 - 2,606 Postgraduate (Research)
 - 1,500 students on short courses
 - 1,674 exchange student
- Over 2,000 teaching and research staff
- Over 3,500 academically-related staff

With more than 8,500 postgraduate students from across the world, Birmingham is one of the most popular universities for postgraduate study in the UK.

The University has a turnover of approximately \$685 million per year

Making it the 8th largest local employer and provider of approximately 10,000 graduates annually.



Founding member of the prestigious Russell Group of universities

Attracting future research
leaders



The Birmingham Fellows Scheme

- Birmingham is committed to attracting the brightest and the best from around the world to develop their academic careers at the University. We are making a major investment to recruit post-doctoral fellows of the very highest calibre.
- We have been conducting a global search to recruit up to 50 Birmingham Fellows. The Birmingham Fellows will be outstanding post-doctoral researchers who are on a trajectory to become the next generation of research and academic leaders. The Birmingham Fellowships have been designed to support the Fellows as they establish themselves as rounded and mature academics at the University of Birmingham.



The Birmingham Fellows Scheme

- The Fellowships will be five-year appointments, giving the Fellows the time they need to engage in serious research and to establish themselves within the academic community at Birmingham, nationally and internationally.
- Our goal with the Birmingham Fellowships is to cultivate the next generation of Birmingham academics, rather than to work with outstanding post-docs for a few years and then lose them from our community. Therefore, Fellows who meet their potential and perform according to the expectations agreed at the beginning of their fellowship term will be offered a permanent post at the end of the fellowship term.



The Birmingham Fellows Scheme

- Although research-focused, Fellows will be appointed to research and teaching contracts, reflecting our commitment to teaching as an integral part of an academic career. At the start of the Fellowship period, the emphasis will be on consolidating an already-outstanding research trajectory, but Fellows will be expected to engage in PhD supervision and to develop a growing teaching portfolio over their five-year term. Fellows will not be expected to engage in substantive academic management or administration during their Fellowship term.
- Fellows will have access to start-up support and will receive mentoring and development support throughout their Fellowship.



The Birmingham Fellows Scheme

- The University identified [over 20 priority areas for recruitment](#) in 2011, reflecting particular concentrations of excellence. However, Birmingham is a comprehensive institution and this list reflects only a fraction of our research excellence. Outstanding candidates in other fields were also welcome to apply as long as they could demonstrate how their work complemented and enhanced excellence at the University of Birmingham. The priority areas for 2012 will be made available shortly.



Priority Areas

- **Cognitive Psychology**
- **Computation, Mathematics and Theory**
- **Engineering and Physical Science for Biomedicine and Imaging**
- **Environmental Pollution**
- **Europe**
- **Genetics and Personalised Medicine**
- **Global Economy**
- **Health and Population Sciences**
- **Health, Well-Being and Ethics**
- **High Energy Physics**
- **Hormones/Metabolism**
- **Household Wealth and Personal Finance**
- **Twentieth-Century Music**
- **Immunology**
- **Liver and Blood-Related Cell Therapy**
- **Materials and Manufacturing**
- **Memory and Exile**
- **Microbiology**
- **Molecular Cell Biology**
- **Public Services and Third Sector**
- **Security and Conflict**
- **Socio-Legal Studies and Criminology**
- **Sustainable Energy**
- **Transnationalism and Superdiversity**



Where we are

- 32 have agreed to join us and have either joined us or will start shortly
- 4 are pending
- Scheme continues to be open to high calibre researchers.



The search for talent through international collaboration



Birmingham Guangzhou Centre, China

- The University of Birmingham Guangzhou Centre is a unique facility established in coordination with the Guangzhou municipality to facilitate joint research and education initiatives in Guangzhou and the wider region.
- The University of Birmingham has a long association with China in education and research that dates back to the early 20th century. Our relationship has produced some notable achievements: the famous geologist Li Siguang studied at the University of Birmingham and in joint publications with China, the University is the 3rd largest in the UK.
- We also have an important academic engagement in Guangzhou with the Guangzhou Biobank cohort study and there is an ongoing programme of municipal training with Guangzhou civil servants.



The search for talent through international collaboration: Birmingham Guangzhou Centre, China

- The University of Birmingham Guangzhou Centre provides a strong platform from which to build upon the work already underway and to build new initiatives with our partners in Guangzhou.
- The Centre is located right in the heart of the business district just a minute away from the metro in newly refurbished offices housing seminar and meeting rooms, communications and support facilities. The centre is staffed by an [enthusiastic team](#) | who will manage and facilitate the expansion of our activities in Guangzhou.



Why Guangzhou?

- The University opened liaison offices in Shanghai in 2008 and Beijing in 2010.
- Guangzhou, which has been a sister city of Birmingham since 2006, has a history of collaborating with the University of Birmingham in a range of different areas, most notably health and social sciences.
- The University has a bold strategy to develop its global reputation by enhancing its international presence and collaborations. In addition to Guangzhou, Birmingham has strategic partnerships with another sister city, Chicago, and in India, Brazil and Australia.



Guangzhou and the People's Government of Guangzhou Municipality

Situated at the heart of the Pearl River Delta with a history of 2,225 years, Guangzhou has long been an economic powerhouse of China. It has become the third largest mainland city after Beijing and Shanghai, the hub for one third of all of China's international trade, and the lead in transportation, education, scientific research and culture in South China.



Centre objectives

The Birmingham Guangzhou Centre will play a vital role in stimulating and encouraging collaboration in the region, bringing major benefits both to Guangzhou and Birmingham.

During the initial phase the key objectives are to:

- Generate social, economic and health benefits for Guangzhou as well as producing world class academic publications
- Create a natural and sustainable environment for high level scientific collaboration and exchange between academics in Guangzhou and Birmingham
- Provide excellent opportunities for the training of large numbers of doctoral research students and postdoctoral researchers



Working in partnership

- The environment of the centre will be shaped by a close interaction with our partners in the region such as the Municipality, the bureaux of Science and Information Technology, Education, Health and Foreign Affairs as well as Higher Education Institutes in Guangzhou and Guangdong. The close partnership with these organisations will help sharpen the strategic development of the centre and be a valuable driver in identifying, designing and coordinating the delivery of joint research projects in the city and province.
- The centre will support the design and delivery of continuing professional development, knowledge transfer activity and engagement with business interests in the broader Pearl River Delta region. It will provide a base for University of Birmingham staff working in the Guangzhou southern China region and act as the initial focus for the development of an overseas study centre. The centre will be the catalyst for the development of greater expertise on China within the University of Birmingham.



The main themes to be addressed by the Centre include:

- Medicine and Healthcare
- Biotechnology
- Advanced manufacturing
- New energy
- Information and communication technology
- Urbanisation



Thank you and happy to take
any questions