

International Relations Office

Global Engagement Report 2021-22



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Foreword

I am delighted to be bringing you the second edition of the Global Engagement Report, pulling together work from across the University which has been supported by the International Relations Office to illustrate and celebrate our work with our international partners.

The last year has seen the University continue to perform well in both the national and international rankings, being ranked 8th best university in the UK, and 5th for career prospects after 15 months, by the Guardian University Guide 2022. I'm delighted to say that just before publication, the University was named the 'University of the Year' by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023 and, in the latest Guardian (2023) rankings, the 7th best university in the UK.

The results of the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) confirm the excellence of the research carried out at Bath, with 92% of University of Bath research submitted to the REF 2021 achieving the two highest classifications of 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'. July 2021 saw the release of our new University Strategy 2021-2026, which focuses on the pillars of driving excellence in education, high-impact research, fostering an outstanding and inclusive community, and enhancing strategic partnerships. Since then, the University has also launched its Research with Impact campaign, highlighting some of the research done through partnerships to help create a healthier, more sustainable and connected future for us all. We welcome the opportunity to share some of these with you in this report.

This report builds on the student stories shared previously, and we are pleased to share some of our first Turing stories, funded by the UK Government's new student mobility scheme. The Turing Scheme financially supports UK-based students wishing to study or work abroad in countries across the world, enabling them to develop skills and knowledge that will benefit them personally and academically and improve their employability after graduation.

As we have emerged from the global pandemic and started to operate in the 'new normal' it has been wonderful to be able to return to campus. However, the last year has also seen new global challenges, in particular the conflict in Ukraine. I am proud that the University is supporting colleagues in Ukraine through a Twinning scheme organised by Universities UK. Through this scheme, the University is working with colleagues at Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National University affected by the conflict to provide support across several key areas to help them continue to deliver education under extraordinary circumstances.

The International Relations Office has also undergone some changes this year with several new faces and some changes in key roles. Look out for the new roles and faces in our team section. Not least of these changes is the news that our Director of International Relations, Lily Rumsey, is currently navigating becoming a new parent, and we wish her all the joy that this brings.

THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2023

UNIVERSITY
OF THE
YEAR



**Professor
Louise Brown**

Academic Director
(International Relations)
Email: L.Brown@bath.ac.uk

International Relations Office (IRO)

Our Mission

Cultivating purposeful international partnerships to enable the University of Bath to maximise global opportunities, reach and reputation.

Our Values

The International Relations Office, through our values, endeavour to create and support an internationally collaborative and mobile university, providing opportunities for our students and staff to be globally aware. We are committed to raising the international profile and reputation of the University of Bath and increasing our research power to address global challenges.

Find out more about our
approach and values:

 [go.bath.ac.uk/IRO-approach-
and-values](https://go.bath.ac.uk/IRO-approach-and-values)

We Are

Collaborative

Working with others to encourage and facilitate purposeful relationships in order to achieve shared goals.

Enabling

Providing opportunities for exploration and learning. Encouraging students to expand their employability, cultural awareness, and civic responsibility.

Open

An open and inclusive office, supporting and developing trusting relationships with our internal colleagues and external partners.

Agile

Ensuring flexibility and responsiveness to respond to the evolving internationalisation agenda and external context.



About the International Relations Office

The office is split into two teams; the Partnerships Team and the Mobility Team.

The Partnerships Team

The Partnerships Team is responsible for managing our overseas strategic partnerships and academic networks and alliances in both research and education. Providing expert advice for international higher education and research collaborations, they oversee agreements, coordinate the IRO Funding Schemes and support capacity-building through transnational education and research training.

The Mobility Team

The Mobility Team co-ordinate and support international study, training, and work activities, including the Erasmus+ programme, The Turing Scheme, the Go Abroad Bursary and short-term overseas and exchange programmes. They provide insight, support and guidance to students from the moment they start considering and applying for a mobility abroad to the moment they return to campus.

Who we are

Office Enquiries

International Relations Office
bath.international@bath.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 1225 387880



Lily Rumsey

Director of International Relations (on maternity leave until February 2023)
Email: lwr22@bath.ac.uk



Tracey Stenson Jukes

IRO Operations Manager and International Partnerships Manager (Education)
Email: tjsj20@bath.ac.uk



Annabelle Deakin

International Relations Office Administrator
Email: ad2638@bath.ac.uk



Emma Milk

International Projects Officer
Email: eld26@bath.ac.uk



Aino Koivisto

International Relations Communications Coordinator
Email: amkk21@bath.ac.uk



Amy Riddle

International Mobility Officer
Email: ar2137@bath.ac.uk



Florencia Migone

International Mobility Coordinator (Incoming)
Email: fm62@bath.ac.uk



Laura Massa

International Mobility Coordinator (Turing)
Email: lm947@bath.ac.uk



Jessica Carwardine

International Partnerships Officer
Email: jc3305@bath.ac.uk



Ruth Roberts

International Ministry and Sponsor Liaison Manager
Email: rrc38@bath.ac.uk



Chloe Williams

International Rankings Project Officer
Email: cw600@bath.ac.uk

New roles in the team

Two new roles were established in the International Relations Office team this year – International Rankings Project Officer and International Ministry and Sponsor Liaison Manager.

International Rankings Project Officer

The International Rankings Project Officer is responsible for overseeing and coordinating elements of the University's institutional submissions to several international rankings, particularly the QS World University Rankings and Subject Rankings. The role involves maintaining oversight of campaign and project plans, aiming to raise the international recognition and reputation of the University. Whilst based in the International Relations Office, the International Rankings Project Officer works collaboratively with a variety of professional service departments, the School of Management, and all faculties across the university.

International Ministry and Sponsor Liaison Manager

The role of the International Ministry and Sponsor Liaison Manager was established in recognition of the importance of bringing departments and teams from across the University's academic and professional services together in support of international sponsors and sponsored students. The International Ministry and Sponsor Liaison Manager is the key point of contact between international ministries and sponsors, academics and other professional service departments within the University. The role incorporates stakeholder management with ministries and sponsors whilst also providing customer facing service to sponsored students throughout the student journey from enrolment to graduation. Going forward into 2023 this role will be further strengthening relationships with existing sponsors as well as developing new opportunities that support the University's education and research agendas.



Update from our Associate Deans International

Professor Louise Brown

Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

“During the year the Faculty hosted two Global Chairs and signed three important Memorandums of Understanding (MoU). The Centre for Development Studies and the Department of Social and Policy Sciences signed an MoU with the Earth System Governance Project to establish the Research Centre Bath as part of a Global Alliance of Earth System Governance Research Centres in the field of climate change and sustainability. The Department of Health and the Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy (CASP) were excited to announce a new partnership with Western University, Ontario. Western University ranks as one of Canada’s top research universities and the first joint event focused upon health equity issues from across the world. The collaboration has already seen and will continue to promote staff and student exchanges this coming year. The Faculty will welcome a further Global Chair in the forthcoming year, Professor Carolyn Emery (University of Calgary) who will be hosted by the Centre for Health, and Injury & Illness Prevention in Sport.

The Faculty continued to build upon its research and education activities in Jordan and the Middle East and North Africa, with Bath being one of three global universities to partner with the UNICEF Jordan Country Office and establish a Fellowship programme. Two Bath students undertook successful paid fellowships, one resulting in an employment offer with UNICEF. A further student will be undertaking the Fellowship this summer.”



Professor Stephen Ward

Faculty of Science

“Over the past 12 months the Faculty has been consolidating existing strengths with research collaborations across industry and academia, as well as looking into options for transnational education collaboration, joint PhD supervision and developing a focused international strategy for research and education. The Faculty has welcomed Global Chair Professor John Warner onto campus for the first time since being appointed in 2020, and through this link the University has become the first UK university to sign the Green Chemistry Commitment – a charter to train the next generation of chemists in the theory and application of green chemistry principles.

Over the past 7 years, the Bath collaborative mathematical research platform with UNAM-CIMAT (Mexico) has seen the co-hosting of 21 doctoral training focused workshops and two Integrative Think Tanks across two Doctoral Training Programmes (SAMBa and ART-AI). It has attracted many PhD applications leading to CONACyT funded scholarships and has seen multiple high-quality co-authored papers in leading journals and several co-supervised students. There has been in excess of £300k of collaborative grants, including two Royal Society international fellowships. There have been two incoming sabbaticals, one Global Chair and one David Parkin visiting professor, the latter leading to the publication of a prestigious book.”



Associate Deans International (ADI)

The International Relations Office has continued to collaborate with the Associate Deans International, who are responsible for overseeing global activities within their faculty or school.

Update from our Associate Deans International

Dr Peter Nuttall

School of Management

“The School of Management achieved a number of milestones over the 2021/22 academic year. These have had a significant influence on our current and future internationalisation plans.

The new School building, 10East, will be home to the School’s new and returning international undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The newly developed School strategy has been formed through a process that consulted many of our international partners and signals the School’s commitment to enhancing our international profile and relations overseas. International travel has recommenced and the School has hosted delegations from South Africa (Johannesburg Business School) and India (ATLAS University and Novartis India) alongside outbound visits to partners and stakeholders in South America, the Middle East and Asia.

The School signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with ATLAS Skilltech University in Mumbai. Dr Indu Shahani, President of ATLAS and former Sheriff of Mumbai, is a great friend and advocate for the University and School and leads one of India’s newest and most innovative higher education institutions. The partnership will enable research collaboration, joint research conferences and co-funding bids in entrepreneurship and innovation. The agreement will also facilitate student and staff exchange, winter schools and other important profile building activities in this crucial and growing region for PGT education.”



Professor Mirella Di Lorenzo

Faculty of Engineering & Design

Professor Mirella Di Lorenzo was appointed ADI of the Faculty of Engineering & Design in August 2022 and is responsible for the development and delivery of the Faculty’s international strategy.

Mirella Di Lorenzo is Professor of Biochemical Engineering at the University of Bath. Her interdisciplinary expertise lies at the interface of bioelectrochemistry, microengineering, microfluidics, sensing technology and material science. Her research focuses particularly on the development of innovative biological fuel cell (BFC) designs for either energy harvesting, water quality monitoring or healthcare applications. Particular attention is given to low-cost designs that can lead to devices affordable everywhere in the world. As such, she explores the uses of recyclable, biodegradable and low-cost materials. By responding to global humanitarian and environmental challenges, Professor Di Lorenzo’s research research is aligned with the Global Sustainable Development Goals, and with the UKRI plan to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by ODA countries.

“Through the last year the Faculty of Engineering & Design has built on existing links with India through the CREST project led by the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering and IIT-Roorkee. Looking ahead, the Faculty will welcome three Global Chairs over the coming year, covering research in computational bioelectromagnetics, MEMS and nanomanufacturing for healthcare, and membrane technology.”



University of Bath Strategy 2021–2026

In 2021, the University launched its strategy for the next five years.

As outlined in the Strategy, the University's Mission is to deliver world-class research and teaching, educating our students to become future leaders and innovators, and benefitting the wider population through our research, enterprise and influence. The University's Vision is to be an outstanding and inclusive community, characterised by excellence in education, research, and innovation, working in partnership with others for the advancement of knowledge, in support of the global common good.

The Strategy highlights that whilst our roots are in Bath, our reach is global. At Bath, we believe that global exchange enhances knowledge and enriches experience, and we will continue to seek to attract and warmly welcome students and staff from across the world. The International Relations Office is proud to support the University in this endeavour.

The University's status as a University of Sanctuary underlines the commitment to support students from refugee and asylum backgrounds. The new Strategy seeks to advance the University's international contributions through excellence in education and research, and the University seeks to build stronger, strategic partnerships to make this possible.




The University's ambitions for 2021 to 2026 are based on four key strategic pillars:

- Fostering an outstanding and inclusive community at Bath
- Driving excellence in education
- Driving high-impact research
- Enhancing strategic partnerships

The International Relations Office contributes to the delivery of the University Strategy by maintaining oversight of existing strategic international partnerships, forging new international educational alliances and networks, promoting our high impact research, and developing high value education and research opportunities.

This Global Engagement Report illustrates some of the ways the IRO's and the University's international collaboration has contributed towards these goals in the 2021/22 academic year.

Find out more about the University's Strategy 2021–2026:

 www.bath.ac.uk/topics/the-university-of-bath-strategy-2021-to-2026/

Fostering an outstanding and inclusive community at Bath

As the new Strategy highlights, inclusion is a core value at the University of Bath. An intentional and integrated approach to diversity and inclusion will help prepare students for collaborative work and citizenship in a globally connected society. Through our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, we will encourage a culture that celebrates multiple approaches and points of view.

This section of the report showcases the input of the University in celebrating diversity and welcoming and supporting students from different backgrounds.




Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

In September 2021, the University of Bath was awarded an Athena Swan Institutional Silver Award in recognition of the commitment to promoting gender equality among students and staff. Bath is one of only 20 institutions to hold this award. The Athena Swan Charter is a framework used across the globe to support and transform gender equality within higher education and research.

In the 2021/22 academic year, the University also appointed a Vice-President (Community and Inclusion) whose role is focused on supporting a thriving, successful and inclusive University community of staff and students at all levels.



Find out more about our Vice-President (Community and Inclusion):

 www.bath.ac.uk/profiles/vice-president-community-inclusion-rajani-naidoo/

Chaplaincy, Community and Interfaith

The University of Bath has an Ecumenical Christian Chaplaincy. This building in the centre of campus is open every day to meet, rest, read and pray. The Chaplains aim to set up a presence all year round, for undergraduates, postgraduates and staff. There are very good links with a variety of churches in the city.

Chaplaincy is actively involved in working to promote inclusion of colour, nationality and gender. There is particular emphasis on the LGBTQ+ community.

In the 2021/22 academic year the University formally commissioned the Chaplaincy to set up the University of Bath Interfaith Community. This recognises the changing demographic since the University was established in 1966, and the need to promote an

excellent relationship between different faiths and cultures. The University believes our graduates should have an opportunity to develop a religious literacy which will equip them to work on the international stage.

Students and staff from the major faith groups (Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist and Jewish) are encouraged to meet socially, share podcasts and affections about faith, and join a monthly meeting driven by the University of Bath Interfaith Forum (UBIF) to discuss topical issues. Emphasis will be given to mutual respect and seeking to understand each other.

Find out more about the Interfaith Community:



www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/interfaith/

Warm Welcome Scholarship Scheme

The University of Bath is proud to be participating in the Warm Welcome Scholarship Scheme, which was launched during 2022 by the UK Government in partnership with the British Council. The Warm Welcome Scholarship Scheme seeks to provide access to higher education to individuals in the UK with links to Afghanistan who have been affected by the change of regime in that country. Co-funded by the Department for Education and participating higher education providers, scholars receive tuition waivers and maintenance stipends for the duration of their course, up to three years. As a University of Sanctuary, the University of Bath is pleased to welcome three postgraduate Scholars under this scheme from September 2022.



New University of Bath Scholarship Scheme for asylum seekers

The University of Bath recently announced a new Sanctuary Scholarship scheme that waives tuition fees and provides a £5,000 bursary towards study costs.

Bath was designated a University of Sanctuary in 2020, in recognition of its support for refugee students, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Asylum-seeking students have been offered 'home' fee status at Bath for some time, and there are also a number of specific funding packages aimed at students from forced migration backgrounds, including postgraduate sanctuary scholarships, a dedicated bursary, and a ring-fenced place on the University's flagship Gold Scholarship programme each year for an undergraduate refugee student.

The announcement of a new undergraduate sanctuary scholarship builds on this foundation to offer greater support to those facing extremely challenging circumstances. The scholarship not only provides a full tuition fee waiver, but also a bursary of up to £5,000 to support a student based locally, applying to start studying at Bath in 2023.

In addition to supporting all refugee and asylum-seeking students whilst studying at Bath, the University has worked closely with current students and charity partners to develop a set of resources for those from forced migration backgrounds considering studying at Bath. For instance, the University has launched an E-mentoring scheme, where prospective students who have experience of forced migration can talk to a current or former student who has been through a similar experience before coming to study at Bath.

Ukraine twinning

The University of Bath has welcomed the opportunity to be part of a support programme for Ukrainian universities, coordinated by Cormack Consultancy Group (CCG) in partnership with Universities UK International (UUKi), as a response to the conflict in Ukraine. The Twinning Programme aims to establish more than 100 partnerships to support Ukrainian institutions, students and researchers during the current conflict and beyond. As one of over 70 UK universities participating in this programme, the University of Bath has been twinned with Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National University (LTSNU).

LTSNU has been heavily affected by the conflict in Ukraine and has lost most of its facilities, labs and equipment, books, and other resources. The University of Bath is working closely with LTSNU on the joint development of support mechanisms and is also pleased to be hosting a mobility student from LTSNU for the first semester of 2022/23. We look forward to further developing this partnership during 2023.

Driving excellence in education

Bath has a strong pedigree in student achievement and experience, sector-leading placement provision and excellent employability outcomes. The University of Bath was recently named the University of the Year by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023, which scores universities across a number of criteria, including student satisfaction with the quality of their teaching, graduate job prospects, entry standards and research quality.

We are placed in the top 100 of the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022, which marks us out as one of the best places to study globally in terms of students' onward prospects. For the next five years, the University of Bath Strategy 2021–2026 sets out the objective to prioritise maintaining strong performance in student satisfaction and employability at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

We are proud to have outstanding and expert faculty, teaching highly relevant content which reflects the most recent research advances and references the most pressing global issues. The University wants students to have the richest possible learning experience within the University and outside – through placements, study exchange opportunities and beyond.

We are pleased that after two years of closed borders and travel restrictions, we received a record number of 133 incoming exchange applications for Semester 1 2022/23.



This section provides examples of the University enabling students and staff to gain valuable experience abroad, student achievements in securing competitive internships and scholarships for studies outside the United Kingdom.

Student mobility

Turing Scheme and Go Abroad

The International Relations Office was successful in securing Turing Scheme funding from the UK Government for the academic year 2021/22. Thanks to this funding, the International Relations Office was able to provide financial support to students on 98 study exchanges and 144 work placements to EU and non-EU countries worldwide.

This project enabled the University to build on its already successful global opportunities portfolio, supporting high-quality work placements with unique career-building opportunities and broadening its relationships with strategic overseas partners by promoting study exchanges and growing capacity in our short-term mobility provision in order to diversify the profile of participants going abroad.

Moreover, Turing Scheme funding enabled the University to extend and strengthen our funded summer study programme, the Go Abroad Bursary Scheme, with 11 short-term mobility opportunities at partner universities worldwide, exclusively aimed at participants from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Go Abroad Bursary Scheme was designed to make studying abroad accessible to those who would not normally be able to take part in a study abroad programme and therefore supported the UK Government's levelling up agenda to provide further flexible options for disadvantaged students.

Overall, the Turing Scheme project at the University of Bath successfully supported our students that took a mobility abroad, minimising their financial worries and allowing them to fully enjoy their experience and travels, and the positive feedback gathered from participants through the Mobility Survey and the Turing Stories campaign is testament to that.



Go Abroad student feedback

Alex Northover, a BSc (Hons) student in Psychology attended the Yonsei University International Summer School:

"I think the most important thing I gained from the opportunity was confidence. This was my first time leaving the country, and it was 8,000 km away. It was certainly daunting facing it on my own at first, but my excitement did overpower my nerves. I feel like a much more rounded person after this experience, and it has certainly made me feel a lot more able to step out of my comfort zone and try new things, even when they seem scary. I have made so many new friends across the world, and I wouldn't hesitate to fly to visit them if the opportunity ever came about. I think it also gave me the separation I needed between my first and second year of university. I struggled a lot in my first year for a variety of reasons, but I feel very ready to tackle my second year head-on."

Marina Lowe, a BA (Hons) student in Modern Languages attended the Business in Europe course in EM Strasbourg Business School:

"Taking part in this course really has made me grow as a person. Although I've always been interested in meeting people from other cultures and countries, I've never had the chance to meet so many people at the same time. We were able to have lovely and informative chats altogether and could bridge the gap despite being so different. This cross-cultural communication will forever help me."

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Student Exchange Programme (IESEP)

Since joining the UK-Singapore Universities Alliance for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (UKSAEI) network, the University of Bath has developed a pilot entrepreneurship and innovation themed exchange programme with Singapore Management University. The aim of the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Student Exchange Programme (IESEP) is to promote innovation, nurturing future entrepreneurs and bringing closer together the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems of both countries.

IESEP enables students to gain new knowledge and perspectives in innovation and entrepreneurship through education, joint projects, peer networks and exposure to the I&E landscape in Singapore and the UK. The International Relations Office is very excited to welcome the first two students to Bath to join the programme for Semester 1 2022/23.



Our year in numbers

We are proud to have supported

441 outgoing mobilities

both in person and virtually

191
Exchanges

250
Placements
(both UG & PGT)

316
in the EU
125
non-EU

We welcomed

172 incoming students

in the 2021/22 academic year

**Semester
One Only**
75

**Semester
Two Only**
78

**Full
Academic
Year**
19

Student stories

University of Bath students share stories about how the Turing Scheme helped them.

A year abroad at Sciences Po

Alastair Nicol, a BSc (Hons) student in Politics and International Relations, tells us about his time at the French university of Sciences Po.

“Starting August 2021, I was lucky enough to embark on a year of cultural exchange, academic refinement, and professional empowerment. My year abroad was with a French university called Sciences Po. Thinking it would be fun to see if there were any famous alumni I might have heard of, I typed in ‘Sciences Po, famous alumni’ into the search engine. Sciences Po made my enquiry easy by having a specific webpage dedicated to such a search and it’s easy to see why. On said webpage, there was a section about French Presidents, another section about French Prime Ministers and one about others who dedicated their work to international spheres. It was at that moment I realised that the year ahead of me wasn’t going to just be an elaborate excuse to indulge in ‘pain au chocolat’!

Despite its name suggesting a focus on Political Sciences, Sciences Po is more of a leadership school. Its aim is to empower and prepare its students for a world of business and politics. It also has multiple campuses across France, and I was fortunate enough to go to their campus in Reims – the cultural capital of the Champagne region and home to Veuve Clicquot and Taittinger. Functioning in a renovated Jesuit college, the Reims campus was a wonder; there was a piano near the entrance where students regularly



“Sometimes it is the people no one imagines anything of who do the things no one can imagine”

Alan Turing

played between lectures, a small green space outside the library and in summer, through old and carved wooden doors, you could find the budding ‘crème de la crème’ of the French education system chatting and conversing under cherry blossoms.

The Turing Scheme and its associated grant let me experience Sciences Po and France at its fullest. I was able to make friends and travel to places like Paris, Lyon, Avignon, Annecy and Geneva with them. I was also able to network with young people from across Europe and the wider world at galas and parties in Champagne Houses and Palaces.”

Placement in Canada

A 3rd year BSc (Hons) student in Sport and Exercise Science describes her professional placement in Canada.

“I spent 6 months living and working in Victoria, British Columbia on the west coast of Canada. My placement was research-based and involved collecting data from participants, analysing the data and producing outputs in the form of papers. I was able to interact with many different people, with different professional expertise, and learn many new skills. Living in a new country was an amazing experience, as I had the opportunity to discover a new way of life in Canadian culture. I was able to work on my social skills, meet new people and strike new relationships and I believe these are skills and experiences I will carry with me through the rest of my life.

I was aware, going into my placement, that I would face some financial strain as my placement year was unpaid, but hidden expenses such as buying my hockey team’s match kit to allow me to play, and even the price of bus tickets were overwhelming. It was difficult to understand in advance of arriving in Canada that the small differences in the price of food items in my weekly shop would make a big difference.



I found out about the Turing Scheme grant during my placement year, so the grant was not part of my initial financial plan, but the freedom the Turing Scheme grant gave me allowed me to truly experience my year abroad to the fullest extent.

The six months I spent in Canada were the best experience so far in my life. I learnt so much, met so many new people, some friends for life, and discovered a love for a new country and a new culture. One of the main takeaways I have from this experience is to accept help when it is offered to you.”

Two Bath students win BUTEX Scholarships

Two students from the University of Bath successfully applied for the 2021–2022 round of the competitive BUTEX scholarship.

The University of Bath's two winning applicants, Rose Tehrani and Chelsea Seah each received a £500 scholarship from BUTEX (British Universities Transnational Exchange) for their study abroad exchanges.

BUTEX is a membership organisation that aims to promote international learning for British universities and offers students of member institutions the opportunity to win scholarships to support their study abroad experience. The University of Bath is proud to be a member of BUTEX to give students opportunities to experience different learning environments and cultures across the world.

The competitive scholarship received 435 applications from students of UK institutions but only 20 students won the scholarships. The competitive scholarship received 435 applications from students of BUTEX's member institutions but only 20 students won £500 scholarships.

Rose, who studies French and Italian with European Studies at the University of Bath, applied for the scholarship to support her study abroad exchange at the Paris Institute of Political Studies. She submitted a blog post detailing the top tips for facing three challenges that may be encountered whilst preparing for a study abroad.

Chelsea, who studies Economics at the National University of Singapore, applied for the scholarship to support her studies abroad at Bath. She submitted a poster discussing the ways to overcome challenges whilst studying abroad.

Five Bath students selected for Mitacs Internships

Five students from the University of Bath successfully applied to research projects in Canada for Mitacs Globalink Research Internships that took place in summer 2022.

Mitacs is a Canadian organisation that facilitates links between the private sector and education institutions both internationally and within Canada to encourage research and find solutions to problems in a variety of academic disciplines.

The Globalink Research Internship is a competitive initiative that accepts applications from undergraduate students in fifteen countries.

Only the best applicants are hosted at one of Mitacs' 70 partners across Canada for twelve weeks to undertake research.

The five students who secured an internship position under the programme include Matthew Ferguson, hosted at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg; Ka Chun Tobias Ng, hosted at the University of Toronto; Daphne Psarra, hosted at McGill University in Montréal; Diego Fernandez Gomez-Monche, hosted at the University of Waterloo; and Michaela Jaysain Sasha Clarke Brown, hosted at the University of Ottawa.

Mitacs Globalink Research Internship

Recent Bath graduate Charlotte Greenlees writes about her Mitacs Globalink Research Internship experience. Charlotte completed her internship remotely in the summer of 2021, before her final year at the University.

"I have recently graduated from the University of Bath with a BSc (Hons) Social Sciences degree with a placement year. Despite the challenges presented by Covid-19, I was lucky enough to complete several internships in my placement year, one of which being the Mitacs Globalink Research Internship.

Usually, participants fly out to their host institution in Canada for the programme, however, I completed my internship remotely. I worked alongside faculty members and students from Dalhousie University, Halifax, on a project entitled 'Indigenous participation in the development of guiding frameworks for protected areas'. One of the overriding aims of the project is to examine the impact of IUCN programmes on the inclusion of Indigenous communities in protected areas governance frameworks, as well as to investigate how Indigenous Peoples can inform and influence IUCN programmes and decision-making for protected areas.

This was an incredibly exciting and insightful programme to be a part of, with my main responsibility being qualitative primary data analysis, involving the transcription and coding of interviews. Moreover, I contributed to the writing of the final research report by collaboratively developing the coding framework and emergent themes, as well as writing the methodology.



Another part of my internship involved attending meetings of the Centre for Community-Engaged Environmental Research (CCEER) and presenting updates on our project to other undergraduates and graduate students conducting their own community-engaged environmental research projects. This was a fantastic opportunity to network and learn more about the approaches taken and challenges faced by experienced academics in their fields.

Reflecting on my Mitacs internship, I was able to strengthen my qualitative data analysis skills, but I also believe my professional skill set has been largely improved through numerous networking and collaboration opportunities. I am still in contact with my host professor and currently looking into postgraduate opportunities at Dalhousie University through the Globalink Graduate Fellowship!

I would thoroughly recommend this internship to any undergraduates seeking to develop their research and professional skills, whilst contributing to projects that have real-world insight and application."

Staff Mobility

Erasmus+ Staff Mobility experience in Valladolid, Spain

Naomi Farrington, International Relations Coordinator (UG programmes) for the School of Management, writes about her staff mobility experience in Valladolid, Spain.

“My motivations for applying to do the course were varied and included improving my rather rusty Spanish to enhance our collaboration with our Spanish speaking exchange partners and students and hopefully sharing best practice with other Professional Services Staff in similar roles.

My Spanish certainly improved, and I came away with a much deeper insight into the cultural differences between the various European countries and the challenges and fun to be had in navigating these differences as part of a group on a week-long course. Moving forward I hope to apply this to my role and hopefully have a better understanding of the needs and issues that our students experience during the exchange process.

During the week we also met with the International Relations Team who presented their programme of diverse and extensive activities in the field of international student exchange and Erasmus+ opportunities.



There were twenty participants on the course from six different European countries, divided into two groups according to our level of Spanish and each day consisted of at least one language class. On top of that we had classes in Spanish culture, Creative Writing, Gastronomy, Viticulture and guided tours of the city and the fabulous Museo Nacional de Escultura with religious artefacts ranging from the Middle Ages through to the 19th century. However, the highlight of the week had to be the day of Spanish gastronomy where we not only studied gastronomy in class but also experienced it on an afternoon city tapas tour and an evening cookery class at the International School of Cookery!

I had the most amazing time, made new friends and learnt so much about Spanish culture. My coffee break chats with my peers were insightful. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity provided by the International Relations Office to attend this Erasmus+ Staff week.”

Climate-Resilient Energy Secure and Healthy Built Environment (CREST)

Led by Dr Sukumar Natarajan, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Bath, and Dr Rajasekar Elangovan, IIT-Roorkee, together with colleagues from SPA Bhopal, MANIT Bhopal, SPA Delhi, IIT Madras, SPA Vijayawada and Anna University, CREST was developed to help usher in a transformational approach to the design of the built environment in India.

The project has several elements, including a PhD paper writing workshop held in Bath over the summer and a hybrid workshop held in India to finalise course content, and culminates with launching an online CPD programme for Indian professionals at the end of the year. The course under development responds to the urgent need to train a generation of architects, engineers and other built environment professionals in meeting the triple challenge of climate resilience, energy security and health in the built environment. Attendees at the event in Bath were also treated to afternoon tea at the Pump Rooms in the city as part of a cultural tour.



The programme was funded by the British Council through a Going Global Partnerships Collaboration Grant. These grants were offered to facilitate development of teaching programmes that contribute to UK and Indian qualifications.

Driving high-impact research

The results of the REF 2021 confirm the excellence of the research carried out at Bath.


To further strengthen our research impact, sharpen our focus and increase our influence, the University has identified three primary institutional research themes for collaborative working across disciplines: Sustainability; Health & Wellbeing; and Digital. These existing strengths align tangibly with regional priorities and the UK's national priorities but also respond to international imperatives such as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.



This section of the report showcases Bath's research with global impact and sets out examples of research from across the University from the 2021/22 academic year that have been shaped by international collaboration. Whilst looking back at the past academic year, we are also looking ahead, introducing projects that are in the pipeline.



Find out about our research with impact themes:

 www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/research-with-impact/

Sign up to receive our latest research news updates by email:

 www.bath.ac.uk/forms/receive-our-latest-research-news/

June 2022 saw the launch of the Research with Impact campaign, an initiative focused on these three themes. The initiative celebrates Bath's research, shines a spotlight on its breadth and quality and demonstrates the University's commitment to contributing to the public good.

Bath's research is helping to change the world for the better. We work in partnership to help create a healthier, more sustainable and connected future for us all.



Sustainability

Our research is leading to low-carbon living. We are exploring how we travel, build, manufacture, heat and eat more sustainably, bringing together innovative technological solutions with insight into human behaviour, policy and society.

Digital

Our research is leading to positive digital futures. We are seeking to understand the effects of our digital world on people, as well as creating innovative technologies. From developing ways to predict the future of the climate, improving the efficiency of supply chain technology, to helping keep people protected online. Our research helps make the world safer, smarter, more productive and more connected.



Health & Wellbeing

Our research is leading to improved health and wellbeing. We explore the structures that can damage our health and wellbeing, create technologies that monitor our health and tackle disease, help sportspeople reduce injury and increase performance, and support systems that deliver better, more inclusive healthcare.

International collaboration to reduce injuries in girls' rugby

Injury prevention experts at the University are partnering with the University of Calgary in a major project to improve player safety for girls' rugby. One of our Global Chairs, Professor Carolyn Emery, is involved in the project.



Leading sports scientists and rugby specialists from the UK and Canada have teamed up in a new project aimed at reducing injuries and concussions for girls playing rugby. The three-year project started in autumn 2022 and is funded by World Rugby.

The work, led by Dr Stephen West and Professor Carolyn Emery from the University of Calgary, builds on ground-breaking research by the University of Bath which has seen a new training preventative exercise programme for youth and community rugby developed, tested and rolled out internationally. The programme, called 'Activate', has proven to be highly effective in reducing injuries and concussions in boys' rugby.

In addition to assessing and adapting 'Activate' for girls' rugby, the team will look at protocols around tackling height and mouthguard wearing. The UK side of the project is led by Professor Keith Stokes, Director of the Centre for Health, and Injury & Illness Prevention in Sport (CHI2PS) at the University of Bath and Medical Research Lead at the Rugby Football Union. Professor Ben Jones from Leeds Beckett University is heading up a hub for the project in the north of England.

Professor Stokes said:

"Through international collaboration in Canada we hope we can make rapid progress so that our work can have the same impacts in improving player safety for the girls' game as it is already having for the boys'."

Lead in Canada, Professor Carolyn Emery from the Faculty of Kinesiology at the University of Calgary and Global Chair at the University of Bath, added:

"This international multisite project fills a gap in concussion prevention in female youth rugby and solidifies the strong collaborations between the Sport Injury Prevention Research Centre (SIPRC) at the University of Calgary and leading research groups in the United Kingdom including the lead site at University of Bath and Leeds Beckett University."

Cross-country and cross-industry research project seeks to improve workplace dignity in supply chains

Dr Vivek Soundararajan from the School of Management is leading a project to put workplace dignity at the heart of a new framework for the sustainable supply chain management.



Dr Soundararajan's project seeks to counter the fact that the current mechanisms for addressing poor working conditions experienced by millions of workers in UK companies' global and domestic supply chains do not take into account the highly personal experience of workplace dignity.

The project uses novel research techniques, including interviews, drawings, surveys and field experiments to understand and develop interventions for improving workplace dignity in supply chains.

Since July 2022 the research team has been conducting fieldwork in India, collecting data in the knitwear garment industry in the state of Tamil Nadu with further data collection in the software industry taking place in Chennai, Bangalore, Coimbatore, and Pune until the end of October 2022.

The team has completed two extensive systematic literature reviews on dignity at work and working conditions in global supply chains. Dr Soundararajan, who secured a Future Leader Fellowship from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) in 2021, has also launched a research initiative called 'Embed-Dignity'.

Dr Soundararajan said:

"Such a huge and complex endeavour wouldn't be possible without the support of world-class academic and non-academic experts around the world. The project is supported by academics from the Indian Institute of Management Indore (India), the University of Bath, the University of Michigan (USA), and Simon Fraser University (Canada). Our non-academic partners include people from the United National Development Programme (Asia and the Asia Pacific), the Working People's Charter (India), twentyfifty (UK), the Confederation of Indian Industry (India), the Chartered Institute for IT (UK) as well as many local specialists in India and the UK on the topic of dignity at work."

Read more about Embed-Dignity:



embed-dignity.com

International research collaboration on one of the most powerful volcanic tsunamis ever observed

A study led by researchers from the University of Bath confirmed that the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai submarine volcano on 15 January 2022 was one of the most explosive volcanic events of the modern era.

The paper, published in Nature, explored the scale of the Tonga eruption and the atmospheric effects it triggered. The paper's lead author is Dr Corwin Wright, a Royal Society University Research Fellow based at the Centre for Space, Atmospheric and Oceanic Science at the University of Bath. Researchers from the University of Bath, Oxford University, North West Research Associates (US), University of Massachusetts Lowell (US), Forschungszentrum Juelich (Germany), AIREX (Israel), Sorbonne Université (France), Virginia Tech (US), Raytheon Technologies (US), University of Colorado (US) and NASA (US) worked on the study.

Another Bath-led research later revealed more about the magnitude of the eruption. Dr Mohammad Heidarzadeh, Secretary-General of the International Tsunami Commission and a senior lecturer in the University of Bath's Department of Architecture & Civil Engineering, authored the research alongside colleagues based in Japan, New Zealand, the UK and Croatia.



The research team led by Dr Heidarzadeh found that the tsunami was unique as the waves were created not only by the water displaced by the volcano's eruption, but also by huge atmospheric pressure waves, which circled around the globe multiple times. This dual mechanism created a two-part tsunami where initial ocean waves created by the atmospheric pressure waves were followed more than one hour later by a second surge created by the eruption's water displacement. This combination meant tsunami warning centres did not detect the initial wave as they are programmed to detect tsunamis based on water displacements rather than atmospheric pressure waves.

The research team also found that the event was among very few tsunamis powerful enough to travel around the globe. The team says the eruption should serve as a wake-up call for international groups looking to protect people from similar events in future. According to the team, the world is underprepared for volcanic tsunamis and investments are needed to improve systems to detect them.

Spin-out company seeks approval for wound infection tests in collaboration with Austrian partners

The path to approval involves collaboration with the University of Graz, Diagnostic and Research Centre for Molecular BioMedicine and the Institute of Health Care Engineering with European Testing Centre of Medical Devices in Austria.

The University of Bath and University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust launched a new spin-out company called SmartWound Limited in September 2021. The spin-out company is creating a quick and simple test for diagnosing bacterial infections in wounds, based on technology developed at the University's Department of Chemistry.

The test is quick and simple to use and does not need to be sent off to a laboratory for processing. This means that clinicians can potentially spot infections earlier. It also allows improved treatment for patients and reduces unnecessary use of antibiotics, helping combat the threat of drug-resistant bacteria. The technology has the potential to reduce the length of hospital stays, resulting in more streamlined and cheaper care pathways for patients.



The path to approval will be supported through HALO Research Technology by the University of Graz, Diagnostic and Research Centre for Molecular BioMedicine and the Institute of Health Care Engineering with European Testing Centre of Medical Devices in Austria, which have the necessary credentials to support the market authorisation of this new diagnostic under the new EU regulations. This will make commercialisation of the test possible in the UK and the European single market, as well as many other markets that use CE-mark confirmation as reference.

Toby Jenkins, Professor of Biophysical Chemistry at the University of Bath and Scientific Advisor at SmartWound Ltd, said:

"With the advent of the new Medical Device Regulations (MDR) in 2021, understanding and commencing compliance work with the regulatory authorities is a key part of any medical device development. Starting this journey with the Graz team is an exciting moment in the development of our wound infection diagnostic technology and brings the time when our device will be used in clinic closer."

Posthumous honour for Dr Mateusz Zatoński with World No Tobacco Day Medal 2022

The World Health Organization recognised Dr Zatoński's contribution to tobacco control efforts in Europe and globally.

Dr Mateusz Zatoński, a Research Fellow at the University's Tobacco Control Research Group (TCRG), was posthumously recognised for his work by the World Health Organization (WHO) as part of its World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Awards 2022. Dr Zatoński, who passed away in January 2022, led the TCRG research team focusing on the influence of the tobacco industry on policy. He was instrumental in developing the UK Tobacco Industry Interference Index reports, and published widely, with a particular focus on evaluating the European Tobacco Products Directive, the efficacy of menthol bans, and the development of new flavoured products.

The posthumous recognition was awarded to Dr Zatoński for his contribution to tobacco control work both regionally and globally. He was nominated for the award by TCRG, and his nomination was supported by colleagues from across Europe.



Since 2007, TCRG has been researching how the actions of the largest global tobacco firms contribute to the epidemic and undermine public health. The group, set up and led by Professor Anna Gilmore, has influenced policy changes nationally and internationally. The work of TCRG has been recognised with a number of awards and prizes.

Through the Group's involvement as the research partner in STOP, a global tobacco industry watchdog, the team is playing a leading role in sharing knowledge and expertise about the tobacco industry internationally.

Video series as output of IMI-Mongolia collaboration

Since 2016, researchers from the University of Bath Institute for Mathematical Innovation (IMI) in collaboration with PhD students and academics from the EPSRC CDT SAMBa have been supporting Data Science training and research projects in Mongolia.

This involves a diverse range of professionals in the public, academic and NGO sectors, mainly concentrated in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. There has been a specific focus on understanding the interaction of public policy and mathematical modelling.

In 2022, a video series came out of this collaboration, exploring the pathways to impact of sound Data Science practice through the University of Bath–University of Mongolia Collaboration. The videos focused on two issues faced by the Mongolian people: air pollution and infectious disease spread (Covid-19).



Watch the videos here



Enhancing strategic partnerships

The University of Bath Strategy 2021–2026 outlines the ambition to become more internationally leading, whilst staying locally relevant, by building stronger and more focused national and international partnerships.

Being outward-facing will help the University forge new collaborations, benefit from different perspectives and stay connected to a diverse range of communities. This will enable the sharing of knowledge and skills for mutual benefit.

Global Chairs

The International Relations Office was delighted to welcome three Global Chairs on our campus in the 2021/22 academic year.

As leading academic experts in their fields, Global Chairs are invited to Bath to engage in high-profile research activity, foster collaboration and interdisciplinarity, and enhance our international networks in research and practice. After Covid-19 halted in-person visits for a few years, it was a pleasure to welcome visitors again and ensure they had fruitful visits filled with public lectures, meetings, seminars and PhD mentoring. Bath's Global Chair Scheme invites distinguished international visiting professors to the University and aims to build high-profile partnerships in research and practice during and after their appointment.




This section of the Global Engagement Report showcases collaboration with international partners, providing updates about joint projects and events, as well as networks and alliances that the University of Bath is part of.

During the 2021/22 academic year we welcomed Professor John Warner (2020/21 Global Chair), hosted by the Centre for Sustainable and Circular Technologies, Professor Heike Solga (2020/21 Global Chair), co-hosted by the Departments of Education and Social & Policy Sciences and Professor Jacqui True (2019/20 Women Global Chair) hosted by the Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies.

Furthermore, in early September 2022, the Department of Health welcomed Professor Alberto Minetti (2020/21 Global Chair), a renowned scholar in human locomotion, for his first in-person visit.

The University has appointed four new Global Chairs for the 2022/23 academic year, and the International Relations Office is gearing up for more in-person visits throughout the coming year.

Read more about all our Global Chairs:

 www.bath.ac.uk/topics/bath-global-chairs/

The 2022/23 awards were given to:



Professor Tang

Professor of Water and Environmental Engineering at the University of Hong Kong



Professor Nikita

Professor at the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens



Professor Emery

Professor at the Faculty of Kinesiology at the University of Calgary



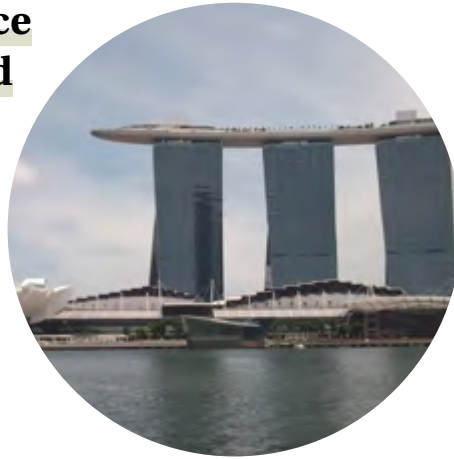
Professor Cui

Distinguished McKnight University Professor at the University of Minnesota

The UK Singapore Alliance for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (UKSAEI)

Since the official launch of the UK Singapore Alliance for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (UKSAEI) in April 2021, Bath has become one of thirteen UK universities and six Singapore universities to join forces in the first alliance of its kind to accelerate collaborations in entrepreneurship and innovation between the two countries. The alliance is focusing on the topics of climate and sustainability, research collaborations, student exchange and opportunities that stimulate socioeconomic development in both regions.

In December 2021 five Bath students took part in the UKSAEI Climate Change Hackathon to help combat climate change. The event saw students team up in small groups and tasked with a problem statement around developing solutions or processes for UK and Singapore organisations to adopt to mitigate climate change-related issues.



The UKSAEI Symposium 2022 will be taking place in Singapore from 12–16 December 2022. The Symposium will include senior representatives and students from partner universities of the alliance. The event will involve the opportunity to build Singapore and Southeast Asian networks, investigate and facilitate opportunities and partnerships in research and explore the vibrant tech scene and ecosystem in Singapore and the region to build connections and access invaluable local and regional market intelligence. There will also be a student entrepreneurship and innovation hackathon to create a product, service or campaign to tackle the Sustainable Development Goals.

Association of International Educators (NAFSA)

The International Mobility Officer and International Partnerships Officer of the International Relations Office had the pleasure of attending the Association of International Educators (NAFSA) Conference 2022 in June.

NAFSA is the world's largest non-profit association dedicated to international education and exchange. They were welcomed in-person in Denver, Colorado, to discover the latest innovations, new strategies and best practices of the global international education community. It was the perfect opportunity to reconnect with international exchange partners after two years of virtual



engagement, explore new partnership options as well as listen and learn about sector experiences from the last few years and look ahead to the future of international education together.

Experts from Yonsei University in South Korea welcomed to campus for a two-day conference

Experts from the Institute for Welfare State Research (IWSR) at Yonsei University, South Korea joined the Institute for Policy Research (IPR) on campus for a two-day conference entitled 'Social security, the labour market and public health in the UK and South Korea' in June 2022.

Arranged as part of an academic partnership with Yonsei University, sponsored by the UKRI Fund for International Collaboration, the conference organised on 13 and 14 June 2022 saw colleagues from across IWSR, IPR, the Department of Social and Policy Sciences and the Department of Education come together to share their

research on social security, the labour market and public health in the UK and South Korea. The conference explored what lessons could be learned for post-pandemic recovery and reform.

Nick Pearce, Director of the Institute for Policy Research said:

"The comparative study of social and economic policy is important to understanding both the trajectory and impact of Covid-19 in different countries. There are valuable lessons to be learned too for public policy reform. This collaboration between IPR and IWSR is helping to contribute to that research task".

Magalhães Network

The University of Bath is proud to be one of 38 universities to be part of the Magalhães Network. Formed in 2005, the network was established to increase academic exchange and collaboration between Europe and Latin American and Caribbean member universities in the fields of Technology, Engineering and Architecture. The network meets for their general assembly annually where committee roles are voted on, and in 2021 Dr Paul Shepherd, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, was appointed as a European Representative on the Follow-Up Committee.

The Magalhães Network offers added value to member universities, their students and staff, providing effective tools for student exchange, systematic exchange of best practices for internationalization and a platform to build relations that can be used to develop joint projects between member universities.

Town & Gown Network

We are proud to be part of the Stellenbosch University (SU) Town and Gown Network, which was established by SU following the inaugural conference hosted in Stellenbosch, South Africa, by Professor Wim de Villiers, SU Rector and Vice-Chancellor, in November 2018. The network brings together SU's strategic partner institutions in the UK, Europe, North America, and South Africa with the aim of providing an international platform to share experiences and best practice in university engagement with the local community.



This year the General Assembly will be held in Monterrey, Mexico, and the thematic focus will be summer schools and good practices in Virtual Education. We are also looking forward to 2023, when Bath will welcome network members for the first General Assembly to be held at the University since we joined in 2012.

The Town and Gown Network hosted a virtual meeting in May 2022 on the topic of "Student Accommodation and Transport: Improving inclusivity and access". Laura Massa (IRO) and Annie Willingham (Students' Union President) attended on behalf of the University of Bath, together with other representatives from the network's university partners.

The University of Bath and the International Relations Office are excited to both share with and learn from universities globally and implement policies and practices on better collaboration with the local community based on the work of the network.

Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) conference 2022

In April 2022, the University of Bath hosted the first in-person Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) conference in over two years.

The conference, 'Latin America in times of political mistrust and global pandemic', was organised and hosted by colleagues within the Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies, and it was the first SLAS conference to allow for both in-person and digital participation as a hybrid conference. The event was joined by over 250 delegates from the UK, Europe and the Americas.

Throughout the two-day conference, sessions covered recent developments impacting Latin America, from Covid-19, elections and gender rights to film, literature and artistic production. The keynote address, presented by Professor Leonardo Avritzer from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil), focused on anti-politics and the crisis of democracy in Brazil under Bolsonaro. The guests attended a drinks reception at the Roman Baths in the centre of Bath to celebrate new ideas and emerging friendships.

The International Relations Office were pleased to support such a wonderful opportunity to encourage global collaboration.



“The feedback from attendees was extremely positive and we have all returned to our home institutions invigorated by such an intellectually stimulating and convivial event.”

*Professor Thea Pitman
(University of Leeds),
President of SLAS*

Stay up to date with the International Relations Office

Our newsletter

2020 saw the launch of our first newsletter to partners. The newsletter is published quarterly and provides the latest news from the University and updates on the University's international activity.

Find our newsletters here:

🔍 www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/iro-newsletter/

If you would like to sign up to receive these newsletters, please email: bath.international@bath.ac.uk



Our blog

We love sharing the work that we are doing, whether that be international research and funding opportunities, new partnership agreements or student and staff stories. Our blogs give you an insight into what we are working on and any new exciting updates from the team and the wider University.

Find our recent posts and subscribe to our blog:

🔍 blogs.bath.ac.uk/iro

International delegation visit form

If you would like to request a visit to the University of Bath, please fill out our visit request form here:

🔍 www.bath.ac.uk/services/international-delegation-visit-request-form/

Our Instagram

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International Relations Office

University of Bath
10 West 4.02 Claverton Down
Bath
BA2 7AY
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)1225 386832



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