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Welcome to the University of Bath International Relations Office Spring Newsletter.

Join us to reflect on the last couple of months. In this newsletter you will find the latest news and updates from the University of Bath and our International Office.

UNIVERSITY UPDATES

As the UK begins to ease restrictions and follow the roadmap out of the most recent lockdown, the University continues to work hard to make sure that our students get the most out of their studies, whilst remaining safe and supported. The government has recently updated their guidance for universities, which allows teaching on campus to resume for all students from the 17th May, and in the meantime universities can continue to offer in person teaching to a select number of practical courses.

The campus remains open to students, with Covid-19 measures in place, and students are still able to access a number of the facilities on campus. The Government guidance allows libraries and study spaces to remain open, so our students continue to utilise these areas on campus.

We are enjoying seeing the students on campus again and are looking forward to welcoming more back at the end of May. As we come towards the end of this semester though, we are looking ahead towards the start of the 2021/22 academic year, assessing the lessons we have learnt over the past year and what teaching will look like for our students.



Professor Ian White, Vice Chancellor, shared his reflections as we marked one year from the first national lockdown in March.

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.

B&BBO Updates

Ben Plumer, B&BBO EU Affairs Intern and University of Bath Politics and International Relations student, will finish his internship at the end of April.

Ben joined the office in November 2020 and has been working as EU Affairs as part of his placement year. Ben has been a brilliant asset to the team working to provide important insight into the EU education landscape at a crucial point for EU - UK relations.



Ben describes his time working in the Brussels Office:

"I have been lucky to be working as an intern for the Bristol & Bath Brussels Office for the past six months and have had the opportunity to immerse myself within the European political landscape. Over the last few months, I have been living in Belgium and working to help some of the University's actions in Europe. This experience has been very varied: I have provided support for the Placements Department in researching new placement opportunities in Europe and clarifying the new placement rules after Brexit. We've also helped recruitment, raising awareness of funded PhD opportunities at Bath at European universities and looked at what the future of the European Universities Initiative could look like. I've a great time abroad, particularly during such a pivotal moment in the UK and EU's shared history."



Introducing the New EU Affairs Intern, Vittoria Mondini.

Email: vm461@bath.ac.uk

Vittoria's role is to represent and support the Office partners in Brussels. Vittoria joined the Office this March. She is a third year Sociology student at the University of Bath doing a 6-month internship at the Office as part of her placement year.

Check out the B&BBO Quarterly Video Briefing about developments in Brussels of relevance to its partners in Bristol and Bath, and local EU-related activities of interest to stakeholders in Brussels.



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

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LATEST NEWS

New doctoral training consortium launched with South African partners

Earlier this year we celebrated the successful launch of a new doctoral training consortium to support doctoral provision especially for university staff in South Africa.

Under the auspices of the South Africa-UK University Staff Doctoral Programme (USDP), **ten PhD candidates** at Stellenbosch University and the University of Fort Hare have joined the programme to undertake

Bath becomes signatory to new UK-Singapore Universities Alliance for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The University has joined the new UK-Singapore Universities Alliance for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (UKSAEI), which was launched on 8 April 2021 with a virtual signing ceremony hosted by H.E. Kara Owen, British High Commissioner to Singapore, and H.E. Lim Thuan Kuan, Singapore High Commissioner to the UK.

research training in the field of public policy and inclusive development. The programme will offer a unique portfolio of training interventions while tailored support will be provided through part-time, blended delivery and funded teaching replacements as the candidates continue to be employed as lecturers and academic staff at their home universities. The programme will be co-supervised by social science academics from the University of Bath.

If you want to read more about the project, click here.

The Alliance forms a new framework to strengthen collaboration between the UK and Singapore in the areas of entrepreneurship and innovation. Bringing together 11 universities in the UK and all 5 universities in Singapore, UKSAEI will be a unique platform to support academic engagement with industry and government, facilitate commercialisation and knowledge transfer activities, and create new opportunities for students and researchers to partner with industry and start-ups.

To find out more read our announcement, or read the British High Commission's press release.



The Department of Development and Alumni Relations release their latest Impact Report

Discover the difference that philanthropic gifts made in 2019-20.

Your Impact is the annual report for supporters of the University of Bath. Produced by the **Department of Development & Alumni Relations**, it celebrates the difference that philanthropic gifts make to our students and researchers, and the 2019-20 academic year was exceptional.

Head of Alumni Engagement, Molly Southwood, says: "It's been heartening to see how our alumni, friends and corporate partners have stepped in to help our students and researchers, especially in times like these."

Read the Impact Report here

University of Bath and Stellenbosch University collaborate on new Research Data Management Adventure.

The University of Bath Library, in collaboration with Stellenbosch University Library, have created an online role playing game in order to help postgraduate researchers brush up their data management skills, help them identify what they already know and assess what they may need to improve upon.

The **RDM game** takes the form of a text adventure, similar to the *Choose Your Own Adventure* and *Fighting Fantasy* books and guides players through the lifecycle of a research project, from applying for funding through to publishing papers. Along the way, they have to make decisions about the best way to write a data management plan and how to organise and curate their data. Some of those decisions can have surprising consequences.

Alex Ball, Research Data Librarian (Systems) and lead developer of the game, explained:

*“The most important point we want people to take away from this game is that if you get research data management right, there are real and tangible benefits. If you get it wrong, it exposes you to all sorts of risks. It is one thing to explain this through our regular **training and guidance**, and another for researchers to experience it personally. The beauty of a role-playing game is that we can give people a sense of what these benefits and risks might mean for them in practice.”*

Play the game now, and see what kind of Research Data Management Adventure you have.

Celebrating Staff Successes

Congratulations to two members of the University of Bath community on recent achievements: to Professor Asel Sartbaeva for being appointed as a UN Goodwill Ambassador on Girls in Science for UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and being selected as a finalist for the 2021 FDM everywoman in Technology awards, and to **Professor Gilbert Laporte** for winning the prestigious Canada Council Killam Prize.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE BLOG

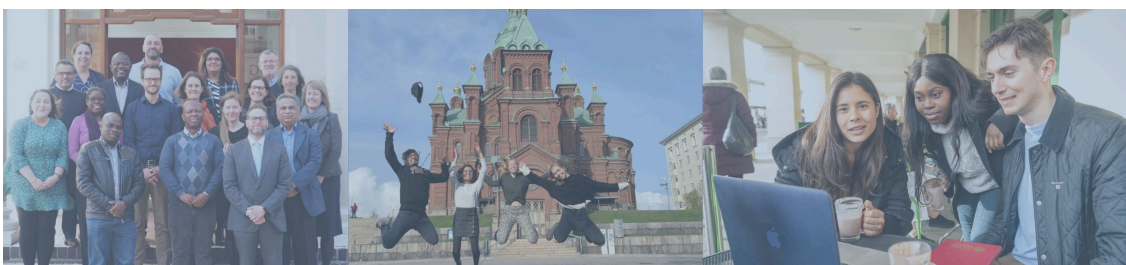
Find student and staff exchange stories, examples of work and research supported by the International Relations Office and celebrations of the University's international successes!

Our most recent blogs include:

New and renewed agreements: The latest news in the University's new and continuing partnerships.

Celebrating the launch of our new Doctoral Training Consortium with Stellenbosch University and the University of Fort Hare.

Student Stories: University of Bath student Donatella Abba describes her Erasmus+ experience in Finland.



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