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International Agents' Newsletter

Autumn 2011

INTO [®] QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



Enterprising awards for Queen's academic

David Gibson from Queen's University Management School received the Most Innovative Teacher of the Year title at the recent Times Higher Education (THE) awards. The award recognises the academic whose imagination and passion has transformed a course and inspired students.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Queen's University has been recognised at the THE Awards.

In their citation, the judges said: "David has made enterprise studies into a reality to over 30,000 students. His strong focus on student engagement, his genuine cross-discipline approach and his ground-breaking model of venture-based learning have had an impact not only locally but also in universities across the world."

David has also been named the number one enterprise educator in the world.

David Gibson is the first person in Europe to receive the accolade from the United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

He was recognised for his work in promoting enterprise education throughout Queen's, which was named the UK's Entrepreneurial University of the Year in 2009. His work has seen him introduce a model of enterprise teaching into pathways which would not traditionally include such a feature, including nursing and arts courses.

This model is now in use in many universities around the world. It has also been adopted by the European Training Foundation to enhance the

employability of graduates across the EU by providing them with enterprise, business and entrepreneurial skills. In addition, Mr Gibson's new book 'You are an Entrepreneur', challenges people of all ages to make things happen no matter what their age or circumstances.

Enterprise education is now embedded in 116 pathways across all academic disciplines, reaching 11,000 students across the University, and has led to over 1,100 students directly engaging in business activity.



Belfast in National Geographic top 10 destinations

Belfast has been voted one of the world's top destinations for 2012 by an international travel magazine. The National Geographic Traveler called the city a "treasure" with an "incredible atmosphere".

Next year is the centenary of the Titanic and Belfast City Council has just announced that the hugely popular Tall Ships will return in 2015. The Titanic Centenary Commemorations are the next high profile event in Belfast, due to start in early January 2012. When the Tall Ships last came to Belfast in August 2009 they attracted an estimated 800,000 visitors in the four days of the festival.

The National Geographic Traveller's editor-in-chief, Keith Bellows, wrote of Belfast: "It was great: the food and the incredible atmosphere. I felt that this place was a treasure that had sort of been preserved, it hadn't been trampled on by the big foot of tourism and so I really loved its purity. You look at where the energy spots are in the world and this is Belfast's time."

Particular mention was given to the Belfast Bred walking tour, performed by Kabosh Theatre Company who took Mr Bellows on an ingredient hunt, tracing Northern Ireland's culinary heritage.

Michael Lavery is one of the actors involved in the tour who plays the role of a resurrected chef of RMS Titanic. "It's great for Belfast to get mentioned by the National Geographic; it's going to be an incredible year, there's lots to see, this is such a fantastic city," he said. "I've learned so much by doing this, like the man who invented Milk of Magnesia came from Belfast. He lived in a wee house around the corner, so it's great being able to point out things like that



and see in people's faces the reaction, but the Titanic year is going to blow them away, it's going to be huge for us."

The accolades don't end there. The Financial Times has listed Belfast as one of the 'Top 10 places in the world' to hold a conference or major event. The FT says significant investment in Belfast's tourism, accommodation and transportation infrastructure secured the position as an international conference and events hub, putting the city up there with Melbourne, London, Barcelona and Guadalajara.

Gerry Lennon from Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau said: "This comes on the back of Trip Advisor saying Belfast is the best value UK city break and the Lonely Planet saying you had better get here before the rest of the world comes. Our image and reputation as a city break has been transformed, which means we are in a very good position coming into 2012 to capitalise on this. We have to exploit these accolades, we've got to get out there and market our city because we are an excellent destination, we're great value and now is the time to come to Belfast."

For more Information go to:

www.gotobelfast.com



MTV European Music Awards come to Belfast!

Superstars like Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga, Katy Perry and Bruno Mars brought some star quality to Belfast when they performed at the MTV European Music Awards (EMAs) in the city on 6 November.

They were joined by other international acts including Coldplay, Jessie J and LMFAO at the ceremony which was held in the Odyssey Arena, hosted by Selena Gomez.

At the same time, R&B star Jason Derulo and local favourites Snow Patrol took to the stage at Belfast City Hall, while US funk rock icons Red Hot Chilli Peppers played the legendary Ulster Hall.

It is the first time the EMAs were presented from three locations in the host city.

Lady Gaga dominated the awards winning four prizes whilst Queen received the Global Icon Award.

Bruno Mars, whose real name is Peter Hernandez, won a Grammy earlier this year for best male pop vocal performance for his ballad 'Just the Way You Are'. The Hawaii-born singer's debut album 'Doo Wops & Hooligans' went to number one in the UK in 2011.

A number of music events were staged in the Northern Ireland capital in the run up to the EMAs, as part of the Belfast Music Week project which began on 30 October. There were 170 shows at more than 40 venues across the city, with a finale on Saturday 5 November.



Teck Kiong Wong

From Malaysia

MPharm Pharmacy (School of Pharmacy)

First year



I chose to study Pharmacy at Queen's because of its excellent reputation and high ranking in the UK. I was attracted to study at Queen's University initially by its impressive campus and Lanyon building, which has a great heritage and is a beautiful landmark, and also by the fact that the cost of living in Northern Ireland is much cheaper than other parts of the UK. I am having a lot of fun studying at Queen's - the lecturers and tutors are friendly and approachable. There are five other students from Asia in my class, as well as other nationalities, and this mix of international and local students provides an excellent opportunity to improve my English-speaking skills.



Zhijun Ou

From China

BSc Finance (Queen's University Management School)

First year



I studied through the Queen's Joint Shenzhen Foundation Programme. Queen's University is a really nice place to study. I am really enjoying my life in Belfast and have made many new friends. Attending all lectures and tutorials is very important to obtain high marks, but we cover a lot in class and I also carry out some personal study after class. This means I spend a lot of time in the McClay Library, which is a really modern and very convenient facility. Over the summer I studied Pre-Sessional English at INTO Queen's, which helped me develop my research, speaking and writing skills and made me confident of going to university.





Royal recognition for Queen's-Health Service partnership to combat cancer

Northern Ireland's Comprehensive Cancer Services programme – a major partnership between Queen's University and Health and Social Care services, which has led to improved survival rates for patients – is to be honoured by Her Majesty the Queen.

Queen's, in partnership with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and other Trusts providing cancer services in Northern Ireland, has led the way in significantly reorganising cancer services across Northern Ireland. The University and its health partners have invested over £200 million in infrastructure and personnel for cancer treatment and research in Northern Ireland over the past 10 years. During the same period, the survival rates for cancer patients have improved year on year, despite the increasing incidence of cancer.

The awards – part of the national honours system – recognise and honour outstanding achievement by universities and colleges in the United Kingdom.

Welcoming the announcement, Queen's Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Peter Gregson said: "We are delighted to learn of the award of a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Northern Ireland's Comprehensive Cancer Services programme, and I congratulate all those involved.

"This recognition of Northern Ireland's Comprehensive Cancer Services reflects the excellent partnership between

Queen's, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the other Trusts providing cancer services in Northern Ireland. The University's commitment to high quality translational research has led to new techniques for early detection, diagnosis and therapy, and improved outcomes for cancer patients.

"It has already produced life-saving and life-enhancing results, reflecting the drive by Queen's and Northern Ireland's Health and Social Care services to become a global force in the worldwide fight against cancer."

Health Minister Edwin Poots said: "I would like to congratulate Queen's on receiving this prestigious award and I am delighted that patients in Northern Ireland are benefiting from innovative approaches to delivering cancer services. As well as honouring Queen's, this prize honours all the people, in the University and the Belfast Trust, who have worked so hard over so many years to improve the outcomes for cancer patients through research.

The University-led Comprehensive Cancer Centre (CCC), based on the United States National Cancer Institute model, is recognised nationally and internationally for its excellence and is seen as a flagship for health research in Northern Ireland. It comprises the Clinical Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital, and the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology and Northern Ireland Cancer Registry at Queen's.

Professor Patrick Johnston, Dean of the University's School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, said: "The CCC's strength lies in its multidisciplinary ethos, through teams of scientists and clinicians working



together across academic and NHS boundaries on behalf of cancer patients and their families. In research terms the CCC has pioneered the concept of developing personalised therapeutic approaches for patients, an approach which has revolutionised cancer care. Queen's Medical School is honoured to be part of this initiative which has led, and continues to lead, to direct benefits for the cancer patient population in Northern Ireland and around the world."

Queen's has won an award in five rounds of the Queen's Anniversary Prizes. The University was previously honoured for world-class excellence in law, environmental research, palaeoecology and green chemistry. The Queen's Anniversary Prizes will be presented at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace in February 2012.

Around the University

In September 2011 Queen's University welcomed all new and returning International students by hosting a week full of fun activities, including dinners, sports, games and assisting students with registration and enrolment to ensure each student settled in to life in Belfast and had a positive start to their life at Queen's University. Queen's was delighted to see an increase in their international student numbers, with students coming from over 56 different countries, and would like to thank all our agents for all their hard work and continual support. Queen's was also pleased to have a high number of students progress from INTO Queen's into a variety of both Postgraduate and University degrees, such as Finance, Actuarial Science and Risk Management, Economics, Chemical Engineering, Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Architecture, Civil Engineering and Film Studies.



Visit to Queen's

Queen's hosted a high-level administrative delegation from Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN) from 24-26 October. The representatives from Vanderbilt were Dr Richard McCarty (Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs), Dr Tim MacNamara (Vice-Provost for Faculty and International Affairs), Dr Carolyn Dever (Dean of the College and Arts and

Sciences) and Mona Frederick (Executive Director, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities). During the two-day visit the group met with various academic areas where collaboration already exists and where there is potential for further growth. The group also met with City Council representatives, and an official MoU between the universities was signed.



Queen's Students Help Traumatized Children in Congo

Two postgraduate students from Queen's University have completed the first phase of a pioneering trip to assist in the treatment of psychological distress among child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Paul O'Callaghan and John McMullen spent the summer months in the heart of the vast African country providing psychological support and treatment to children who had suffered one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

Paul O'Callaghan, a third year student on the Doctorate in Educational, Child and Adolescent Psychology, said:

"These children have been caught on both sides of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They are, at the same time, both perpetrators and victims of the violence that still plagues this mineral-rich yet materially-poor country in central Africa.

"Many child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo are forcibly abducted and then ordered to commit heinous crimes. They are subjected to brutal rituals, hard labour and cruel training regimes. As a result, many exhibit severe psychological and emotional distress."

The United Nations reports that in the past seven years 31,000 children have been demobilised in Congo – many of them returning to their villages, traumatised, uneducated and isolated from their communities.

The two Queen's students previously spent time in Uganda, at the world's first primary school set up specifically to assist child soldiers. While there, they measured levels of post-traumatic stress, explaining the symptoms of trauma to the children and offering psychological therapy to the most traumatised. This work has played a crucial role in the group's success in Congo.

"Most children struggle to cope with the transition to 'normal' life," says Paul. "Our five-week, group-based intervention taught relaxation and mental imagery techniques and encouraged the children through art and individual psychotherapy to deal in the present with the horrors of their past."

Queen's Sport

Queen's has recently invested in a new multimillion-pound outdoor facility at Upper Malone to support the structured growth of Sports Academies and student clubs.

One of the largest and most versatile multi-sports venues across the UK and Ireland, the facility will ensure that the University's ethos remains in making world-class sporting provision accessible to all – whatever the previous level of attainment. There are 15 new outdoor pitches together with a new clubhouse with changing rooms, social area, bar and conferencing facilities, a dedicated strength and conditioning suite and a 3km recreational trim trail.

Adding all this to the PEC, Boat House at Stranmillis and Mourne Cottage, Queen's Sport truly offers a diverse range of opportunities for students of all abilities.

For more information, visit:

www.queenssport.com



Queen's University Belfast scales top universities league

Queen's University Belfast has continued its climb in the world university rankings, according to a new league table. The QS World University Rankings is a league table of the top 600 universities in the world and is the most respected ranking list of its kind. It rates universities on a wide range of areas, including research, teaching and graduate employability.

The institution has claimed the 193rd spot, which is up four places on last year, in the latest QS World University Rankings.

Queen's is the only university from Northern Ireland - and just one of 37 in the UK - to make it into the 2011 top 300 global universities. It means Queen's has progressed up the league table every year since 2006 when it was just outside the top 200 at 206.

In total, nine UK universities were in the top 50, and 17 overall in the top 100.

Tuition fee information has been published for the first time alongside the 2011 rankings.



New Appointment

Queen's University is pleased to announce that Mr Alan Preece has been appointed as Director of Marketing and Student Recruitment within Student Plus.

Mr Preece has extensive experience of the higher education sector and was Director of Marketing and Communications for the top-20 ranked University of East Anglia for 14 years. He established the University's first marketing division and was responsible for student recruitment over a six-

year period from 2004, during which international enrolments more than doubled and home/EU applications increased ahead of the sector average.

After training as a journalist and prior to entering the higher education sector he worked for three FTSE-100 companies.

Around INTO Queen's

INTO Queen's has welcomed the September 2011 intake of 160 new students. They will be studying a variety of courses including English for Academic Purposes; Foundation - Business, Humanities and Social Sciences; Foundation - Engineering and Science; International Diploma in Management and Finance; Graduate Diploma in Management, as well as the brand new International Diploma in Engineering, which leads students into Year Two of a range of Engineering degrees in Queen's University. INTO Queen's is the only INTO Centre offering this exciting new course.

The students come from at least 20 different countries and already have participated in a number of Centre-run social programmes, including bowling, a trip to the Giant's Causeway, football and an International Party. The students are also busy visiting the different Schools within Queen's University, meeting the lecturers and students of courses they are interested in progressing to next year.

The picture opposite shows Hai Ruo Jia (Julie) and Oluchi Anewke (Jacinta) who progressed from the Graduate Diploma in Management to the MSc in Management in Queen's University, meeting the September 2011 Graduate Diploma in Management students to share their experiences.

The next intake for INTO Queen's Programmes is January 2012 and the INTO Queen's Centre is already looking forward to the influx of new students.



What our INTO Queen's students say:



I chose to study the International Diploma because it gives me the opportunity to go right into the second year of an Engineering degree at Queen's University Belfast. The lecturers at INTO Queen's and within Queen's University Belfast are very experienced and make the lessons interesting.

Diliwar Zaidi, from Pakistan, studying International Diploma in Engineering.



I love my Foundation course, the teaching style here is totally different from my home country, the lecturers are professional yet very friendly. The other students in my class are from different countries all over the world and are very nice.

Alice Sia, from Malaysia studying International Foundation in Science, Engineering, Maths and Computing.



I really like the teaching methods used at INTO Queen's, the teachers go through chapters and topics at a good pace. The INTO centre is great, I like the environment, it really doesn't feel like a school, it feels like a home to me so I'm not stressed out when I go to my classes.

Ishyhara Rio, from Malaysia studying International Foundation in Science, Engineering, Maths and Computing.

Scholarships

Scholarships worth 100% of £11,490 tuition fees are being awarded to academically-strong students for January 2012 entry. The 100% scholarships are being awarded to students who are applying to the International Diploma in Engineering for January 2012. There are two scholarships available. The International Diploma can be completed over three or four terms and allows students to progress to Year Two of Queen's University after successful completion.

For more information on our scholarships, please email: c.guiney@qub.ac.uk





Nguyen Phuong Ngan

From Vietnam

LLB (Hons) Law (School of Law)

First year

“Before I came to Queen’s I researched UK university rankings and my teacher back home told me that the School of Law at Queen’s is one of the best law schools in the world. I studied the International Foundation in Business at INTO Queen’s University and feel it helped me a lot in preparing me for my academic subjects and my English language; my English has improved a lot while I’ve been here. I’m now studying my first year in Law at Queen’s. The staff in the International Office at the University are very helpful and I loved all of my teachers at INTO, who were also very nice. Attending social events at Queen’s helped me make friends with students from different countries. Belfast is much cheaper than other places in the UK and staying here has enabled me to save a lot of money. There are lots of places to see in Northern Ireland and they’re all very beautiful. The people in Belfast are very nice and have helped advise me on where to go and what to do in Northern Ireland.”

Noorfathin Maziyyah Idris

From Brunei Darussalam

BEng Aerospace Engineering (School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)

First year

“I heard positive comments from Brunei students who had studied at Queen’s University, so that made me want to study here. Northern Ireland is a beautiful place and the students and staff at Queen’s are incredibly friendly and helpful. I am really enjoying my course and like the laboratory lessons which involve a lot of group work. I feel Queen’s University is a diverse world-class institution and my time here so far has really had a positive impact on my life.”



International Welcome and Orientation Week

A successful International Welcome and Orientation week was held in the week preceding the main Welcome Week at Queen's University. International students were met at the airports and escorted to their Halls where they were given a bespoke welcome. Then a three-day itinerary of induction sessions was delivered which included campus tours, sessions on how to enrol, how to use the library, settling in to Belfast, using health care and student support services, studying at Queen's and keeping safe. A social programme of events was organised to ensure that the students met new people and were given a flavour of Northern Ireland life.



Absorbing all there is to know about concrete structures

A team of scientists from Queen's University's School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering are world leaders in the technology of concrete structures, including how to test them and monitor changes. Their work has had a particular impact in China.

Team leader, Professor Muhammed Basheer, had more than a passing interest as he watched the Beijing Olympics on television three years ago. The technology and instruments developed by him and his colleagues had contributed to the successful building of the concrete structure that has become one of the 21st century's most iconic images, the Bird's Nest Stadium.

He says, "Currently I have two projects related to testing concrete structures. One focuses on durability, to develop performance specification which will help us make structures last longer. The second is to see how these technologies can become widely known in China and elsewhere."

The latter project is being achieved in part through the UK-China Science Bridge, transferring technology between the two countries. "We have conducted seminars and workshops for engineers and researchers in China and we have

had similar conferences in Belfast. What we want to do next is come up with an arrangement with India and the Middle East, two regions where there is a huge problem with durability."

Queen's is now a world leader and a recognised Centre of Excellence. "The University has always been recognised for its work in structures but now it is also recognised for materials research. For the past 10 years we have been one amongst the top in the area of concrete durability."

As well as the Olympic stadium, other Chinese projects where the test instruments and sensors have been used include nuclear power stations and bridges in the country's highways

programme. The commercial spread of the equipment and sensors, made in Belfast, is in the hands of two 'spin-out' Queen's companies which have established a worldwide distribution network.

And the work goes on. "In 2005 I suggested that we start an MSc programme on the durability of structures. That now exists and I am now also suggesting an MSc in sustainable concrete engineering. The industry is crying out for this, to help reduce the environmental impact of structures. Working with the industry, you continually see the issues which are faced and we must be able to modify the direction of our research in order to help."



Queen's University in Country

Queen's University are delighted to announce that they now have three staff members permanently based in market.

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Agent Visits

Queen's University Belfast is delighted to welcome agents to visit our magnificent campus. If you are interested in organising a visit, please contact Nuala Corr at: n.corr@qub.ac.uk



Recently Ms Nguyen Thu Trang visited the Queen's University campus and met a number of Schools. Her trip included a visit to the new Queen's University Management School building at Riddel Hall, which was under construction. The building work has now been completed on this magnificent campus building.

Queen's in-country visits

Ms Monica Yang has just returned from a successful trip to China. Monica from the International Office and staff from academic Schools visited partner and potential partner universities in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Ningbo. The Vice-Chancellor of Queen's also paid a visit to China to attend the 80th anniversary of China Medical University and to meet government officials and partner universities in Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing.



Ms Bridget Carey, the International Officer for the Americas, recently embarked on a four-week recruiting visit to the USA and Canada. The cities and areas visited were New York City, Washington DC, Boston, Western Massachusetts and Connecticut, Toronto, Minneapolis and Chicago. The activities involved included study abroad, UG and PG recruitment, institutional visits and meetings with external stakeholders (ie British Consulate General Chicago) and various prospective students.

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