



International Agent Newsletter

December 2010

INTO [®] QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Inside this Issue



Deputy Prime Minister visits Queen's

The Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Nick Clegg visited Queen's University Belfast – the Times Higher Education Entrepreneurial University of the Year 2009 – as part of his two-day visit to Northern Ireland in October.

The highlight of Mr Clegg's visit was a 'town hall' question-and-answer session with students and staff from Queen's School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy in the University's Great Hall.

Speaking about the historic visit, the University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Gregson, said: "Queen's is honoured to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister to our campus. Mr Clegg's visit could hardly be more timely, coming during a period when universities, their vital role in society and their funding, are never far from the headlines."

Professor Gregson also welcomed the recent comments by Business Secretary Vince Cable, in which he highlighted the need for highly-qualified graduates to support the knowledge economy.

He said: "Queen's is a magnet for inward investment and a leader in enterprise and innovation, as recognised by the prestigious title of Entrepreneurial University of the Year. The quality of our graduates, and their loyalty to Northern Ireland, is a strong factor in attracting international companies to the region, further underpinning economic growth."

The Minister for Employment and Learning, Sir Reg Empey, attended the event. Speaking afterwards, he said: "This was an excellent opportunity for Queen's students to question our Deputy Prime Minister on the Government's future plans for Higher Education provision."

"These are interesting and challenging times for Higher Education, with the forthcoming publication of the Browne Review and announcements on the Comprehensive Spending Review. Amidst the challenges, I trust colleagues in the Executive and Assembly will join with me in working to maintain vibrant and world-class Higher Education provision in Northern Ireland."

One of the top-ranked universities in the UK and Ireland for research and teaching in Politics, Queen's recently introduced two innovative courses to its curriculum. A new degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics gives students a unique insight into the synergy between politics, business and commerce, while a Masters in Legislative Studies and Practice, developed in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Assembly, is the first course of its kind in Ireland or the UK.

'Exceptional' McClay library wins global award

One of Northern Ireland's newest landmark buildings – the £50 million McClay Library at Queen's University – has won a global award for its role as a model of sustainable design.

At the Grand Final of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Awards in the Guildhall in London, the McClay Library won the Sustainability category, defeating prestigious property projects from around the world.

More than 450 building projects entered the RICS Awards which are regarded as the 'Oscars' of the built and natural environment. The McClay Library was one of only four category winners.

Queen's Director of Estates Gary Jebb, who received the award from Michael Portillo, said: "The McClay Library reflects the University's commitment to scholarship, the environment, and the future. Sustainability was a critical factor in its design and construction, in keeping with the University's environmental policy, and we are obviously delighted that this has been recognised by the RICS."

The Awards' Sustainability Judge, Jim Ure, described the library as "an invaluable resource for students at Queen's University Belfast."

He said: "The building achieves excellence on two fronts: in terms of providing essential educational support, and through its distinction in sustainability. On both counts, it is an exceptional project."



Queen's Director of Estates Gary Jebb with the RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) Sustainability Award 2010, awarded for the University's £50 million McClay Library. Included is Alistair Dunn, Chairman of the RICS NI judging panel.

RICS Northern Ireland Director, Ben Collins, paid tribute to the project team. He said: "This project illustrates the capacity of chartered surveyors and other building professionals in Northern Ireland to have a hugely positive impact in economic and social terms. When resources are tight, it is more important than ever to ensure that buildings are as efficient as possible and provide maximum benefit to communities."

Named after the late Sir Allen McClay, one of Queen's greatest benefactors, the Library is illuminated by a multi-storey open atrium, has 2,000 reader places and houses 1.2 million volumes. Ground floor facilities include IT training rooms, a Language Centre, Library and Computer support areas and a cafe. The upper storeys house the

University's Special Collections, subject-related enquiry points and a vast range of printed works.

The building was designed by Boston-based architects Shepley Bulfinch, who had previously designed and developed major academic libraries at Yale and Harvard, and who worked in association with RPP, Belfast. The building attracts more than 10,000 users and visitors each day.

The design aimed to reduce energy loads and provide energy input as efficiently as possible. Energy, fuel and water consumption is recorded and reviewed against targets on a quarterly basis. During the design and specification process, environmentally-friendly materials were selected, all of which can be refurbished or recycled after use.

More spaces for international students in high demand courses

The School of Medicine and Life Sciences are delighted to announce more places for international students.

The Bachelor of Medicine will open 26 places to international students in September 2011.

The Bachelor of Dental Surgery has 15 places available to international students in September 2011.

For more information please check out the School of Medicine and Life Sciences website: www.qub.ac.uk/schools/mdbs/



Queen's life-saving research wins education 'Oscar'

Queen's University's work in protecting the lives and livelihoods of some of the poorest people on the planet has won a prestigious national award.

At the Times Higher Education awards ceremony in London last night, Dr Bhaskar Sen Gupta and colleagues in the School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering received the Outstanding Engineering Research Team of the Year title.

The award recognises the team's work in tackling the world's worst case of ongoing mass poisoning and creating the first low-cost chemical free arsenic removal plant in India.

Queen's Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Gregson said that the award underlined the global impact of the University's research.

He said: "This pioneering project is a powerful example of how Queen's expertise and academic research can result in positive outcomes for society as a whole, and I am delighted to congratulate Dr Bhaskar Sen Gupta and his colleagues on winning this major award."

The judges said: "Engineering at its core is about solving critical problems. The team from Queen's has exemplified this, finding an innovative solution to overcome arsenic contamination of groundwater and thus improve the quality of life in rural communities.

"Through effective team-working locally and internationally, a low-cost technological approach has been developed and deployed."

Employment and Learning Minister Danny Kennedy welcomed the news. He said: "I am delighted that Queen's University has won this prestigious Award. The accolade demonstrates in a very tangible way how high quality research can have extremely practical applications throughout the world that benefit every section of society. This has been recognised by the significant funding provided by my Department for Research and Development in Northern Ireland's universities. Dr Sen Gupta and Queen's are to be congratulated on the Award which follows the success of Queen's in being named as the Entrepreneurial University of the Year in 2009."

Currently over 70 million people in Eastern India and Bangladesh experience involuntary arsenic exposure from consuming water and rice; the main staple food in the region.

This includes farmers who have to use contaminated groundwater from minor irrigation schemes. It is estimated that for every random sample of 100 people in the Bengal Delta, at least one person will be near death as a result of arsenic poisoning, while five in 100 will be experiencing other symptoms.

Leading an international research team, Dr Sen Gupta implemented an innovative method of removing arsenic from groundwater without using chemicals. The team established a trial plant in Kasimpore, near Kolkata, offering chemical-free groundwater treatment technology to rural communities for all their drinking and farming needs. Six plants are now in operation in rural locations in West Bengal and are being used to supply water to the local populations using subterranean arsenic removal technology.

The award is the latest accolade for Dr Sen Gupta. Earlier this year he received an Excellence Award from the Asian Water Industry and the St Andrews Prize for the Environment.

New Courses at Queen's September 2011

Queen's University Belfast is pleased to announce new Postgraduate Degrees beginning in September 2011

Archaeology and Palaeoecology

Archaeology and Environment
Professional Archaeology

Cognitive Behavioural Practice
Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

Education

Technology –Enhanced Learning in Adult Education

Geography and Archaeology

Heritage Science

Midwifery Practice

Molecular Medicine

Postcolonial Studies in Context

Telecommunications

Advanced Wireless Communications

Queen's University have also introduced two new Diplomas in Marketing and Tourism for September 2011 intake.

For more information on courses, including entrance requirements, please visit the link to the Coursefinder

www.qub.ac.uk/home/ProspectiveStudents/CourseFinder/



Students outside the Students' Union

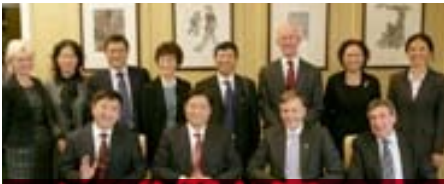
New era for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology at Queen's

Queen's and China Medical University (CMU) have joined forces to develop a strategic alliance for an undergraduate programme in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology.

Representatives from CMU recently visited Queen's to sign a Heads of Agreement for the new partnership.

The programme will lead to the award of a first degree in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology from Queen's. The course has just had its first intake of students at CMU and is now in its first semester. The new agreement between Queen's and CMU will also see the establishment of a joint research facility on CMU's campus in the area of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology. The facility will enable students progressing from the Queen's MPhil in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology to undertake some of their PhD research at CMU.

China Medical University (CMU) in Shenyang City in the province of Liaoning, was the first medical school established by the Chinese Communist Party and over 50,000 senior specialized medical personnel have been educated by CMU since its establishment.



Staff from CMU and Queen's who witnessed the signing of a new Heads of Agreement between the two institutions



President Zhao Qu, of Chinese Medical University, with Queen's Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Gregson at the Heads of Agreement signing

Queen's Students' Union Win Prestigious Awards

On Wednesday 13 October 2010, representatives from Queen's Students' Union travelled to the House of Commons to collect the Union's first ever Students' Union Evaluation Initiative (SUEI) award, presented by David Willetts MP, Minister for Universities and Science.

SUEI is "a unique assessment model that assists in improving the services and activities delivered to members of Students' Unions by indicating areas for continued improvement." The purpose of SUEI is to provide a framework to review how each participating Students' Union impacts and improves upon the overall student experience. Each Union that is registered with SUEI is assessed under the core values of empathy, democracy, diversity, learning, openness and behaviour.

Each assessment is a culmination of 2-3 years' work that is scored according to SUEI themes and principles and, in this case, Queen's Students' Union was granted bronze accreditation. There are 66 college unions participating within SUEI and Queen's Students' Union's assessment, undertaken in November 2009, was only the ninth successful accreditation within the scheme.

Isabel Jennings, Director of Student Plus, who attended the awards, said: "I am absolutely delighted that the sustained student-focused work that is being conducted by the Students' Union has been recognised by this independent body. This is just the beginning of the SUEI journey for us; we have our eyes firmly focused on the gold award and are working towards achieving it in the coming years. Congratulations to

everyone who is employed in the Students' Union. You have all contributed to this achievement."

Dominic Doherty, Deputy Director of the Students' Union and project leader for the Union's SUEI activities, was singled out to receive a Special Commendation Award, highlighting his personal contribution to the Union's achievement. He said: "I am extremely pleased to receive this award which recognises my contribution during a challenging time within the Students' Union. I have worked in the Students' Union for over 20 years, I have seen it go from strength to strength and I am proud to be involved in its continual development."

QUBSU representatives collect the Students' Union Evaluation Initiative (SUEI) award.



Dominic will continue to coordinate SUEI activities within the Students' Union and, in partnership with elected student officers, management and staff, the Union hopes to be in a position to announce further achievement within the next few years.

University Delegation Visits

Queen's University Belfast has welcomed visitors from international Universities over the recent months including delegations from Minzu University of China, Jilin University China, Whittier College Saint Mary's College of California and Millersville University, USA.



Diwali in Queen's 2010

Diwali, or the 'Festival of Light', was celebrated at Queen's University Belfast on Friday 5 November 2010.

More than two hundred people attended the event and most of them experienced this festival for the first time. Many of our local students were delighted to have had the chance to join in the celebrations and dress up in traditional Indian sarees.



Diwali in Queen's 2010

Agent Visits

Queen's University have been delighted to welcome a number of agents who have visited Queen's over recent months.

In May 2010 a group of over 20 agents from as far and wide as China, Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Nigeria visited Queen's University as part of a familiarisation trip which was jointly organised through INTO. The familiarisation visit was a great success and the feedback from the agent's survey showed that Queen's University was ranked more favourably by the agents when compared to the other UK Universities they visited as part of this trip.

Since May 2010 we have had individual agent visits from agents in China, Malaysia, India, Japan, Chechen, Vietnam to name a but a few.

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



Agents pictured outside the Lanyon building at Queen's University Belfast



Enjoying a visit to Northern Ireland's seat of government at Stormont in east Belfast.

Queen's International in Country

The International Office has been busy visiting a number of countries in recent months as listed below.

Country/ Region	Dates	Countries/Cities
Turkey	03-11 November	Ankara, Istanbul
India	11 - 22 November	Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi
Jordan, Oman, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar	18 October - 11 November	Amman, Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Muharraq Town and Kuwait
China	15 - 31 October	Beijing, Shenyang, Changchun, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Changsha, Wuhan, Guangzhou, Jinan, Qingdao, Xi'an, Dalian, Nanjing, Chongqing, Xiamen, Shenzhen
USA	21 September - 09 October	Boston, Chicago, Quad Cities, Springfield, St. Louis, Warrensburg, Kansas City
Malaysia, Hong Kong and China	04 - 16 September	Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Xi'an and Shanghai



Queen's University President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Gregson also made a visit to China in September. The Queen's delegation visited Xi'an, Shanghai and Beijing. The main purpose was the consolidation of existing links. However, new partnerships were also signed, and as part of the Science Bridge Project joint laboratories were inaugurated at Shanghai Jiaotong University, and Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology. The delegation was also delighted to visit the World Expo in Shanghai to visit the Queen's joint exhibit with Shanghai Jiaotong University. President Gregson also hosted a reception in Beijing for Queen's University alumni, partners, agent representatives and friends.



Jonah Tang

Country

Malaysia

Course

International Foundation Programme Science, Engineering, Computing and Mathematics

Start date

January 2010

Completion date

August 2010

Progression Degree

MPharm Honours in Pharmacy

Jonah states that he is really enjoying his first year of Pharmacy as he is studying subjects that interest him. 'I chose to study here because I did some research and at the time I saw that Queen's University is ranked the 2nd highest in the UK'.



Vivian Cheng

Country

Malaysia

Course

International Foundation Programme Science, Engineering, Computing and Mathematics

Start date

January 2010

Completion date

August 2010

Progression Degree

BSc Honours in Medicinal Chemistry

Vivian is also enjoying her undergraduate studies especially the Chemistry modules within her course. She states that she is very happy that she stayed in Belfast as it feels like home to her and the people are extremely friendly. When Vivian is not studying she really enjoys shopping in the city centre with her friends.



Harry Hang

Country

China

Course

International Foundation Programme Business, Humanities and Social Science

Start date

January 2010

Completion date

August 2010

Progression Degree

BSc Honours in Business Management

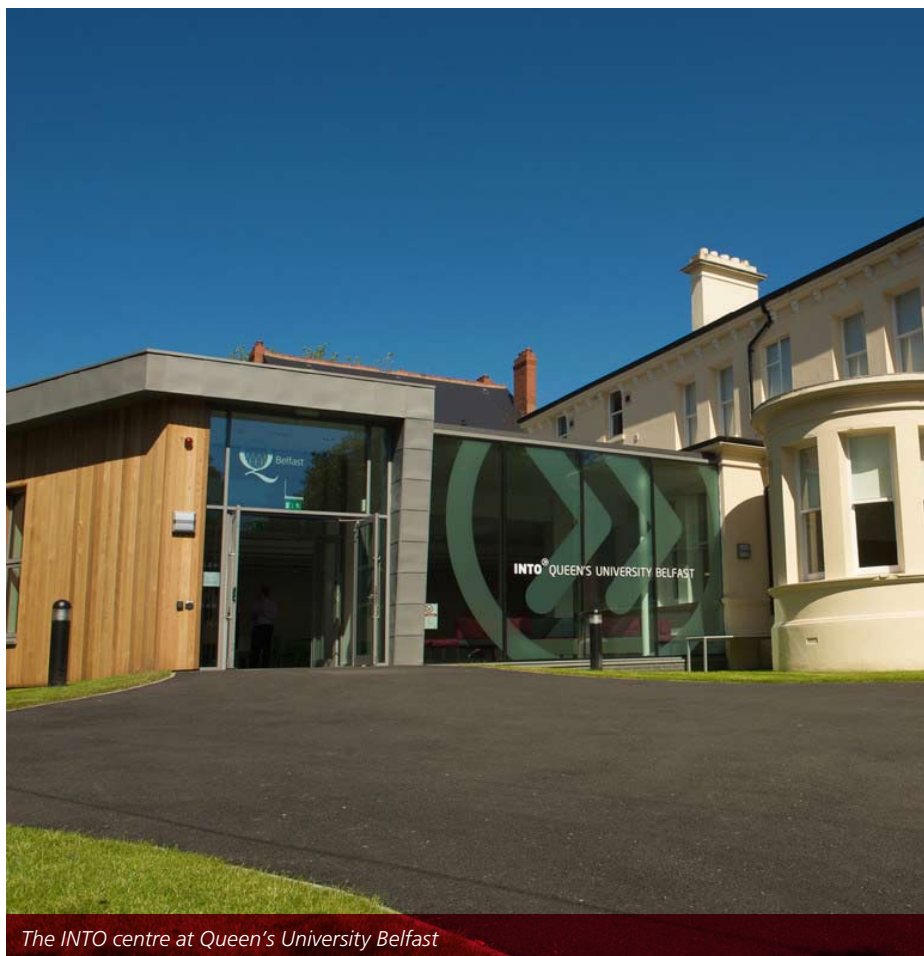
Harry loves his time at the Queen's Management School; he is really enjoying his undergraduate degree but does state that it is hard work. Harry feels that the foundation year at INTO Queen's academically prepared him for University life as well as helping him settle into a new city and culture.

Around INTO Queen's

INTO Queen's welcomed 105 new students in September 2010 who are studying a variety of courses including English for Academic Purposes, Foundation - Business, Management and Humanities, Foundation - Science, Engineering, Computers and Maths as well as the brand new programmes which include International Diploma in Business, Graduate Diploma in Finance and Graduate Diploma in Management. The students range from at 12 different nationalities and have settled into life in Belfast.

The next intake for INTO Queen's Programmes is January 2011, we look forward to the influx of new students.

INTO Queen's were delighted that 75% of the students on the Foundation Programme from the January 2010 intake progressed into University undergraduate programmes, including Pharmacy, Finance, Business Management and Medicinal chemistry to name but a few.



The INTO centre at Queen's University Belfast

Scholarships on offer - Postgraduate Taught Electronics and Computing Courses!

All full fee paying international students who enrol on the following courses in September 2011 within the School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science will receive a £1500 fee reduction scholarship.

MSc Advanced Wireless Communications

*MSc Computer and Electronic Security

MSc Educational Multimedia

MSc Electronics

MSc Telecommunications

* The School is the UK Centre of Excellence for Secure Information Technologies.

Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Queen's is ranked no.10 in the Times Good University Guide 2011.

For further information visit the School website www.qub.ac.uk/eeecs





Student Fees

The headlines in the UK in recent weeks have been dominated by the topic of student fees. We have not been given any indication that these changes will affect the international student fees. For information on Queen's international fees for 2010/2011 please visit www.qub.ac.uk/home/TuitionFeesandStudentSupportArrangements201011/InternationalTuitionFees201011/



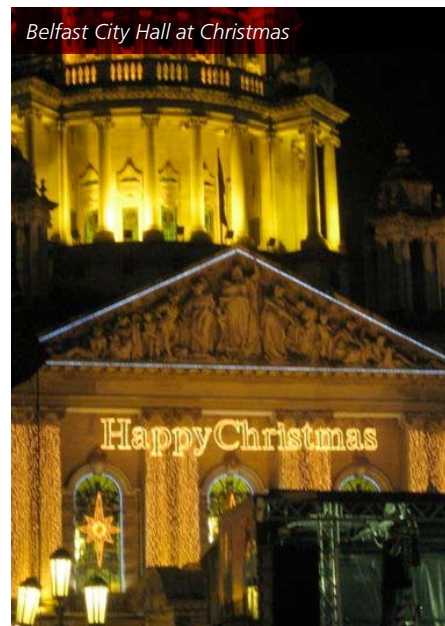
'Top law firm' brings jobs to Belfast

A top international law firm has announced it is to set up operations in Belfast creating 26 jobs for legal professionals. Read more at www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-11830571

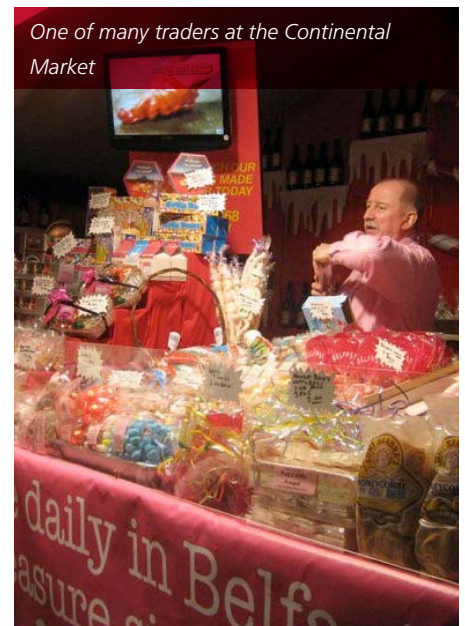
Around Belfast

Belfast Christmas markets are back

Belfast, one of Europe's biggest tourist destinations, has welcomed back its wonderful Christmas Continental market. The fabulous City Hall gardens are transformed into a bustling alpine village providing a great shop around Europe opportunity in the heart of this famous City Centre. The Belfast Continental Market also guarantees a real Irish welcome for all its visitors.



Belfast City Hall at Christmas



One of many traders at the Continental Market

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