

Schools and Colleges update

Spring 2012

University awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education

The University of Birmingham's world-leading Centre for Formulation Engineering has gained further recognition after being selected for a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. The Prizes form part of the national honours system and are the most prestigious honour that can be awarded to UK universities or colleges. The Prizes are given to institutions that make an outstanding contribution to the intellectual, economic, cultural and social life of the nation.

The University of Birmingham has been selected for this major prize in recognition of its pioneering research in micro-structured materials and outstanding track record in collaborative research and training with UK and multinational companies involved in process engineering. Key industrial partners in this work include Cadbury/Kraft, Procter & Gamble, Unilever, and Johnson Matthey.

Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood, says: 'We are tremendously proud to have been recognised in the Queen's Anniversary Prize for the work we do to connect our internationally-acclaimed academic research with business and industry. The quality, breadth, and scale of our research has allowed us to achieve significant industrial impact across a broad range of sectors and kept us at the forefront of formulation engineering over the last decade, a position which we will maintain and strengthen into the future.'

Learn more

www.birmingham.ac.uk/chemical-engineering



Alice Roberts named first Professor of Public Engagement and Science

Clinical anatomist, author and broadcaster Professor Alice Roberts has been appointed Professor of Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham.

Alice, who regularly appears as a science presenter on TV programmes including *Coast*, *Time Team* and *Horizon*, as well as *The Incredible Human Journey*, *Don't Die Young* and *Origins of Us*, joins the University on 1 February 2012.

As well as carrying out a range of academic duties, such as lecturing undergraduate students and supervising PhD students, this new role will also involve promoting the University's academics and their research to the general public, and inspiring people about science.

Professor Roberts says: 'I am very excited about this appointment. This new professorship emphasises Birmingham's commitment to public engagement in science, to a dialogue between scientists and the wider public. Science is so important to our economy, to politics and education, but perhaps more than anything, I'm keen to promote science as an integral part of our culture.'



Open days 2012

The University of Birmingham's open days for 2012 will be held on Thursday 21 June, Friday 22 June and Saturday 8 September. The events are an excellent opportunity to explore the campus, attend general and subject-specific talks and go on tours of the campus and accommodation.

To book a place either as an individual, or for your school, please go to our website to use the online booking form at

www.birmingham.ac.uk/opendays

University grabs top ten place in employability rankings

The *International Herald Tribune*, the global edition of the *New York Times*, has recently ranked the University of Birmingham 55th in world and 9th in the UK for post-qualification employability. The rankings illustrate the top 150 universities most commonly selected by global employers – a list that includes the traditional top elite schools in North America as well as relative newcomers in Asia and Europe.

Emerging, a French consulting firm, surveyed employers on which schools they tended to rely on, and on what qualities made job candidates most employable.

When releasing the findings, Emerging explained the list is designed to give 'universities, recruiters and students the most valuable of tools, a road-tested blueprint of where it's best to study in order to get that job.'

Learn more

www.as.bham.ac.uk/careers

Specialist Social Policy degree programmes

Three new, specialist undergraduate Social Policy Pathway degree programmes have been introduced this year to cover pathways in:

- Crime, Policing and Community Justice
- Health and Social Care
- Housing

These programmes are designed for students who have an interest in gaining experiences and pursuing a career in these three broad areas of human services. Core components of the programmes include an academically integrated internship with a specialist agency;

dedicated modules; and the opportunity to undertake a research project under the supervision of an academic specialist.

Further modules and opportunities for placements, voluntary work, work experience and internships enable students to build up an impressive and personalised portfolio during their degree programme. These programmes are suitable for students undertaking a wide range of A level subjects and who have an interest in pursuing a professional career in these specialisms.

The specialisms complement the Social Policy Single Honours undergraduate degree which embraces a wide range of contemporary social issues and debates.

Learn more

www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy



Sport education workshops

Sport is taking centre stage at the University of Birmingham. After finishing in second place in the BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) league in 2011 – the highest ranked Russell Group University – the University also announced an investment of £55 million for a new sports facility. We appreciate the importance of evolving a student's potential and enthusiasm



for sport, while also developing their academic ability. Our Hi Performance Centre, is offering schools and colleges the opportunity to be educated in the components of high-quality athlete support, through educational workshops.

Each workshop can be specifically tailored to meet the demands of the National Curriculum or tailored to suit your specific requirements.

The workshops are run by our BASES-accredited sport scientists from the Hi Performance Centre. Topics such as sports science, sports psychology, sports medicine, sports nutrition, strength and conditioning and physiotherapy as well as practical lab experience can be incorporated.

Learn more

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The Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences set to launch

The liberal arts and sciences are recognised internationally as the key development ground for the next generation of leaders in all fields. Current Year 12 students with a wide range of interests, will be able to join this exciting new degree programme commencing in autumn 2013.

This degree allows students to design their own programme of study based on their interests and strengths. Students will be

intellectually stretched and challenged, enabling them to demonstrate to employers a wide range of skills and knowledge as well as in-depth expertise in one major subject. The four-year programme will include an enhanced year abroad experience and a range of internship opportunities.

Learn more

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Midland universities team up for London Careers Advisers' and Teachers' Conference

The universities of Birmingham and Nottingham are set to collaborate for the London Careers Advisers' and Teachers' Conference in 2012.

The conference allows teachers and careers advisers who provide higher education advice and guidance to get up-to-date information on issues in higher education from two of the Midland's largest universities. The programme includes admissions updates from both universities and workshops on competitive subjects including Medicine and Law.

The Conference takes place on **Wednesday 16 May**, 10.00am–4.30pm at The University Women's Club in Mayfair, London, W1. Places at the Conference are free of charge and will be allocated on a strictly first come, first served basis.

To book a place at the Conference, please complete the booking form at www.surveymonkey.com/s/NZPB9GP

Learn more

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