

Schools and Colleges update

Winter 2010

Admissions update 2010

The 2010 university admissions cycle has been one of the most competitive and newsworthy of recent years with universities across the country seeing an increase in applications. The University of Birmingham saw applications for 2010 entry increase by 7.5%, higher than the average increase for other universities in the Russell Group. Consequently the University did not enter Clearing this year and saw the average A level grades of entrants increase. Increases in applications were spread across a wide range of subjects including English, American and Canadian Studies, Business, Psychology, Maths, Economics, Chemistry, Physics and Law.

Current indications are that a similar number and standard of applications will be received

for entrance in 2011 and possibly beyond. This means it is vitally important that applicants thoroughly research courses and institutions and carefully select their five choices to maximise their chances of securing a place at the university which meets their needs and aspirations. Which offers to accept also becomes a critical decision.

The Student Recruitment Team are able to visit schools and colleges to offer objective advice and guidance and lead a range of higher education related activities designed to support pupils through the process of choosing and applying to university.

For further information please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/advice

Congratulations on BUCS league success

Congratulations to all the individuals and teams who helped the University of Birmingham secure third place in the 2009–10 British Universities and College Sport (BUCS) League. As well as claiming third place overall, Birmingham are BUCS champions in women's hockey, lacrosse, duathlon and biathlon as well as in numerous athletics events. Birmingham's record in this prestigious competition confirms its place as one of the UK's top sporting institutions.

Learn more

www.sport.bham.ac.uk/athleticunion/about/bucs.shtml



Summer School 14–15 July 2010; another successful year

This year the School of Physics and Astronomy organised the seventh Physics Summer School for A level students all over the UK.

Forty five students from 37 different schools attended and feedback was very positive as usual, describing the whole department as 'very impressive and approachable!' The usual mix of talks, workshops and labs was delivered, together with social events and a chance to look around the campus and the city.

More details of this event, and others, both on campus and out in schools, is at www.ph.bham.ac.uk/schools, where you will also find details of next year's Summer School – 13–14 July 2011 – and other student and teacher events planned for the coming academic year.

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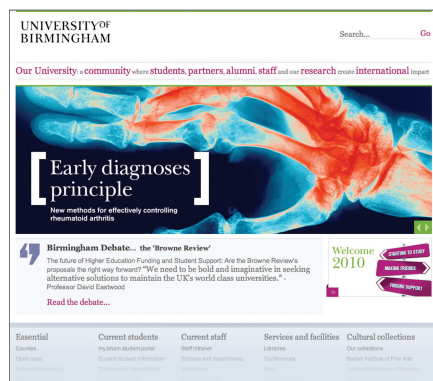
Keeping in touch

The Schools and Colleges Update, together with the regular e-newsletters sent from the Student Recruitment Team, help us to keep you informed of events and activities which may be of interest to you and your students, as well as more general developments at the University of Birmingham. We do hope you find these communications of interest – if you have any comments regarding these or ideas on items you would like to see included please let us know. Comments can be emailed to [Yvonne Williams y.e.williams@bham.ac.uk](mailto:Yvonne.Williams.y.e.williams@bham.ac.uk)

Renewed, revitalised, relaunched

The University has recently launched a new website with revised content and a fresh new design.

The website makes it easier for prospective students to navigate and find out all they need to know before applying to the University. There is also a dedicated Teachers, Careers Advisors and Parents section with information on all our work with schools and colleges as well as information on events such as open days and applicant visit days. The web address has changed to www.birmingham.ac.uk



Diary date

With a packed school diary we thought it might be useful to give early notice of our open days in 2011. These will be held on:
Thursday 30 June
Friday 1 July
Saturday 10 September

Registration details will be available online from February www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/visit/opendays.aspx

UBSport school visits

University of Birmingham Sport offers hands-on experience of sport science to school children. Our aim is two-fold: to give young people aged 13–18 years old the opportunity to visit a BASES-accredited institution and to facilitate the delivery of sports science at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A level or equivalent.

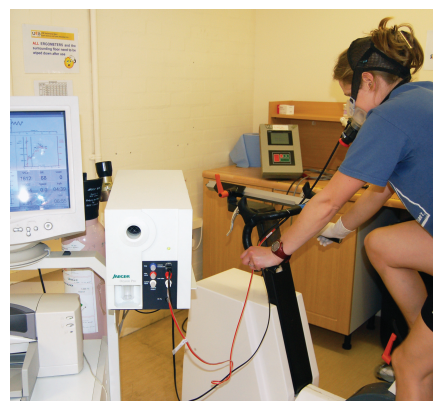
You don't need to be a specialist sports college to benefit as all workshops are tailored to the needs of participants. You may be representing a Gifted and Talented group or an A level PE group wishing to experience first hand the specialist fitness assessments that elite athletes at a top sporting university undertake. Or you may be a Year 9 PE teacher, looking for an exciting way to support your health-related

fitness curriculum. The workshops help develop the knowledge of those who are already studying sport and also provide an interesting insight into studying after school. Our unique combination of applied practicals and the higher education environment means that the programme is in high demand with previous clients booking visits up to a year in advance.

Workshops can be run over a half or full day, and content is pitched at your curriculum level. Important sport science concepts are introduced experientially, with full explanation and analysis provided. Additional support for reflective sessions back in the school environment is also provided.

Learn more

Laura Bainbridge l.bainbridge@bham.ac.uk or 0121 415 8213 for more details.



Computer Science student named top 100 graduate in the UK

Computer Science graduate, Petr Klus, has been selected as one of the best 100 students in the UK. Chosen by the panel of Graduate 100 from over 13,000 graduates nationwide, Petr attended a star-studded event which celebrates graduate excellence and achievement throughout Great Britain.

Graduate 100 is one of the largest initiatives of its kind. Developed in conjunction with Britain's leading employers, universities and key industry figures, it aims to identify

graduates who are tipped to be the next generation of future leaders. Dividing entrants into ten subject categories, assessment is made on the basis of technical knowledge, academic and non-academic achievements, creativity, contribution to the university, and personal qualities. At the end of this process 13,000 applications are reduced to a list of 100; with a mere ten graduates in each category.

Petr, who recently graduated with First Class Honours in Computer Science was selected as one of the top ten IT and Computing graduates.

Learn more
www.cs.bham.ac.uk

Study abroad

At the University of Birmingham the opportunity to study abroad is open to students on a wide range of degree programmes including engineering, computer science, geography and business management as well as those degrees involving the study of modern languages. Students currently researching their higher education options may not realise the many opportunities there are to spend a year studying outside of the UK or the enormous benefits gained from the experience. These include:

- Academic or subject related reasons – experience of a different academic environment and way of teaching
- Enhanced career prospects – employers are more likely to employ graduates with additional skills and experiences
- Language and culture – opportunity to be genuinely immersed into another culture
- Personal development – increased confidence and ability to deal with difficult situations and unfamiliar surroundings
- Contacts – worldwide relationships that can last a lifetime
- Fun! – 99% of students that have studied abroad say that it is the best year of their lives

The University has more than 137 student exchange agreements under the Erasmus and International Exchange programmes with universities in Europe, Asia, Australia, Latin America and North America.

To learn more please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/studyabroad/index.aspx

Insight Lectures

The University of Birmingham's Insight Lectures are designed for gifted and talented Year 12 AS level students. They aim to stimulate enquiry and broaden knowledge of the subject area covered. Some relate closely to the A level curriculum, others are broader and introduce new topics in higher education study.

The lectures are delivered by academic lecturers or postgraduate researchers from the University of Birmingham. A typical lecture programme lasts between one to two hours, however it may be possible to organise different timings if required.

Examples of Insight Lecture subjects include 'Climate change' (Geography), 'How round is your circle?' (Mathematics), 'Evolution' (Biology)

and 'Physiology, psychology and biochemistry of sport' (Sport and Exercise Sciences).

Insight Lectures take place in host schools and colleges outside of the West Midlands and surrounding area. Other schools/colleges in the local area are also invited to send students along. Lectures are free of charge.

Further information is available on the University of Birmingham website at www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/advice/services/expert-lectures.aspx

If you are interested in hosting or attending an Insight Lecture, please contact Katherine Pagett, Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer, 0121 414 3501, k.a.pagett@bham.ac.uk