

## Volunteering



Volunteers are very important to us. We never underestimate the support or effectiveness of Birmingham alumni.



"As alumni, we are truly an invaluable resource to Birmingham. We are the University's best ambassadors, its truest friends and its proven track record."

Ways to get involved:

### Do you want to get involved with our on-campus literary festival?

[Open all sections](#)

Book to the Future is a celebration of the written and spoken word (14th – 19th October 2014) featuring our academic, student and local talent as well as well-known authors, poets, playwrights, journalists and scriptwriters, all taking place on campus.

A packed programme of workshops, panel events, readings and performances will take place across campus – for a full programme visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/bttf](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/bttf) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/bttf>)

Be a part of this unique event and sign up to volunteer! Compulsory training will run before the festival (date to be confirmed in the coming weeks). If you're interested in taking on the volunteer responsibilities listed below, and you meet the volunteer requirements, please complete and return the form attached to Shantel Edwards ([s.edwards.6@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.edwards.6@bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:s.edwards.6@bham.ac.uk>)) by Friday 3rd October 2014.

#### Volunteer Responsibilities:

- Being on-hand to answer queries from visitors/audience members
- Manning the information stand (which will most likely be located in the Arts building)
- Ushering visitors to the correct event venues
- Handing out and collecting feedback forms
- Ensuring events are set up promptly and correctly

#### Volunteer Requirements:

- Enthusiastic, friendly and helpful – an interest in literature would be a bonus!
- Confident working with students, staff and visitors
- Ability to work under pressure
- Shifts are 4 hours long (12-4pm and 4-8pm).

Volunteers must attend a compulsory training session. Interested?

For more information please contact Shantel Edwards (Student Engagement Facilitator, English, Drama and American and Canadian Studies) on 0121 414 7517 or [s.edwards.6@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.edwards.6@bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:s.edwards.6@bham.ac.uk>).

### Birmingham 1000 Elders - MDS Alumni

Are you in good health, over the age of 65 and within 1 hour of the university? Would you like to make a contribution to Research within the University? If so we'd love to add you to our Birmingham 1000 Elders group.

Our research varies from questionnaires to involvement in medical research including research into heart disease, infections in old age and falls. The involvement of the group has been crucial to the research activity of the University of Birmingham and in particular to the work carried out relating to older adults, and helps us to design, develop and delivery research that is directly relevant to your health and wellbeing.

For further information and to join the 1000 Elders please see our website at: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/mrc-aruk/involvement/index.aspx> (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/mrc-aruk/involvement/index.aspx>)

### Can you promote our MOOCs? (Massive Open Online Courses)

Can you share and promote our Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) - these are free, open, online courses designed to offer a taste of higher education to learners from across the UK and the world. The University of Birmingham is delivering new MOOCs in partnership with [Futurelearn](https://www.futurelearn.com/partners/university-of-birmingham) (<https://www.futurelearn.com/partners/university-of-birmingham>), the UK's first MOOCs provider established by the Open University.

Delivered by world-class academics from the University of Birmingham, the courses enable learners worldwide to sample high-quality academic content via a interactive web-based platform from a leading global University, increasing access to higher education for a whole new cohort of learners.

The courses have been developed by senior academic staff and their content is quality-assured in line with our other programmes. The courses do not offer credits towards admission to the University of Birmingham.

Current courses include:

- **[Good Brain, Bad Brain – Basics of the Brain \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/moocs/gbbb-basics-of-the-brain.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/moocs/gbbb-basics-of-the-brain.aspx)**
- **[Good Brain, Bad Brain – Parkinson's Disease \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/moocs/gbbb-parkinsons-disease.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/moocs/gbbb-parkinsons-disease.aspx)**
- **[Improving your image: Dental Photography in Practice \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/moocs/improving-your-image-dental-photography-in-practice.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/moocs/improving-your-image-dental-photography-in-practice.aspx)**
- **[Shakespeare's Hamlet: Text, performance and culture \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/moocs/hamlet-a-short-introduction.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/moocs/hamlet-a-short-introduction.aspx)**

Please use this links above to share specific courses or the following link for more information: **[MOOCs \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/moocs/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/moocs/index.aspx)**

## Physical activity interventions and changes in body composition and metabolism

Do you want to part in a clinical trial within the Sport and Exercise Sciences department? The trial is for women between 25 – 50, and the aim of the game is to improve their level of fitness. The team involved are fantastic – really friendly, encouraging and totally passionate about improving people's health. Unfortunately, they are massively low on participants. Despite this being on twitter, facebook, the newspaper and on the staff intranet, I have promised to circulate this around our team in the vain hope that someone out there will want to take part, or will know someone else who does.

Please have a look at this and pass it on to anyone who might be interested.

**[www.birmingham.ac.uk/bodycomp \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/bodycomp\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/bodycomp)**

## PG Research Entrepreneur Study...

If you are an entrepreneur, the Enterprise and Innovation team would like to interview you for a case study to encourage other post-graduate research entrepreneurs, and are also looking for mentors.

For more information and to apply contact **[Debbie White \(mailto:d.white.3@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:d.white.3@bham.ac.uk)** (0121 414 2678)

## Guild Of Graduates & Alumni Association (GGAA) Committee

Are you able to help with liaison between Graduates, Alumni office and the University and assist with planning Forum Days and processing at Degree congregations?

Commitment is approximately 4 meetings per year based on Birmingham campus in the evening.

For more information please contact **[Norma Broadbridge \(mailto:normabroadbridge1@btinternet.com\)](mailto:normabroadbridge1@btinternet.com)**, President GGAA.

## Interested in being a speaker at CAL Careers Events?...

The College of Arts and Law Graduate School are looking for a speaker for a series of early-evening careers events between October and March. They are keen to have speakers who can talk about careers outside academia and it can be a formal presentation or informal talk.

To register your interest please email: **[alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk \(mailto:alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk)**

## Host an Event

We are always looking for new and exciting venues at which to host alumni events, both in the UK and overseas. If you work in, or have access to, an exclusive or prestigious building and would be willing to host an event please contact **[alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk. \(mailto:alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk)**

Commitment: 4 hours (pre-event planning, as well as attendance at the event itself)

## Mentoring a Student...

Could you mentor a student?

Our mentoring scheme aims to match every student who wants to participate to an Alumni Mentor with relevant experience in the student's career area of interest. The mentoring scheme runs each year from November until the following summer, and you should be prepared to give about an hour per month of your time. Ideally, you will be able to meet your student mentee at least once face-to-face during the scheme, but we have had successful mentoring partnerships with international mentors too and mentoring can also take place by phone, e-mail and Skype. The aim of the programme is to help students prepare to find a job when they leave University, and activities could include reviewing CVs and applications, giving information and advice about their chosen career, helping them to identify potential careers, encouraging them to source work experience and internships and being a general source of support and guidance.

We welcome interest from all alumni – you do not have to have mentored before or reached the 'top' of your career to be able to be a mentor and we are also keen to hear from young alumni. You will only be matched to a student where relevant and we provide guidance and support on the mentoring process.

If you are interested in mentoring a student, please complete this form or e-mail **[alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk \(mailto:alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk)** with a brief summary of your career area.

For information on the Careers Network Mentoring Scheme visit their website:

**[http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/mentoring/cnmentoring.aspx \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/mentoring/cnmentoring.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/mentoring/cnmentoring.aspx)**

## End of Life Bereavement Study

Volunteers required for study on End-of-Life and Bereavement

Have you been bereaved in the last 6-24 months and would feel comfortable discussing your experience with a researcher? Alternatively, is somebody close to you currently receiving end of life care? If so, then we would like to invite you to participate in our study investigating how end-of-life impacts family and friends.

The study aims to improve the evaluation of end of life care in the UK. Confidentiality and sensitivity will be guaranteed. You will be sent additional information and be able to discuss the study with the researcher before being asked to decide whether or not to participate.

For more information email Alastair Canaway at [axc105@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:axc105@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:axc105@bham.ac.uk).

## Vaccination Study

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping in a research project. The project is to study how healthy people respond to vaccination. You can help us if you:

- are in good health- are aged 18-70
- have NOT received any vaccinations in the last three months
- have NEVER received vaccination against Hepatitis B
- are willing to receive vaccination against Hepatitis B

Being involved in the study will involve TEN study visits. We will pay your travel expenses and (in addition) pay you £100 to compensate you for your time and inconvenience.

Please phone Sister Hafwen Corp or Peter Taylor (0121 371 3170) or Dr Benjamin Fisher (0121 3713201 or e-mail [b.fisher@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:b.fisher@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:b.fisher@bham.ac.uk)) if you are interested in helping.

Thank You!

## Are you married or living with your partner?

### Interested in participating in a study about mood and cognition?

This study takes 45 minutes to complete, and you must be aged between 18-45 years, be married or living together for at least one year, and provide your own transportation to the University. This project has been approved by the University's Ethical Review Committee.

Find out more: email [BhamCouplesStudy@gmail.com \(mailto:bhamcouplesstudy@gmail.com\)](mailto:BhamCouplesStudy@gmail.com)

## Participants Needed

### Study 1

CANTAB, a computerised test, is being used to study cognitive processes. The study involves one hour long session that incorporates a questionnaire and simple CANTAB tests. Volunteers will need to be healthy, adult, native English speakers, and aged over 40.

For details contact Iraida Neira [ixn082@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:ixn082@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:ixn082@bham.ac.uk).

### Study 2

Dr Annie T Ginty, School of Sport & Exercise Science is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences and I am currently running a study called STUN (Stress and Transitions to UNiversity). The study is funded by the AXA Research Fund and involves students in Year 13. So far, over 150 Year 13 students from across Birmingham have participated. I am aiming to recruit an additional 50 participants for the study by the end of May and I was hoping if any of you have children, family friends, contacts from volunteer work, or siblings in Year 13, please let them know about this study. The total time commitment for this year is one 2 hour session in the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences. Participants receive an ultrasound video of their heart.

For more information, please email [a.t.ginty@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:a.t.ginty@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:a.t.ginty@bham.ac.uk).

## Postgraduate Research Alumni Guest Speakers

TGS Fridays are informal talks and discussions on prominent topics to postgraduate researchers at the University of Birmingham. They are delivered by the people that know best: postgraduate researchers, academics and PGR alumni. They are held every other Friday and past topics have included 'Using Twitter as a PGR', 'Organising an Academic Conference' and 'The Mature Student Experience in HE'.

We are keen to identify future speakers and suggested topics – what would you have found useful as a Postgraduate Researcher? We are also interested in speakers who can provide insight into non-academic careers following Postgraduate Research.

You will need to prepare a talk, and provide copies of your slides to make available to those who can't attend. The talk should be between 30 minutes and an hour in length and followed by Q&A. Lunch will be provided.

If you would like further information or to express interest in taking part, please contact Kimberley Loynes at the University Graduate School at [k.loynes@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:k.loynes@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:k.loynes@bham.ac.uk) or 0121 414 5958

## Object of the Month Researcher

Using the University's Research and Cultural Collections online database of extraordinary art, antiquities, historic physics instruments, zoological specimens and medical artefacts, you will choose an object and carry out targeted research to produce a short article (200 words) for a general audience. 'Object of the Month' is a way for the University to celebrate the richness and diversity of our collections and to train a spotlight on a different piece each month. We would like our alumni to bring their interest,

enthusiasm and research skills to this project, working on one piece at a time to a monthly calendar.

You will have good written communication and research skills. You can access training and support from the curatorial team as required via e-mail/phone if you are carrying out the project remotely, or are welcome to come on to campus to meet the team, review progress and handle the artefacts where appropriate. We are looking for up to 12 research volunteers per year and welcome applications from anywhere in the world - as our collections are online you do not need to be able to get to campus.

The time required for each research project will vary depending on the object and level of detail, but we anticipate a minimum time requirement for research and writing of 6 hours. You must be able to work to a deadline. Please e-mail Kerrie Holland at [alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk>) with a brief statement of the reason for your interest, an overview of your relevant skills and, if possible, an idea of the type of object you would be interested in researching.

## Doctoral Researchers for Alumni Profiles/Podcast

We are keen to feature our Doctoral Research alumni, and their subsequent careers, in marketing materials for prospective Doctoral Researchers. You can provide your profile (500-1000 words) or deliver your podcast from anywhere in the world. If you would be happy to share both your experience of studying at Birmingham, and what you have gone on to do after completing your studies here please contact Kerrie Holland at [alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:alumni-volunteers@contacts.bham.ac.uk>) for further details.

## Become A Champion

There's no better advert for a university than its alumni and, by spreading the word about why you love Birmingham, you become our best possible advocates. If you support the University financially, you can also choose to become a class fundraising champion in one of your reunion years (10, 25, 35, 40 and 50), encouraging your fellow alumni to give collectively to truly make the most of their gifts.

For further details, contact our Deputy Head of Annual Giving, Laura Fairbanks, at [L.Fairbanks@bham.ac.uk](mailto:L.Fairbanks@bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:L.Fairbanks@bham.ac.uk>) or on +44 (0)121 414 8894.

## Feature In Marketing Materials

Alumni quotes and photographs feature in University resources including our prospectuses, degree congregation brochures, website and a whole range of promotional materials.

If you would be willing to give us a quote about your time here or a short personal profile, contact us now [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk>)

## Alumni Group Leaders

Alumni groups and societies exist all over the world, with new members always welcome to join. Become an Alumni Group Leader and connect with alumni in their local area or even country by organising gatherings and network opportunities throughout the year.

To see a full list of the current groups sign up to [your.bham](http://bhamalumni.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=192) (<http://bhamalumni.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=192>) and if you would be interested in establishing a new group in your part of the country please contact [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk>)

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