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The International Relations Office would like to wish you a very Happy New Year. We hope that you had a wonderful festive period.

The start of 2021 has presented a number of challenges for universities. With the implementation of the UK's Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the continued Covid-19 pandemic, the education sector has had to adapt to the continually changing environment. The International Relations Team at Bath are working hard with our partners across the world to ensure that students and institutions can continue to collaborate and learn from each other.

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

At the beginning of this month, the UK Government announced a period of national lockdown, which came into effect on 4 January. There are now a large number of regulations in place in the UK which are designed to limit the spread of Covid-19. This has inevitably had an effect on the way that the University can operate.

As a result of the lockdown, students have been asked to remain where they are following the winter break and told that they should not travel back and forth to Bath while these restrictions are in place. Students on postgraduate research programmes have been advised that they can continue their research on campus if they cannot do so from where they are, and the government has allowed some healthcare courses to continue. All other learning and examinations are now hosted online.

The university is offering a virtual mobility option for those students from our partner universities who were planning to study in Bath with us but are now unable to do so, and our mobility team continue to work to facilitate this.

The University will continue to take part in the Government's programme of asymptomatic lateral flow testing. Lateral flow tests are available to staff who are delivering or supporting teaching or research, or providing facilities and services on campus and students living in Bath and on campus.

These groups will be able to access twice weekly Covid tests from the week commencing 25 January.

For the University's full Covid-19 guidance [click here](#)



As we continue to face unprecedented challenges across the globe, we continue to work together. Please see a video created to highlight the the togetherness shown throughout our community at Bath.

THE FUTURE OF UK HIGHER EDUCATION WITH THE EU

The 12-month transition period following the UK's departure from the EU came to an end on 31st December 2020. The UK officially left the European Union with a deal in place. Under the deal negotiated with the EU, the UK will no longer participate in the Erasmus+ scheme. The UK government have announced a new scheme, the Turing Scheme, to support students to study and work abroad. At the moment, there is limited information for Universities on this new scheme, however we look forward to continuing collaborations with all of our EU partners.

While the UK will not participate in the new Erasmus+ scheme, UK beneficiaries of Erasmus+ funding, including the University of Bath, will continue to take part in grants awarded under the previous Erasmus+ scheme until their end date, even if it is after 2020. The University of Bath secured Erasmus+ funding in the 2020 funding call and the duration of the 2020 Erasmus+ project was recently extended to May 2023 (36 months). There is, therefore, very little change to the Erasmus+ activity until this project ends, and in the meantime, there may be extra opportunities available, such as outgoing student mobilities, as the Turing Scheme begins.

The Bristol and Bath Brussels Office

The B&BBO work as part of the International Relations team at Bath, and with other partners in the South West, to share insight on European and International activity and developments, to raise the profile of the partners and region in Brussels, and to foster relationships with key networks and stakeholders.

Meet the B&BBO team



Paul Davies: *Head of the Bristol & Bath Brussels Office*

Email: paul.davies@bristol.gov.uk

Paul is responsible for the overall management of the Bristol & Bath Brussels Office.

Paul set-up and has been Head of the B&BBO since October 2014. He has 15 years' experience working in EU Affairs in Brussels, having previously represented the interests of businesses for 2 industry associations and provided consulting services to the European Commission with Deloitte Belgium. Paul holds a BA in French and German and studied for his Euromasters in Bath, Prague and Berlin.

Ben Plumer: *EU Affairs Intern*

Email: benjamin.plumer@bristol.gov.uk

Ben's role is to support the Office in representing its partners in Brussels.

Ben joined the Office in November of last year. He is in his third year at the University of Bath studying Politics and International Relations and is working at the office as part of his placement year.



For more information about the B&BBO visit their website at www.bristolbathbrussels.org or to get in contact email BBBrussels@bristol.gov.uk or call the numbers below:

BE (+32) 2650 0802

UK (+44) 2079 8345 45

GLOBAL CHAIR UPDATES

The International Relations Office is delighted to welcome Professor Heike Solga for her first public lecture with the University.

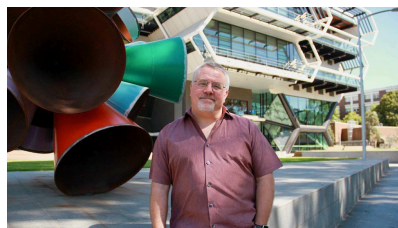
Thursday 28 February at 6pm GMT

A leading expert on education and labour market outcomes at [WZB – Berlin Social Science Center](#), Professor Solga will join us to discuss Germany's apprenticeship model and its value for supporting young people's integration into the labour market.



With contributions from [Dr Chiara Benassi](#) (King's College London), the online

Professor John Warner continues his Sustainability Webinar Series, in collaboration with The Centre for Sustainable and Circular Technologies at the University of Bath. John is currently a distinguished research fellow at the Zymergen Corporation, where he is helping to design and create commercial technologies inspired by nature and consistent with the principles of green chemistry.



His most recent lecture, on 21 January, discussed non-chemist's views of the field of chemistry, how chemistry applies to all 17 of the UN SDGs and how chemists can help to improve global chemicals policies.

panel will explore the impact of COVID-19 and the digital transformation of work on the future of the German dual system of vocational education and training, and its role in educational participation and inequality post general schooling.

[Click here to register for Professor Solga's public lecture](#)

The lecture series continues with **[R&D and Design – Case Studies and Innovation](#)** on 18 February which will explore the role that Green Chemistry has to play in design, and will delve into examples of this.

To find out more about the rest of the lecture series or to book onto a future lecture, [click here](#).

LATEST NEWS

University of Bath and China Scholarship Council extend agreement.

The China Scholarship Council and the University of Bath have renewed their agreement for another 3 years. We will jointly support up to 10 new scholarships for entry in September 2021 to enable selected, academically excellent, Chinese students to study full-time for a PhD at the University of Bath.

Scholarships include funding for travel between China and the UK, a stipend to cover living costs and international tuition fees. The duration of each scholarship will be up to 48 months.

A Training Support Fee of £3000 for the duration of the scholarship will be available.

The China Scholarship Council and the University of Bath will support the following areas of study with priority: Engineering, Science, Humanities, Management (more information on specific study areas with priority can be found [here](#))

Applicants to other study areas will also be considered subject to the availability of relevant programmes at University of Bath.

Applications to study here at Bath are now open.

For further details please see here: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/china-scholarship-council-university-of-bath-phd-programme/>

University of Bath announces sponsorship agreement with the Egyptian Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs

The University of Bath is immensely proud of our ongoing partnership with the Egyptian Bureau for Cultural and Educational Affairs and values the opportunity to strengthen scientific collaboration between the UK and Egypt. We are happy to announce that an agreement has been made with the Egyptian Bureau for a tuition fee waiver for students registered in a full-time academic PhD programme at Bath.

Since the inception of the relationship in 2008 the University of Bath has welcomed a number of postgraduate research students to study and recognises the importance of educating the brightest and best from the public institutions in Egypt. Bath wishes to continue its investment in the UK Universities high quality sponsored student programme with the Egyptian Bureau for Cultural and Education Affairs and therefore agrees to a fee discount.

The fee discount will be awarded off the normal annual overseas tuition fee from the University of Bath for the 36 months of the PhD programme, applicable for any new registered students between January 2021 - January 2022.

More information to be released soon.

The School of Management Launch the second Dean's Series

The School of Management launched its second Dean's Series this December: **Where are we going?** The online series, exploring the latest business challenges, has attracted a global audience of alumni, along with friends

Washing Machine Project Heads to Refugee Camp in Iraq

An innovative project from Bath MSc student Nav Sawhney, to bring low-cost manual washing machines to refugee camps, will be piloted in Iraq from this week.

from our extended business and academic networks.

The first, '**Business and/or Society?**', saw Prof Steve Brammer and Dr Margaret Heffernan discuss how business can help society – and how far leaders must now consider the health of their entire workforce.

[Click here to watch 'Business and/or Society?'](#)

Stephen Brammer serves as Dean of the School of Management at the University of Bath, having spent the first eleven years of his academic career at Bath before taking up senior positions at the Universities of Warwick and Birmingham in the UK, and Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Margaret Heffernan, entrepreneur, writer and mentor, is Professor of Practice at the School.

The first series 'Business As Unusual' explored the themes of Leadership, Careers, and Resilience in a crisis, with perspectives from a range of business figures, including School alumnus Wilf Blackburn, Regional CEO, Insurance Growth Markets at Prudential Corporation Asia; School alumna, Miranda Khamis, Co-Founder & COO Food Drop; and Professor in Emeritus, and former Dean of the School, Veronica Hope Hailey.

Missed it live? Watch recordings on our [School of Management Youtube channel](#)

Fifty new low-cost washing machines designed by a University of Bath student will be installed at a refugee camp in Northern Iraq.

Created to alleviate the burden of hand-washing clothes for displaced people, the arrival of the 'Divya' hand-cranked machines from the UK in Iraq will mark a milestone for '[The Washing Machine Project](#)'.

Nav Sawhey explained: 'Since The Washing Machine Project's formation in 2018, we have travelled to five countries and interviewed 500 families on their clothes washing habits, and strived to keep future users at the heart of everything we do. The worst thing for us would be to produce something that no one uses, which is why we spend so much time with our beneficiaries.'



"What drives us forward is a common goal to make the world a better place with the skills we have. The exciting thing is that we're only just getting started."

[To find out more about the project click here](#)



CONTACT US

To contact the International Relations team, email us
at bath.international@bath.ac.uk
or call +44 (0)1225 386832



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International Relations Office

University of Bath

10 West 4.02

Claverton Down

Bath

BA2 7AY

United Kingdom

+44 (0)1225 386832

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