

QU

YOUR GUIDE TO LIFE AT QUEEN'S

ISSUE 15:
Autumn-Winter 2013

Managing Your Money
Living on a budget

Degree Plus
Boost your CV

Let us Take you Further
Careers and employability
at Queen's

Return of the Mac
Annie Mac reminisces
about Queen's

free



World exclusive:
Kowalski
Talk to QU

 Ulster Bank



Queen's University
Belfast

WELCOME TO QU MAGAZINE

EDITOR'S LETTER



BY EMMA-LOUISE
GIBSON

It won't be long now until your school days are finally behind you and a shiny new life as a university student awaits – scary thought? It needn't be, because choosing Queen's as your student home is one of the best decisions you'll ever make! If you want to study at a top-class university with state-of-the-art facilities, high-quality teaching standards and friendly staff, then Queen's is where you need to be this September!

Here at QU, all our writers have first-hand experience of student life at this fantastic university, so throughout the magazine, we'll give you the real deal about studying at Queen's without the confusing university jargon! We've all had the same questions that are likely filling your head at the minute: where should I live?; how do I manage my money?; can I get help with fees? We will answer all those burning questions and many more.

By now you'll be starting to think about what happens once you become a fully-fledged Queen's student and we'll provide you with all the information you need to make this transition easy. From accommodation to financial support, the Students' Union to living on a budget, we cover all the bases, so you can make the right decisions for you and your time at the University.

In this edition of QU, we give you an exclusive interview with popular local band Kowalski, who also feature on our free, retro, 7" vinyl single giveaway attached (you can also download the track 'Get Back' using the QR code and web link given, even if you don't have a record player!). And Annie Mac returns to give the inside scoop on her time at Queen's and how it helped her become one of Radio 1's biggest DJs.

I hope you enjoy reading QU; welcome to Queen's!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. L. Gibson".

**Emma-Louise Gibson,
Editor**

PS: you can find out more about Queen's through our Prospective Student Portal. Register at www.qub.ac.uk to access a personalised homepage tailored to your subject interests, and to keep up to date with what's happening at the University.

Visit <http://go.qub.ac.uk/myqueens> to access a homepage tailored to your subject interests and keep up to date with what is happening at the University.

For video clips of Queen's and to hear what our students have to say, go to www.youtube.com/come2queens



CONTENTS

2

MY IMPRESSION OF QUEEN'S

Our contributors' soundbites on Queen's University.

4

KOWALSKI

Northern Ireland's latest musical export.

7

GET PAID TO STUDY

Scholarships and student support.

8

LIFE IN THE (BEL)FAST LANE

Belfast exposed.

10

WHERE TO LIVE?

Get the lowdown on student accommodation.

12

LIVING ON A BUDGET

Managing your money.

14

GETTING SU-SSED

The Students' Union – the glue that holds the students together.

16

RETURN OF THE MAC

BBC Radio 1's Annie Mac reminisces about her time at Queen's and its impact on her career.

18

HERE'S WHAT OUR STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY

Current students and graduates talk Queen's.

20

JARGON SCHMARGON

A-Z guide to university language.

22

CULTURE CULTURES

Arts and culture.

24

JOIN THE CLUB

Clubs and societies.

26

EASY FEESY

Tuition fees and support.

27

BRIDGING THE GAP

Taking a gap year.

28

HOW TO GIVE YOUR DEGREE THE EDGE

The Degree Plus Award.

30

LET US TAKE YOU FURTHER

Careers and employability at Queen's.



MY IMPRESSION OF QUEEN'S

Here's what QU's writers have to say
about their time at Queen's University...

EMMA-LOUISE GIBSON, QU EDITOR

My three years studying English at Queen's was the most jam-packed period of my life to date! There's always something going on at this fantastic university and this, combined with the amazing staff and facilities, makes it the perfect place to go to prepare yourself for the big bad world.



NATHAN CANTLEY

Why do I enjoy being a student at Queen's University? Mainly because there are so many opportunities to become a better-equipped person in today's ever-changing world and to be part of a university that is incredibly diverse and full of people from so many different countries and backgrounds.



NIAMH FERGUSON

My three years at Queen's University were the best of my life! I had heard about the clubs and societies and I couldn't wait to join. I became Deputy Station Manager of Queen's Radio and made loads of friends. I would encourage any student to get involved with the Students' Union. It's where you will meet your best friends for life!



KRISTINA MULHOLLAND

Queen's is a really fun and lively place to be. There is always something happening like nights out in the Students' Union where you can also find loads of volunteering and enterprise opportunities and plenty of clubs and societies to get involved in. It is a great place to meet new friends and the fact that it is a well-respected university is a bonus!



DAVID SANDS

My first impression of Queen's was that it seemed to be a real melting pot and the centre of the universe. When I walked around the campus I saw American, Chinese, Japanese, African, European, Indonesian and local students mixing together; quite a contrast to my home village of Anahilt!



HANNAH ROGERS

Queen's is a welcoming and friendly place where you can learn while also having fun. The facilities are fantastic and being so close to Belfast city centre is brilliant! I have had wonderful experiences at Queen's and would recommend it to everyone.



STEPHEN CUNNINGHAM

Queen's is a beautiful, lively university where you develop into your own person – both socially and academically. The staff are friendly and helpful and willing to guide you in times of adversity. I will miss it when I leave. It beats secondary school any day!



KATIE MATTHEWS

Queen's is the perfect university for me: it is diverse, challenging and bursting with opportunities. My course is engaging, the people are friendly and my accommodation is excellent. I am exceptionally happy at Queen's and would recommend it to anyone. I really am having the time of my life!



PRISCILLA CUNNINGHAM

I always knew that I wanted to come to Queen's since setting sight on the main campus building. I can now say that deciding to study here has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. I love the quality of my course and there is a great sense of student spirit.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Editor-in-Chief: Tracey McKinney
Publications Assistant: Seth Blacklock
Editorial Assistant: David Kinghan
Creative: Natalie Bedworth, Mickey Devine
The Roundhouse Design Consultants
T: +44 (0)191 274 1685
www.theroundhouse.co.uk
Print: Jonathan Ridgway, CDS
T: +44 (0)28 9072 7757
www.cds-ni.co.uk

Queen's University Belfast

Marketing and Creative Services, Student Plus
T: +44 (0)28 9097 2586 E: creative@qub.ac.uk
www.qub.ac.uk

QU is published twice a year to help inform prospective students about life at Queen's University Belfast. To give your feedback on this publication, please visit: www.qub.ac.uk/home/Surveys/QU

This publication is also available in alternative formats on request, including large print, Braille, tape, audio CD and Daisy CD.

For further information, please contact the University's Marketing and Creative Services on T: +44 (0)28 9097 2586.

Disclaimer: the personal views expressed by individuals throughout QU do not necessarily reflect those of Queen's University Belfast. All factual information is correct at time of going to print.



KOWALSKI

'GET BACK' TO THEIR ROOTS

BY EMMA-LOUISE GIBSON



Following in the critically-acclaimed footsteps of their Bangor brethren Snow Patrol and Two Door Cinema Club, self-styled 'indie electro dream pop quartet' Kowalski have steadily climbed the ranks of the local music scene and aim to conquer the world, starting with their new home – London. Their debut EP, 'Are You Noisy Sunshine State', was released in 2006 and was followed by their sophomore release, 'Take Care, Take Flight' four years later. Even if you think you're not familiar with the band's music, chances are you've heard their single 'Outdoors' featured on last year's Ballygowan Water television advert.



THE BAND (left to right)

Paddy Baird

drums

Tom O'Hara

bass

Louis Price

vocals

Paddy Conn

keyboards, guitar

QU had a chat with the two Paddys from the band: drummer Paddy Baird and guitarist Paddy Conn. While the former does indeed share a lineage with the bassist of a certain cinematically-named local band, the foursome are keen to forge their own path to success rather than be helped along the way, and they certainly don't need the assistance! They shared with us their thoughts on Belfast as a student city, touring with famous siblings, missing home-cooked food and eating sushi in their underpants!

q. HOW DID THE BAND GET TOGETHER?

a. Paddy Baird: We formed back in secondary school in Bangor. Lou [Price, singer] and Tom [O'Hara, bassist] were writing songs together and after trying out a few different drummers asked me to join the band. We gigged a lot and brought out an EP, but it was only when Paddy Conn joined the band in 2009 that things started to fall into place.

q. DID ANY OF YOU GO TO UNIVERSITY? IF SO, TELL US ABOUT YOUR TIME AS A STUDENT.

a. Paddy Conn: Yes I went to university in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. I loved the freedom; I could finally sit around eating sushi in my underwear!

q. WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY?

a. The University is amazing! The main building is just incredible. We all have very fond memories of the Mandela Hall too (in Queen's Students' Union); we have been to see some of our favourite bands there; Broken Social Scene being a standout one.

q. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF BELFAST AS A STUDENT CITY?

a. Great! I think it would be an awesome city to go to university in. It has great bars and great music.

q. CAN YOU OFFER ANY TIPS TO FRESHERS STARTING QUEEN'S IN SEPTEMBER?

a. If I could give any tips, I would say to get as merry as possible in your Freshers' Week and make as many friends as you can, because they will probably turn out to be the best friends you ever make. Also, check out Radar at Queen's Students' Union for the best local music; the best bit is it's free!!

THERE ARE SO MANY GOOD BANDS COMING OUT OF NI, AND I THINK PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF THE REGION ARE FINALLY STARTING TO TAKE NOTICE OF OUR BANDS

- q. LAST YEAR YOU TOURED WITH OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE'S COVER STARS, TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB, ON PART OF THEIR EUROPEAN TOUR. WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?**
- a.** It was awesome. They are great friends of ours, so it's super fun. Their live shows are insane and their crowds go wild, even for the support acts like us, so it's just a great opportunity to play to new people.
- q. SPEAKING OF TOURING, WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST WHEN YOU'RE AWAY FROM HOME?**
- a.** Our mummies... Ha, no I think just home-cooked food. When you're on the road and don't have much time to stop and eat, it's normally a service station sandwich for lunch and some form of noodles for tea somewhere near the venue. You get pretty sick of that after a couple of weeks.
- q. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE CURRENT MUSIC SCENE HERE IN NORTHERN IRELAND?**
- a.** Things are really exciting in Northern Ireland at the moment. There are so many good bands coming out of NI, and I think people outside of the region are finally starting to take notice of our bands.
- q. YOU SAID A FEW YEARS AGO THAT YOU WERE "STRUGGLING TO GET A GRASP OF WHAT OUR SOUND SHOULD BE". HOW HAS YOUR SOUND CHANGED OVER TIME AND CAN YOU SUM IT UP IN FIVE WORDS?**
- a.** I feel that only in the last few years have we really found the sound we have been searching for all this time. We have always been a pretty diverse band and draw influences from a lot of different genres, so it took us a few years to hone our sound. It's probably best described as Indie, Dancy, Dreamy, Upbeat, Electro.

q. THE FIRST SINGLE FROM YOUR DEBUT ALBUM WAS RELEASED IN MAY; WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE BAND, ASIDE FROM GLOBAL SUCCESS?

a. We have the rest of the record to release, which we are so excited about. We hope to get out on the road again too, and perform the new album. We love playing in Europe, so will hopefully be heading back there soon.

q. HAVE YOU HAD ANY STANDOUT MOMENTS SO FAR?

a. There have been lots of standout moments over the years, but recently for me it was the Christmas show 2012 in Auntie Annie's in Belfast.

Kowalski are continuing their rise to music domination with the imminent release of their long-awaited debut album. You can also check out their fantastic song 'Get Back' on the retro, 7" vinyl single attached FREE with this magazine. See how we spoil you future Queen's students?!

If you prefer your music in a digital format, then use the QR code or the link below to download the track, again for FREE! But do it soon before it expires!

www.soundcloud.com/wearekowalski

To find out more about the band, head to www.kowalski.bandcamp.com

Since this interview, Kowalski's debut album *For The Love of Letting Go* has been released.

Head over to www.wearekowalski.com for more details.



GET PAID TO STUDY

If you need more motivation to study hard for your exams, then consider this: every year Queen's offers a variety of scholarships and prizes for new students with high academic achievement, so get revising!

QUEEN'S SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarships available to students entering in 2013–14 are:

Queen's Scholars

Ten of these full-fee scholarships are available for students from schools in Northern Ireland who have performed well academically while also contributing significantly to their community and society, for example through sports, music, the arts, business and enterprise.

Undergraduate scholarships for Great Britain students

Eligible students who satisfy the conditions of their offer will qualify for a £1,250 award per year, and this amount will increase to £1,750 per year for students who achieve ABB at A-level or equivalent or £2,500 per year for those achieving AAB.

Queen's University Entrance Scholarships

All you bright sparks who achieve three 'A' grades at A-level are eligible to apply for this annual competition to be in with a chance of receiving an award of £200 to £1,000.

STEM Performance Awards

Fifty £1,000 awards are up for grabs for students who reach a minimum of three 'A' grades at A-level (or equivalent) in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths subjects.

Full details of the scholarships available to Queen's students can be found at www.qub.ac.uk/scholarships

However you fund your studies, we cannot stress enough how important good money-management skills are during your time at university. You will need to quickly master the art of budgeting and ruthlessly stick to this budget, otherwise you will be forced to live off beans on toast and miss all those good nights out!

See pages 12 and 13 for some handy tips!



LIFE IN THE (BEL)FAST LANE



BY PRISCILLA CUNNINGHAM

Queen's is surrounded by plenty of cafés and restaurants, so even the fussiest, hungriest student will not starve! The Students' Union itself houses the ever-popular Clements and Starbucks, and the Speakeasy Bar upstairs has a fantastic menu for even better value. Maggie Mays is also a big hit with students: the menu has pretty much anything you could want on it, the prices are very reasonable and the portions are big!





For those of you who like to be adventurous, there is a great variety of cultural restaurants within close range of the University – from Chinese food in Lee Garden and Japanese at Sakura, to Mexican at Boojum and Chalco's, French at La Bastille and Italian at Villa Italia – these are great restaurants offering something a little different. And if you take yourself into town for a little shopping, worry not about getting fed, the excellent Victoria Square shopping centre has so many great eateries you'll find it difficult to choose just one! Pizza Hut, TGI Friday's, Nando's and Cosmo are just a few.

Once you've had lunch at Victoria Square, take a stroll through its stores, there are over 50 of them! It hosts a heap of shops to get your wardrobe sorted for the semester and will cater for all no matter what your style, from H&M to Topshop, Superdry to Pull and Bear. It's home to many other stores including House of Fraser and an Apple store.

Many of the shops here, and lots of others in the city centre, offer some very attractive student discounts, so don't forget to flash your shiny new student card to avail of these offers. You can also pick up some unique bits and pieces when the Continental Market arrives each winter and spring at Belfast City Hall. There are lots of charity shops near campus too, where you can grab yourself a bargain.

At university, you'll want to get a good balance between your studies and your social life; choosing to study at Queen's gives you the opportunity to do that. A good place to start is our very own Students' Union, with four bars used for quizzes, club nights and live music. Rain, Lavery's and the Parlour are also much-loved nightlife attractions amongst students.



If you're more of a film fanatic, be sure to take advantage of £3 tickets on Crazy Tuesdays at the Movie House, discounted rates for students at the Odeon, and the chance to see classics and new releases at the University's own cinema, the Queen's Film Theatre (QFT). The Odyssey Arena is another great entertainment hub, home to a range of clubs and bars, an arcade and bowling alley, concerts and sporting events. No matter what your lifestyle, you'll never be stuck for things to do in Belfast!

If you're new to Belfast, a great way to experience the city's culture is through a bus tour from the city centre. A must for locals and newbies alike is a visit to Titanic Quarter, which has an excellent exhibition showcasing the history of the Titanic ship. The Crescent Arts Centre, just moments from Queen's, boasts a range of productions, literary readings and workshops; you'll never be out of the place if you're a culture vulture.

Also close to the campus is the Ulster Museum, containing historical features, art and events (it's free entry too!). But just because you're studying in Belfast, don't forget about the rest of Northern Ireland. You can't possibly come here without a trip to the world-renowned Giant's Causeway. Access around NI is made easy with reliable public transport and, with reduced rates for students, there's no excuse for not getting out there and exploring! Belfast also has fantastic transport links to the rest of the UK and a flight to London takes less than an hour.

The National Geographic Traveler magazine (2012) ranked Belfast as one of the top 10 destinations in the world, so your student experience really couldn't be in a better place!

WHERE TO LIVE?



BY NATHAN CANTLEY

So you have accepted that hard-earned offer from Queen's University to study your chosen course. The next question many people ask is 'Where am I going to live?' It is often a decision that can be difficult to make for the first time, as there is a range of options available to undergraduates and postgraduates alike. Have no fear though, because Queen's accommodation is here to help!

Based just a 10-minute walk from the Lanyon Building on the Malone Road is Queen's Elms, the University's purpose-built and biggest accommodation site, housing over 1,100 en suite and over 500 standard single bedrooms. Split into apartment blocks three storeys high with shared kitchens and common rooms, Elms Village welcomes students in a safe and friendly environment. Furthermore, with the help of a fantastic support team of Residential Assistants, Elms is able to help students deal with settling in to both student accommodation and student life.

I lived in Elms for two years and really enjoyed the sense of community that was built up between the various floors and buildings around the Village. Not only are the flats well equipped, but, wherever you are on the site, the 'Treehouse' (with shop, restaurant and computer facilities) is just a two-minute walk away. In addition, the student Residential Assistants organise great trips and away days at the weekends, so there is always something different to do.

Also, if you would prefer to be in a No Alcohol, Single Sex or Quiet Living accommodation, Elms is there to cater for your needs. The wide range of options, combined with the vibrant student atmosphere created within the Village by the various themed nights and events, makes it even easier to get that balance between your work and socialising.

Elms has become even more diverse with the completion of Willow Walk; this new accommodation block boasts a wide range of high-quality one- to four-bedroom apartments that are fully furnished like the rest of Elms and ideally suited to international and postgraduate students.

“What about other options?” I hear you say. Here is a brief rundown of other places Queen’s Accommodation offers:

- Mount Charles: suitable for the more independent student and just off Botanic Avenue and University Road, each building houses seven to eight students and has all the same features and facilities as Elms, but is more integrated into the University and local neighbourhood.
- Guthrie House: situated just behind the Students’ Union on Fitzwilliam Street and housing solely standard rooms with shared bathrooms, Guthrie House has a great location and a number of rooms especially for ‘Single Sex’ lifestyle choices (where you have the option of living with only male or only female students).
- College Gardens and Grant House: the smaller of the Queen’s Accommodation options, these two separate locations have all the same facilities as the other locations but in more intimate settings.

To make things even easier for students, the rates across all the Queen’s Accommodation options are all-inclusive of bills and rates, allowing you to budget the rest of your money for other expenses. Private accommodation is always out there as an option, although many students choose this route after making friends in Elms Village during their first year.

Regardless of what you choose, the University’s accommodation website contains a huge amount of information, whether it’s about the rooms currently available, the rates for each option, or details of how to find the right place in private rental (if that option appeals to you).

I really enjoyed living in Elms Village and getting to know people over the course of a year from a wide range of courses that you might never be exposed to if you just lived with your peers or your mates from school. Even two years on, I am still bumping into the people I lived with in first year and chatting with them about how they are getting on.

With the great framework and team behind it, Elms and the various other Queen’s Accommodation options are a simple way for both you and your parents to take that all-important first step into student life with peace of mind. For more information or for contact details for Queen’s Accommodation, go to www.stayatqueens.com



LIVING ON A BUDGET



BY KATIE MATTHEWS

One thing you will learn to adopt throughout your university experience will be the word 'casual'. This will be the word to validate spending unnecessary money. 'Casual drinks' very rarely stay casual, and as much as spontaneous nights out are great craic and will contribute to your university memories, it is important to remember that 'casuals' every night of the week will impact on your health, your studies and also your bank balance!

Budgeting will be one of the most useful life lessons you will learn. Some of you will take to it like a duck to water; others will learn the hard way. Wherever your money will be coming from throughout your university career, learning to budget and prioritise your spending will be crucial. There will be many things you will need to pay for, ranging from accommodation to socialising, so it is important to sit down at the start of the year and work out where your money will be going.

The most important things to make sure you have money for will be accommodation, course costs, food and travel. Other outgoings will include socialising, gym membership (if you're into that sort of thing!), clothes, books for studying (or fun!), and anything else you want or need to enhance your university experience. You will work out over the years that what you want and what you need are sometimes very different things!

Learning to budget at university is a great skill for your future life and provides you with the opportunity to take charge of your own finances, enabling you to be more independent. Nevertheless, there may be times when you encounter financial difficulties and the worst thing to do is bury your head in the sand! The fantastic staff in the Student Guidance Centre and the Students' Union Advice Centre specifically deal with financial issues, so don't be afraid to ask for help; it's what they're there for!

For more information, go to www.qubsu.org/advice.asp





MANAGING YOUR MONEY

ULSTER BANK'S DOS AND DON'TS

The Dos

- Spend according to what you actually need, not what you want
- Take advantage of all sources of student finance
- Limit any loans – remember you have to pay them all back
- Budget – it's not boring, it really is good sense
- Fill in the big hole in your finances with a job, not more debt
- Line up a holiday job with good pay
- Tell your bank when you need to go into the red or over your limit – before it happens!
- Draw out only the money you need for the week
- Take with you only the money you plan to spend
- Pay all bills immediately. With Internet banking you can do this at any time of the day or night
- Keep a regular eye on your bank balance. There are lots of ways to check your balance instantly without having to call into the bank, from Internet to telephone banking and even via your mobile phone

The Don'ts

- Don't borrow money from friends
- Don't use credit cards as another source of income
- Don't ignore your debts, they will only get worse
- Don't ignore letters from your bank or creditors – they will try and help you
- Don't suffer in silence – your university or college can help and will be sympathetic. Your bank will also be able to provide guidance on any aspect of your finances

For more advice on managing your finances, go to: www.qub.ac.uk/ProspectiveStudents/UndergraduateStudents/MoneyMatters

 **Ulster Bank**

GETTING SU-SSED

BY NIAMH FERGUSON



Once you enrol as a student at Queen's University you automatically become a member of Queen's Students' Union (SU). Our role is to provide a range of student-focused services that meet and exceed your expectations as a member. From the moment you begin your time at Queen's we want to be able to provide you with whatever you need to make your time at university worthwhile, enjoyable and filled with new experiences.

.....

The SU is led by seven, full-time, elected Student Officers: one President and six Vice-Presidents. Together they form the core unit that runs the Union on a daily basis and ensures it remains student focused. Your full-time Officers represent you and communicate your views to the University, politicians and the media, as well as to a whole host of other external organisations.

We are run by you, our members – every member of Queen's Students' Union has a right to have a say in how we are run, and there are lots of ways you can get involved. As students, you elect your representatives. You can attend Students' Union General Meetings that agree major decisions. You vote on the most important decisions in referendums that are held from time to time. You tell your representatives what to do, and they do it!

The SU is also jam-packed with goodies. Located just across the road from the famous Lanyon Building, it houses four fabulous entertainment venues – the Mandela Hall, The Speakeasy, Bar Sub and the Bunatee – an SU shop, a book shop, a lettings agent ('SU Lets'), advice services, a relax and study area called 'The Space', a bank, coffee shops, a food court and meeting rooms. You can also join over 170 clubs and societies, ranging from Origami to Trampolining. The choice is yours!

Hear some of the biggest and best names in live music from around the world in the Mandela Hall and don't miss the FREE gig every Thursday at Radar Live in The Speakeasy. You can pop into The Speakeasy any time for a pint, a bite to eat or a game of pool.

Hit the SU Shop where you can buy your discounted newspapers, check out the branded hoodies and grab your lunch meal deal! If you have a Student Experience Bursary you can stock up on all the stationery you need for the year and it's free!



Visit SU Lets: run in association with Morton Pinpoint, SU Lets is the only letting agent recommended by Queen's University and Queen's Students' Union. If you're moving out, call in and meet the team of friendly staff who will find the best house for you.

If you need books, Blackwell's Bookshop is your one-stop shop! Use your Student Experience Bursary here and you can even reserve books online.

But that's not all the Students' Union has to offer...

Our Student Officers and support staff are always here to help, whether you have issues regarding your education, finances, accommodation or health. The Students' Union Advice Centre is dedicated to providing all Queen's students with free, confidential and independent advice. Whether you're worried about money, having trouble getting to grips with your studies, or just need someone to talk to, the Advice Centre is on hand and here to help!

If you want to boost your CV, the Enterprise SU team has it covered. You can join the Volunteer Academy to receive credit for the extracurricular activities that you do. Opportunities include volunteering for community groups, charities and organisations. Whether your interest is in animal welfare, human rights or fundraising – it's all available in the Students' Union!

So, if you fancy yourself as the next Steve Jobs, Alan Sugar or Mark Zuckerberg, you can enter Enterprise SU competitions such as 'Dragon's Den', 'What's the Big Idea?' and 'QUB Apprentice' for your chance to showcase your talent and win big!

Whatever your needs, the Students' Union is here for you! Don't forget to pop in and say hi – we can't wait to meet you!

Further information can be found at www.qubsu.org



Queen's Graduate Annie Mac shares how Queen's helped shape her career

RETURN OF THE MAC



BY EMMA-LOUISE GIBSON

We all know her as the vivacious host of Radio 1's Friday night dance show, but what you may not know about Annie Mac is that she is in fact a graduate of our own fair Queen's University! During her time here studying English Literature, Annie developed a love of dance music thanks to spending nights in the infamous Mandela Hall at Shine club nights.

Born in Dublin in 1978, Annie McManus moved to Belfast in 1996 to make Queen's her student home before going on to become one of Radio 1's most popular DJs and a recognised authority on all things dance music-related.

As a fresher, Annie lived in a house just off the Malone Road: "I have a lot of good memories of my time in that house. The house was on Sans Souci Park, my mum told me that Sans Souci means 'carefree' which is a good description of the way I approached life."

Her time at the University allowed Annie to develop this carefree attitude and also provided her first real taste of independent living: "Queen's is really where I grew up in a lot of ways. I was living on my own for the first time, I had a job for the first time and I was completely in charge of what I did and didn't do."

Like many students, she was keen to get involved in Queen's fantastic extracurricular activities. In first year she joined the hockey team before deciding to explore her other passion, music. The legendary Shine nights, based in the Students' Union's Mandela Hall, served as her inspiration for what would later become a glittering career as a world-renowned DJ.

Annie fondly remembers her career catalyst: "One of the things that had the biggest impact on me was the Shine nightclub. Shine has a great reputation and really has the cream of UK dance music. I was just a regular punter in first year and then I worked there during my two other years, on the doors, that sort of thing. But it was where I first encountered dance music, and for that reason it is still very important to me."

Although she regularly DJs in places like London, Ibiza and New York, Belfast still holds a special place in Annie's affections: "The other thing about Queen's is that it is in Belfast. Belfast is the place to go! I used to love sitting in Botanic Gardens and I loved the fact that the city was so compact, you can get to know it quickly and nothing is too far away. The people are incredible and it really is a great place to go to university."

Like many graduates, Annie did not simply leave university and walk straight into her dream job, her route to success was a little more complex! Although she wasn't entirely sure about what she wanted to do after leaving Queen's, a pivotal purchase of a set of decks allowed her to further develop her love of dance music: "I knew I wanted to do something performance based, but I wasn't sure what. I also knew I didn't want to work – I wasn't ready for that! So I did an MA in Radio at Farnborough near London."

After completing this course, Annie worked at various small radio stations before getting a job as a Broadcast Assistant in BBC London. This gave her a much-needed foot in the BBC's door and she was soon working as a Broadcast Assistant on Steve Lamacq's Radio 1 show.

After standing in for Mary Anne Hobbs, Radio 1's management soon noticed her natural flair, helped of course by her demos and determination. She then landed her own show and, well, the rest is dance music history with Annie admitting, "To be honest, I really want to do this for the rest of my life."

So what is the DJ's advice for all you future freshers reading this? If you're stressing about not knowing exactly what you want to study, she recommends choosing a subject which interests you: "If you're not certain what you want to be then do a degree in a more general subject you enjoy, be that Mathematics, English, Geography, whatever. Through doing that course and becoming more mature you'll start to work out what you want to do."

Once you make it through those Queen's gates, Annie provides these wise words on the student experience: "It is about growing socially and teaching you how to be an adult. Get involved in clubs and societies as soon as you get there, if for no other reason than to meet other people!"

As of this past May, an altogether different type of noise has been keeping Annie up late at night, following the birth of her first child with fellow DJ Toddla T; however, she shows no sign of letting baby duties slow her down, with performances this summer at Global Gathering, Creamfields and Bestival.

**“THE PEOPLE ARE
INCREDIBLE AND IT REALLY
IS A GREAT PLACE TO
GO TO UNIVERSITY”**

HERE'S WHAT OUR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES HAVE TO SAY:



NAME: SHANNON HARKINS
COURSE: BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE (GRADUATE)
SCHOOL: MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
FROM: USA

After attending Open Days at different universities in the UK, I chose to come to Queen's on account of the overall 'feel' I got from the University community. The combination of a Russell Group institution, a degree that I was interested in studying, and nice, sincere people, appealed to me. Attending a well-established and highly-accredited university was also very important to me.

Queen's Russell Group status confirms its commitment to research, which was very important to me personally. The final year research project and opportunities, such as summer studentships, allow students to actively take part and contribute to the research being conducted at the University.

Queen's facilities are exceptional. The McClay Library is a motivational place in which to study, and a stunning, first-class facility. The Students' Union offers a range of support for students as well as a range of social outlets, and the University's Physical Education Centre caters for sports enthusiasts of all levels.

NAME: JACOB O'SULLIVAN
COURSE: ENGLISH (GRADUATE)
SCHOOL: ENGLISH
FROM: ISLE OF MAN

My main interest towards the end of sixth form was the study of contemporary poetry. I was drawn to Queen's, and Belfast in general, as both appeared to have an exciting, and incredibly well-respected poetical tradition. Coming to Belfast was a totally new cultural experience for me, but it still felt close enough to my home (the Isle of Man) not to be too daunting.

The University's heritage was very important to me. When walking through the Quad, or at class in the Lanyon Building, I felt like I was having the archetypal academic university experience. I think that in today's graduate market, having a degree from a university with such an impressive history and reputation is a great positive.

My time at Queen's has had a huge impact on my life. Moving away from home for the first time was the scariest thing I have ever done, but if I hadn't chosen the right university, it would have been a lot harder. My time at Queen's was a life-changing and a value-for-money experience and I feel very different now to when I first left home. Being at Queen's has had a huge impact on my overall personal development, as I'm sure it will have as a future employee.



NAME: DANIEL PARSONS
COURSE: FRENCH STUDIES (THIRD YEAR)
SCHOOL: MODERN LANGUAGES
FROM: LONDON

There are a number of reasons why I chose to come to Queen's: I heard positive recommendations from former language students who had studied at the University; I gained a strong positive impression of the University when I attended Queen's Open Days; and I welcomed the opportunity to study and live in Belfast and experience the sense of adventure associated with moving to a new place.

The blend of the traditional and the contemporary at Queen's creates a very positive atmosphere in which to learn. I am always impressed at the range of facilities, particularly in IT and specific applications for language learning, provided by the McClay Language Centre.

The French Studies programme is very well organised with various areas of study complementing one another. The subject materials are varied and appealing to anyone with an interest in the French language and culture. As a mature student, I would say the student experience has been truly life changing.

I have made use of the University's support services, which have been extremely helpful in making the transition from full-time employment to higher education.

It is clear that Queen's embraces diversity and as a non-Northern Ireland student I have been made to feel extremely welcome. Belfast is a fantastic place in which to study and live. There is a real sense of vibrancy and a forward-looking atmosphere to the city.



NAME: BETHANY ROXBURGH
COURSE: PSYCHOLOGY (GRADUATE)
SCHOOL: PSYCHOLOGY
FROM: NORTHUMBERLAND, ENGLAND

I made the decision to come to Queen's after visiting the University on one of its Open Days. Everyone was very accommodating and I was incredibly impressed with the facilities, particularly the halls of residence.

I received a lot of support in coping with my dyslexia, both from the School of Psychology and the University's Disability Services unit, during my time at Queen's.

Belfast has the lowest living costs compared to similar cities in the UK. This meant that my loan went a bit further, allowing me to take advantage of the exciting trips and excursions the University had to offer. I also received a travel scholarship, which really helped with the cost of flying to and from home in England.

Belfast is a fantastic city! During my time there the city hosted amazing gigs, hilarious comedians and even the MTV EMAs. I thoroughly enjoyed sampling the culture; Belfast is a very sociable city and is full of life.

Queen's was a great start to my adult life. I enjoyed having my independence, but the excellent links to Great Britain meant that I never felt too far away from home. I have made friends for life!

**FOR FULL STUDENT VIDEO
INTERVIEWS, LOG ON TO:
<http://go.qub.ac.uk/ugstudy>**



JARGON SCHMARGON

BY EMMA-LOUISE GIBSON

University life is full of fancy words that will have even the brightest student scratching their head wondering what they're all about. Read on to uncover QU's guide to all that scary waffle...

ASSESSMENT:

The process of evaluating your progress, by looking at your written work, exam results and presentations.

ASSIGNMENT:

A piece of work that you must complete and submit by a set date.

BURSARY:

This is money you could receive in the form of an award, grant or scholarship provided you meet certain criteria.

CLEARING:

A system operated by UCAS in August each year that matches students who have not yet been placed or who have not met the terms of their offer, to a suitable university or degree programme.



DISSERTATION:

A long (c10,000-word) research report that contributes to your final degree mark. Not all courses require these, it depends on the modules you select.

FACULTY:

A group of academic departments that are grouped together for example, Medicine, Health and Life Sciences.

FRESHER:

The name given to new students who've just entered university, they are called 'freshers' because they are new and fresh!

GAP YEAR:

When you decide to take a year off your studies to spend time travelling or gaining work experience.

GRADUATE:

What you will be once you complete all your exams/assessments and attend a fancy ceremony!

HALLS OR HALLS OF RESIDENCE:

University accommodation for students, which provides kitchens, bedrooms and loads of chances to make new pals.

**LECTURE:**

A form of teaching presentation on a particular topic given by a university lecturer to a group of students.

MODULE:

A short course taken as part of a degree programme. Some are core and therefore compulsory and some are optional.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (PDP):

Where you can record, monitor, build and reflect upon your educational, personal and career development.

PERSONAL TUTOR:

Responsible for looking after your personal well-being as well as your academic progress while at university.

RUSSELL GROUP:

An association of 24 major research-led UK universities, of which Queen's is a member.

SCHOLARSHIP:

Money awarded to students with impressive A-level (or equivalent) grades to help support their higher education, so get studying!

SEMESTER:

Another word for term and is used to describe a 15-week teaching period. Queen's has two semesters: Autumn and Spring.

SEMINAR:

An informal type of teaching in which smaller groups of students discuss and work on particular topics together.

TUTORIAL:

A teaching method where a small group of students meet a tutor to talk about their studies.

CULTURE

VULTURES



BY STEPHEN CUNNINGHAM

WHAT TO SEE AND DO AT QUEEN'S

THE NAUGHTON GALLERY

Let's begin at the heart of Queen's: follow the stairs of the Lanyon Building and walk into the bright, white-walled halls of the Naughton Gallery. Some of the collections here date back to the foundation of Queen's College in 1845; and over 40 portraits hang in its Great Hall. But don't forget, the gallery also hosts the latest local and international talent, whether it be paintings, sculpture, silver or metalwork. There is little wonder why it attracts over 16,000 visitors annually and, even less of a wonder why, in 2008, it won the Times Higher Education Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts!



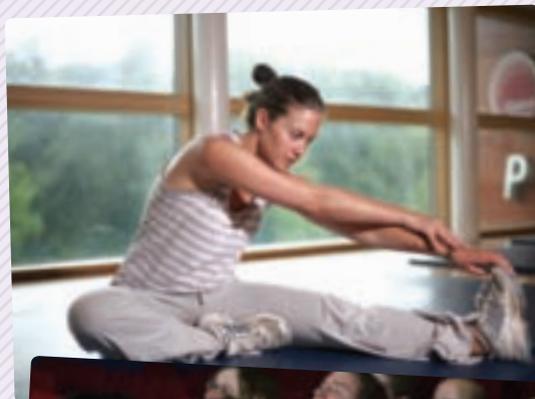
THE MCCLAY LIBRARY

Walk through the Lanyon quadrangle ('the Quad') and you'll come to the McClay Library – a £50m state-of-the-art structure located at the edge of Botanic Gardens. Students revise here during the exam season, taking advantage of its huge bank of computers, silent study zones and, of course, the aptly named Hope Café. But the McClay is also home to many archival collections: Irish journals; and maps and manuscripts from the 18th and 19th centuries, which attract the interest of scholars worldwide. Indeed, many a PhD thesis has been born here! There is also the CS Lewis Reading Room, which is themed around *The Chronicles of Narnia*, with quotes from the author engraved in glass. The McClay is one of the University's most popular landmarks, and its award-winning facilities will only continue to serve.



QUEEN'S SPORT

Stroll through Botanic Gardens, past the tall trees and flowerbeds, and you will arrive at the Physical Education Centre (PEC), one of the most advanced sporting centres in the UK and Ireland. In 2007, Queen's invested £7m into its facilities, and it shows: swimming pools; racquet sports halls; exercise studios and a golf simulator lab – along with classes in yoga, cycling, karate and Zumba – are only some of its features. Use it to de-stress, get fit, or pursue a hobby. Discount rates for students offer all this at a tidy price.



QUEEN'S FILM THEATRE (QFT)

Also, did you know Queen's has its own cinema? It's located on University Square, and was the first cinema in Northern Ireland to install a digital projector, which means it screens its showcase of new and classic world films in high definition. Tickets are available to students for the special discounted price of £4 (usual price £6.50). Q&A sessions with film directors also take place here. And, when you've finished enjoying a movie, chat with friends about it in the relaxing atmosphere of the QFT's Jameson Bar.



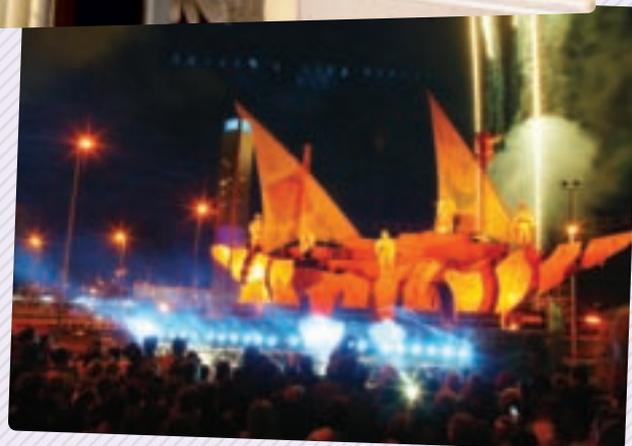
SEAMUS HEANEY CENTRE FOR POETRY

While walking through University Square, take a moment to appreciate the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, the focal point for the criticism of modern Irish literature. Directed by the internationally renowned poet, Ciaran Carson, it's the home – and birthplace – of creativity for both burgeoning and established writers. Books such as Glenn Patterson's *The International* have been written within its walls.



ULSTER BANK BELFAST FESTIVAL AT QUEEN'S

Don't forget our world-famous arts festival, which runs over three weeks during October and November. Theatre, literature, folk music, classical music, comedy and jazz are just a handful of the art forms that are represented. Last year, the festival featured singer Lesley Garrett, comedian Jon Richardson and Northern Ireland's own music legend Van Morrison. Attracting over 60,000 people each year, it is undoubtedly one of the most inspiring experiences in Northern Ireland. You can't afford to miss it!



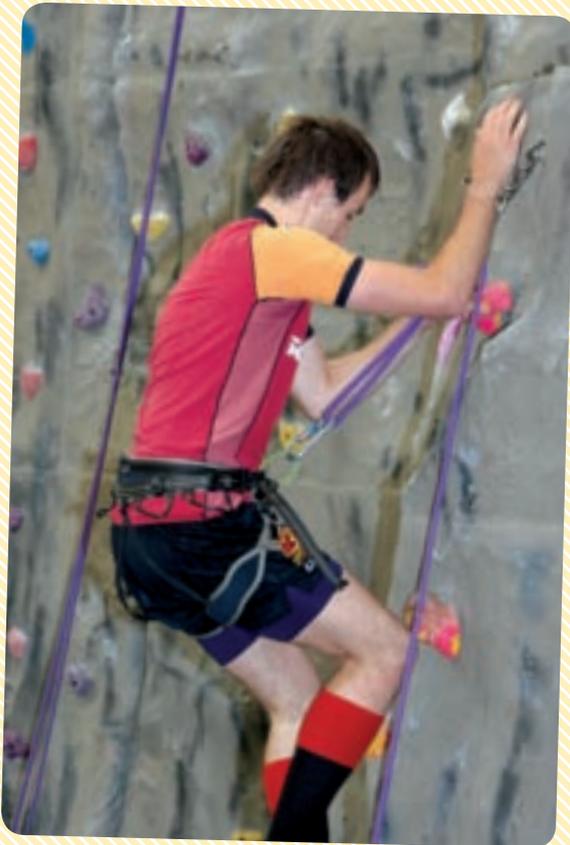
Whether or not you're a culture vulture, you can't help but admire the tenacity of Queen's in providing for its students – and for the community – a wealth of cultural opportunities. Whether it is sport or literature, music or art, there's something for everyone. Combined with its academia, it is this which will make your time at Queen's a memorable and rewarding experience.

JOIN THE CLUB



QUEEN'S CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

BY KRISTINA MULHOLLAND



Your time at university will be filled with lots of new experiences, from meeting tons of new people to gaining new skills, not to mention your qualifications! A great way to find new friends, learn different talents and unwind from the natural stresses that come with university life is to make the most of the huge number of clubs and societies that Queen's Students' Union has to offer. There are over 170 for you to pick from! Don't worry if you are either a newbie or a pro in whatever tickles your fancy – the Union is here to encourage and support you at every level!

.....

If you are a sporty soul who wants something to get your heart racing, you could get stuck into one of over 50 (yes 50!) clubs like Basketball, Dance and Judo. You could even try something new such as Caving, Dodgeball and Skydiving or compete at an elite level by joining one of the Gaelic Games teams, All-Ireland Rugby, Hockey or Rowing clubs.

If you fancy something a little less active but still as much fun, there are over 100 societies covering a wide range of hobbies and interests that you could try out, such as Queen's Radio, Photography or Dragonslayers! If you prefer to stick to your subject you can choose from an array of School-based societies – Law, Scrubs, English and Philosophy are just a few on offer at Queen's – all of which offer countless opportunities to learn more about your chosen field through conferences and guest speakers. Other societies such as QUB SWOT (Students Working Overseas Trust), St Vincent de Paul, Queen's Red Cross and St John's Ambulance give you a chance to volunteer your time to worthwhile causes and secure placement opportunities within the charity.

Joining a club or society is one of the best things you can do at university. It's not just a great way to meet up with or make friends with other students on your course outside the lecture theatre – it will give your CV an extra boost and help you set yourself apart from other job-seekers in a competitive market. This is thanks to the teamwork, organisation, communication and often leadership skills you will gain as an active member of a club or society! What's more is that Queen's now offers students the opportunity to use these experiences as credit towards the 'Degree Plus' initiative.

This scheme is recognised by employers and offers you recognition for all the work you put into the running of your club or society – giving you a chance to provide a record of achievement and gain extra certification at graduation! Not only that, it offers reward and recognition opportunities through the Students' Union Awards, the Volunteering Excellency Awards and national competitions such as BICS.

“THE UNION IS FOCUSED ON MAKING SURE THAT THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE TO GET INVOLVED IN!”

There are lots of ways to find out more: the Students' Union's website has all the details you need about the clubs and societies available and how to join – simply visit www.qubsu.org/clubs.asp

It also gives links to the individual websites, Facebook pages and contact details if you want to find out more or get in touch. Also, check out the Freshers' Fair on 2 and 3 October in the Students' Union. Every club and society will have a stall where you will get the chance to chat to club members, sign up, give it a go and maybe score a few freebies in the process!

The Union is focused on making sure that there is something for everyone to get involved in! So if you have any questions, want to have a chat about anything club or society related, or you don't spot anything that you fancy and want to start your own, speak up! Contact:

Martin Lilly, VP Clubs and Societies

T: +44 (0)28 9097 3922
su.vpcs@qub.ac.uk

David Bradley, Clubs and Societies Co-ordinator

T: +44 (0)28 9097 1058
d.bradley@qub.ac.uk



EASY FEESY



BY DAVID SANDS

Tuition fees are a reality of student life. Initially, fees can appear to be a complicated process, but, on closer inspection, fees and Queen's system of financial support are actually really simple concepts to understand.

Here is some information on which tuition fees apply to you and the financial support options available:

For the academic year of 2013–14, Queen's will require different amounts for your fees depending on your country of residence. If you live in Northern Ireland, you are required to pay £3,575; if you live in England, Scotland or Wales it's £9,000; and if you live anywhere else in the EU (including the Republic of Ireland) you pay £3,575. Furthermore, if your course has a sandwich-year placement (the name given to a year working in your course's profession, eg Pharmacy), then you will be required to pay an additional fee of £700. These costs can be covered by tuition fee loans available to UK and EU students. You can apply for a loan up to the maximum amount of your course fee.

Also, if you think that coming to Queen's will make it hard to make ends meet, don't worry, as Queen's offers several avenues of financial support, the most prominent being the Student Support Fund. This is designed to help those students who get into financial difficulties whilst at the University. The application for this can be found here: www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/finance/StudentSupport

For more information on tuition fees, and the ways of paying for them, visit www.qub.ac.uk/TuitionFees

If you have a burning concern over anything student finance related, then contact Queen's Income and Student Finance Office on 028 9097 2767 and IncomeOffice@qub.ac.uk

BRIDGING THE GAP TAKING A YEAR OUT

BY KATIE MATTHEWS

Starting university can be an overwhelming experience: a mixture of excitement and nerves. I did not feel ready to start university immediately after leaving college and requested a deferral from Queen's, meaning I could begin my studies a year later. This year out was exceptionally beneficial for me; I worked two jobs for the majority of the year, but also spent two months in Poland working as an au pair to three children.

This was an incredible, eye-opening experience, which allowed me to expose myself to a new country, culture, language and lifestyle. This period out of education allowed me to reassess my ambitions and direction in life, which not only reaffirmed my decision to study at Queen's but exacerbated my passion for continuing my studies.

Reflecting on this now as a third year student, I know I made the correct decision, however, gap years, studying abroad and exchange programmes are not for everyone and require careful planning and consideration in order to utilise your year effectively and gain as much experience as possible!

Within Queen's there are many opportunities for studying abroad such as the Erasmus scheme, the Exchange programmes and Study USA. These programmes can vary from one semester to a full year in length, allowing students to go to a partner university in a different country, to study, work or teach, which is accredited as part of their degree.

Students gain invaluable experience from immersing themselves within a new culture, experiencing new languages and meeting new people. Increased self-reliance and an independent lifestyle encourage students' confidence to flourish! The schemes enhance your CV, demonstrating maturity and initiative to potential employers. Full details of these programmes are available on the Queen's website. I would recommend exploring fully the range of schemes on offer for studying abroad in order to enrich your university experience.



THIS WAS AN INCREDIBLE, EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE, WHICH ALLOWED ME TO EXPOSE MYSELF TO A NEW COUNTRY, CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND LIFESTYLE

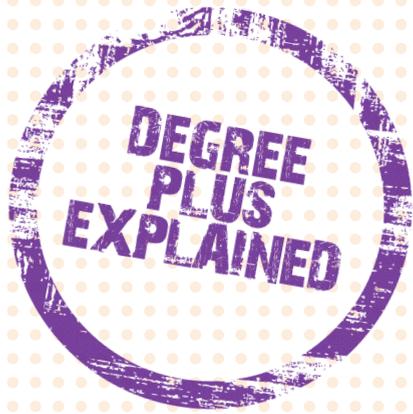
HOW TO GIVE YOUR DEGREE THE EDGE

BY PRISCILLA CUNNINGHAM

When you come to Queen's, there is no doubt you will want to get involved in the many extracurricular activities on offer, be it a club, society or even as a representative for the course you are studying. So, why not get credit for your participation and the skills you learn through these activities by signing up for the unique Degree Plus Award?



“DEGREE PLUS SHOWS
EMPLOYERS YOU HOLD
MORE THAN YOUR DEGREE”



DEGREE PLUS ALLOWS STUDENTS TO GIVE THEIR CV AN IMPRESSIVE BOOST

Degree Plus allows students to give their CV an impressive boost. Employers recognise it and want to see what else you have learned outside of the lecture theatre while at university. Degree Plus provides the perfect opportunity to do just that. It's free to join, and you can achieve it in two different ways depending on what suits you.

Route A (full accreditation)

This route allows you to gain a Certificate or Diploma through a course undertaken alongside your degree. There are so many great chances to help you achieve this, from Study USA to Erasmus, being a school rep to completing a summer studentship.

Route B (combined experience)

This method rewards participation in a range of extracurricular activities, including work off campus. As long as you can show what skills you have gained, you get the Award. Ways to this route include volunteering or paid work, being a member of a club or society, sports coaching, Camp America and loads more!

What makes Degree Plus so brilliant is that you get an award for doing something you are interested in and enjoy – you would be mad not to sign up for it! I am a member of a few clubs and societies and have volunteered for events and research internships held by my School, which will help me achieve the Route B Degree Plus Award.

I would strongly recommend that all students take advantage of Degree Plus at Queen's. You'll get your award when you graduate. Then, when you head out into the world of work, you will show your employers that you hold even more than your degree.

For more information, visit www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/degreeplus



LET US TAKE YOU FURTHER

QUEEN'S STUDENT SUPPORT FACILITIES

Queen's students are fortunate to receive not only the best quality of teaching, but also top-rate support services that will enhance their personal development along with their academic growth. These student-driven support services will also help with any problems you may encounter during your time at the University, whether it be assistance with a disability, finding employment or improving essay writing skills, Queen's knowledgeable staff will guide you onto the right path.



Here are just a few of the fantastic sources of support available to our students:

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Career Development and Graduate Employment

The staff within Careers, Employability and Skills can help you plan your route from study to graduate employment. The range of services on offer includes:

- Professional guidance
- Skills and professional development programmes
- Events to link you directly with employers
- Support to help you succeed with job applications and interviews
- Access to part-time and vacation jobs, graduate employers and graduate jobs
- Information on year-out placements and international experiences
- Further and postgraduate study



The graduate job market is extremely competitive, so to get the edge you need to focus not only on academic achievement, but also develop your employability skills and gain relevant work experience.

Disability Services

Queen's welcomes and encourages applications from all students with disabilities and specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia. While of course it is a personal decision, all prospective students are encouraged to disclose any disability or medical condition, which may require support during their time at university.

Disability Services co-ordinates a variety of ways to support students with disabilities, including University School and exam help, accommodation requirements and assistance with applications for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).

You can ask for advice from Disability Services at any stage in your application, and further information is on the University's Student Guidance Centre website at www.qub.ac.uk/sgc



LET US TAKE YOU FURTHER

STUDENT SUPPORT

The Student Guidance Centre (SGC)

This is your one-stop shop for a range of student-focused services in key areas of support and development. The friendly staff at the SGC provide students with fantastic opportunities for improving their employability skills, personal development and achieving their full potential on their course of studies.

The services provided by the Centre are broken down into three main areas that help prospective and current students:

- Student Welcome and Administration
- Student Employability and Skills Development
- Student Welfare

Student Welcome and Administration

When you are accepted to Queen's, these folks will be in contact with you to let you know what happens next.

When you start at the University, you will need to enrol on your course and modules so your first port of call should be Student Services and Systems. Here you will find information about enrolment and registration, examinations, graduations and student records.

The staff in the Income and Student Finance Office can advise you on your course tuition fees (including the assessment and collection of fees) and other lovely funds you may be entitled to!

Student Employability and Skills Development

Studying at university will be very different to your school life, so to help with the transition, the Learning Development Service offers support with the academic skills needed as a student. This team offers one-to-one help with essay writing, presentation skills, time management and exam preparation.

You can also complete a Study Skills Certificate, which involves attending four workshops on a range of topics such as referencing, critical thinking and writing skills.

Student Welfare

The Student Welfare staff strive to make you aware of where to go for help in terms of your well-being, and they also promote ways to keep yourself well.

Although you will have a fantastic time as a Queen's student, you may encounter problems along the way and that's where the Counselling Service comes in. Its qualified and experienced Counsellors will help you work through any personal, academic or emotional difficulties.

Students' Union Advice Centre

If you find yourself overwhelmed by university life and you don't know where to go for help then head to the Students' Union Advice Centre. Located on the second floor of the SU, its three Advisers are dedicated to providing students with independent, accurate advice.

Library Facilities

The McClay Library is an award-winning, world-class building with over 1.5 million books and a multitude of study spaces and computing facilities. The Library is spacious and open plan, creating a relaxed environment in which to study, so there's no excuse for missing that essay deadline!

Information Technology (IT)

Queen's recognises the importance of technology and how it can improve the student experience. The University's state-of-the-art equipment (including an impressive 1,800 on-campus PCs!) allows students to use their own laptop or smartphone to access the wireless network in libraries, catering areas and social areas, so you'll always be connected.

Language Centre

Learning a new language can give your CV a great boost and therefore improve your employability in an increasingly competitive graduate job market. So to facilitate this, Queen's offers all its students the opportunity to acquire skills in a foreign language, which will allow wider access to work in other countries and give you that all-important edge against other candidates.

For more information, visit www.qub.ac.uk

Emergency Cash for when Barney has your card for dinner

If your debit card is lost or stolen you can still get cash from Ulster Bank ATMs.

Online and telephone banking customers can withdraw up to £300, up to £60 if you're not. You must have £25 in your Ulster Bank current account and money available to make a withdrawal.

 For Emergency Cash call 0870 600 0459.
Save this number in case you need it.

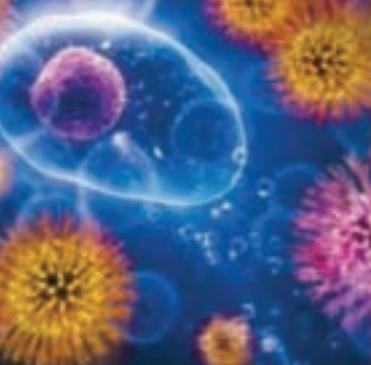


Help for what matters

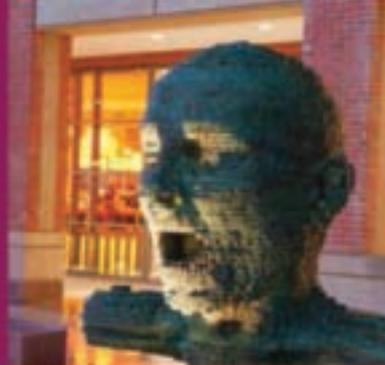
 Ulster Bank

Important Information

Information on our current account charges and interest rates is set out in our brochure **A guide to personal account fees and interest** which is available in our branches or on our website www.ulsterbank.co.uk. Information correct as at 25/05/2018. Ulster Bank Limited, Registered in Northern Ireland, Registration Number 8733. Registered office: 11-16 Donegall Square East, Belfast BT1 5UB. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority, and entered on the Financial Services Register (Registration Number 122295) except in respect of our consumer credit products for which Ulster Bank Ltd is licensed and regulated by the Office of Fair Trading. Calls may be recorded.



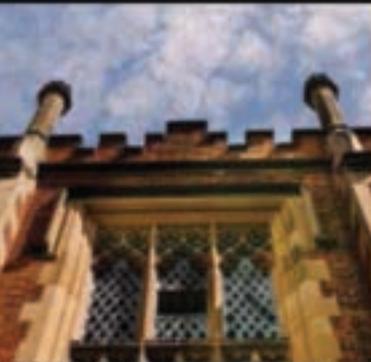
9th oldest university in the UK



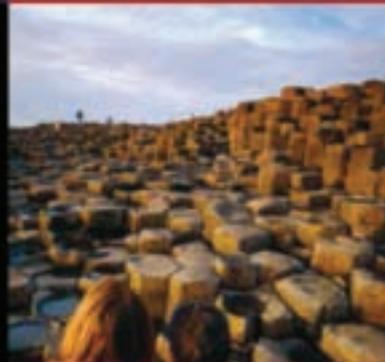
Ranked in the top 1% of the universities throughout the world



Member of the Russell Group of top research-intensive universities in the UK



Queen's is 'Ireland's Oxbridge' (The Sunday Times University Guide 2013)



Lowest cost of living in the UK (Mercer.com 2012)



5 consecutive Times Higher Education Awards (2008-2012), including Entrepreneurial University of the Year 2009

Top 17 university in the UK for graduate-level employment (The Sunday Times University Guide 2013)



Belfast: one of the world's top 10 destinations (National Geographic Traveler 2012)

