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## International Agents' Newsletter

April 2011

**INTO** <sup>®</sup> QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**



WE ARE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST  
*We are exceptional*



## International Scholarships Available

Queen's University Belfast is pleased to announce the availability of central scholarships for current international applicants holding an unconditional or conditional offer for a full-time postgraduate taught Masters course starting in September 2011.

The scholarships to the value of £1,500, £2,000 or £3,000 are payable towards course tuition fees. They will be awarded to selected applicants on the basis of academic merit, Queen's regional priorities, and the course applied for. Preference for an award of £2,000 or £3,000 will be given to applicants intending to study courses at Band 2 or Band 3 tuition fee level.

### QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Queen's University Belfast is a member of the Russell Group of the UK's 20 leading research institutions, along with Oxford, Cambridge, and LSE. The University offers quality courses

that are recognised globally. Nineteen subjects are ranked in the top 20 in the UK.

### CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD

- To apply for a scholarship you must hold an unconditional or conditional offer for a full-time postgraduate taught course starting in September 2011.
- You must intend to enrol for your course in September 2011. Scholarships cannot be deferred.
- You must be regarded as an overseas student for fees purposes.
- You must be self-funding.
- You must satisfy the academic merit criteria for the award of a scholarship.
- A scholarship may not be held in conjunction with another Queen's University tuition fee reduction or scholarship.

### HOW TO APPLY

If you hold a conditional or unconditional offer for a postgraduate taught Masters course at Queen's, please download and complete a Scholarship Application Form.

**The closing date is 31 May 2011.**

The scholarships are not open to students progressing to Queen's through partnership arrangements as a separate follow-on scholarship will be available for these students.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/agents/InternationalScholarships>

## 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 £1,500 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*.

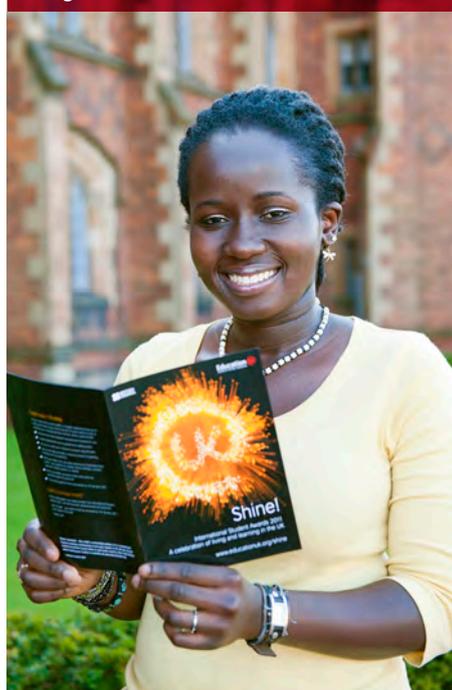
For further information visit the School website at: [www.qub.ac.uk/eeecs](http://www.qub.ac.uk/eeecs)

For more information on scholarships visit:

<http://intohigher.com/universities/uk/queens-university-belfast/qub-scholarships.aspx>



Margaret Nimoh



## Margaret shines as Northern Ireland's International Student of the Year

A Ghanaian student at Queen's, who describes Belfast as her 'second home', has been named Northern Ireland's International Student of the Year.

Margaret Mary Nimoh, who is studying for a PhD in Chemical Engineering, is now preparing to challenge for the title of overall Shine! International Student of the Year 2011 at the national final in London this month.

She was one of more than 1,200 students from 118 countries to enter the ninth annual Shine! International Student Awards – a major initiative from the British Council that shines the spotlight on international students and their contributions to life in the UK.

What makes the Shine! awards different is that they aren't about academic achievements – they recognise students' activities outside the classroom and help to inspire others by sharing their stories of their exciting new lives in the UK. Entrants were asked to write 'letters home' in English, describing their experiences, the challenges they have faced, and what they have achieved. In her letter, Margaret highlighted how coming to Queen's has helped to develop her leadership skills.

She said: "Some students came together to form Queen's International Students' Society (QISS) and I was the founding chairperson. I have really learnt a lot from this. Apart from meeting students from all over the world, my leadership skills have also been really developed."

Margaret, who also carries out voluntary work for the Ulster Cancer Foundation and visits local schools as a Queen's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) ambassador, said she is having the time of her life in Belfast.

"Moving away from home was a very difficult decision for me. I had to leave my mum, siblings, boyfriend and my dog behind, but I am very glad I came to Queen's.

"My research is fascinating but also very challenging. I am based in Queen's University's world-leading Ionic Liquid Laboratories (QUILL), where the Director, Professor Ken Seddon, and researcher, Dr John Holbrey, were recently named the

top two UK chemists in the world. It is a real honour to work alongside them.

"The facilities at Queen's are amazing, and the McClay Library is one of my favourite places. The local people are very welcoming. They are always curious to know where I am from and they'll always go an extra mile to help me find my way around. Belfast is definitely my second home!"

Congratulating Margaret, Cathy McEachern from Queen's International Office said:

"Margaret personifies all that is best in our international students, who do so much to enrich the University experience for all of us, and we wish her the best of luck in the national final."

Queen's has an excellent record in the Shine! competition. Last year, American student Jordan Junge emerged as the Northern Ireland winner; while in 2007, Chinese student Yu Huai Zhang won the UK International Student of the Year title.

This year, Queen's students took the first two places in the Northern Ireland competition, with Kacie Smith from the United States taking the runner-up spot behind Margaret.

For more information about the Shine! awards, please see:

[www.educationuk.org/shine](http://www.educationuk.org/shine)

## INTO Queen's Scholarships



Five scholarships for Foundation and five for Graduate Diplomas are available up to the value of £11,490.

In addition, we are offering up to £1,500 for international Diploma courses, which are INTO Queen's only scholarships.

Here are the specific links for the Joint Venture scholarships:

### Five Graduate Diploma Scholarships:

<http://intohigher.com/universities/united-kingdom/queens-university-belfast/scholarship-graduate-diplomas.aspx>

### Five International Foundation Scholarships:

<http://intohigher.com/universities/united-kingdom/queens-university-belfast/qub-foundation-scholarship.aspx>

## Queen's expert advises Australian business leaders on economy

A leading academic from Queen's University – the UK's Entrepreneurial University of the Year in 2009 – is advising business leaders and government officials in Australia on the country's economic future.

Professor Richard Harrison, Director of Queen's University Management School, has been providing advice on a range of issues, including business development, corporate entrepreneurship and economic transformation.

Professor Harrison, who returns from Australia this weekend, also delivered the first Entrepreneurship Australian Oration organised by the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia and the Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Community at Deakin University.

In his keynote speech, entitled "Corporate Entrepreneurship and Australia's Economic Future", he addressed the critical issue of the need for more corporate entrepreneurship.

"The creation of a sustainable globally competitive economy requires a quantum shift in the performance of the corporate world. If firms and economies are to prosper, they need to become more entrepreneurial.

"This is underlined by research at Queen's which shows that corporate entrepreneurship programmes are key to building competitive sustainable and growing businesses in both the large corporate and small and family business sectors.

"I have been advising Australian businesses that the need for corporate entrepreneurship is greater than ever to meet the challenges and exploit the opportunities provided by the new economic world order."

Professor Harrison is a leading international authority on business angel finance and early stage venture capital and has worked with government departments and agencies in the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Finland, the European Union and Canada.

As Director of Queen's University Management School, he has overseen a doubling in the size of the School. He is also leading a £15m initiative to develop the new integrated Postgraduate and Executive Education Centre for Northern Ireland at Riddel Hall, which will open later this year.



## Riddel Hall: Executive Education Centre

Queen's University is investing £15m in a new state-of-the-art management school.

Work commenced on the site of Riddel Hall at Stranmillis Road last month with the first occupants due to move into the flagship building in July 2011.

As well as the sizeable investment, the expansion of the Queen's University Management School (QUMS) will also create 15 new academic posts.

Queen's University Management School, which is rated as one of the top 20 management schools in the UK, will offer a new postgraduate education centre to provide high quality learning facilities for students and a new leadership institute that will focus on executive education.

Professor Richard Harrison, Director of the School, said: "This will provide a unique dedicated graduate school facility in the

setting of an iconic building that will significantly enhance the ability of QUMS to attract top-quality students from Northern Ireland, and by offering both top-rated facilities and relevant market-attuned degree programmes to attract back Northern Ireland students who have pursued their degree programmes elsewhere. For more information please check out the video on the Queen's University Management School website: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/QueensUniversityManagementSchool/AboutUs>

Read more: <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/business-news/qub-invests-pound15m-in-management-school-14833713.html#ixzz1lwSRiHaR>

## NI businesses to benefit from new China initiatives at Queen's

Queen's will be launching its China Management Research Institute, which will fast-track business opportunities in China for companies in Northern Ireland.

The new Institute, based at Queen's University Management School, will encourage local entrepreneurs to look towards China as a potential source of new trading partners and markets.

It will also further strengthen the links between Queen's and China, by working with a range of Chinese educational, business and government organisations to forge new academic and research connections.

Professor Richard Harrison, Director of Queen's University Management School, said: "China is an increasingly important economy on the world stage and is emerging as a major research and education centre.

"The new Institute will lead research into Chinese management and business practices, which will enable Queen's Management School to offer enhanced knowledge and expertise for the benefit of industry and commerce in both Northern Ireland and China.

"In particular, it will provide insights for managers in both countries, which will help to underpin enhanced trade and business development links.

"It is the latest in a series of international initiatives within Queen's University Management School, which offers our students the chance to experience different and highly dynamic business cultures."

The new Institute will be announced following the launch at Queen's of the fourth China UK Entrepreneurship Competition, which will also strengthen the School's existing partnerships with universities and government bodies in China.

The contest aims to encourage new business ventures between China and the UK, and replicates the process of entrepreneurs securing start-up funds from early stage investors and venture capital firms. There are two streams to the competition: one for



*Professor Richard Harrison, Director of Queen's University Management School*

students in the UK and China and one for businesses in both countries. Both promote business ideas that use internal resources or markets.

The competition is a joint venture between Queen's University Belfast, Lancaster University, University College London and the University of York, and is supported by the Chinese Government.

Keynote speakers at the launch events will include representatives of the China-Britain Business Council, the British Council, Invest NI, and Queen's partner universities in the China-UK Entrepreneurship Competition.



*Dr Bhaskar Sen Gupta pictured with the Vice-Chancellor and the Times Higher Award*

## 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, 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 commented: "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. "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.



## Queen's students win Asidua Scholarship

Four Queen's students have been awarded an IT and Engineering scholarship by Belfast based global IT services company Asidua.

During a recent award ceremony held at Asidua's head office in Belfast, the worldwide IT and telecoms specialists announced that their 2010/2011 Scholarship Programme were awarded to four Queen's students – Emma Davidson, Victoria Potts, Alan Foster and Christopher Kane.

Now in its third year, the Asidua Scholarship Programme, which was launched in co-operation with both Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster, aims to attract fresh talent into the IT sector by supporting new IT and Engineering students financially during their academic studies and professional careers.

The winners were formally welcomed to Asidua by Chief Operations Officer Angela Canavan and 2008/2009 Asidua scholarship winner Sean Carlin.

Sean Carlin, who is currently on his placement year, outlined the benefits of the Asidua scholarship programme to the gathered guests: "The Asidua Scholarship Programme has allowed me to experience a real working environment and has given me a great opportunity to develop my skills and gain valuable experience."

In congratulating the Queen's scholarship winners, Dr Lillian Greenwood, Director of Education in the School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Queen's said: "I wish to thank Asidua for offering students such prestigious and lucrative scholarships and we are delighted

that four of our students have been selected this year. The scholarships offer the students an unrivalled opportunity to gain invaluable experience throughout their degree, with what is a very progressive and forward-thinking IT company. "More than 900 universities in four continents are part of Santander Universities. The network is Santander's commitment to Higher Education and thanks to this scheme the bank funds scholarships, grants, awards, entrepreneurial activities and special projects. Santander has committed £500m to support Higher Education in the next five years.

Luis Juste, Director Santander Universities UK said: "Santander is proud of its strong relationship with Queen's, and this scholarship scheme is another excellent example of how universities and businesses can work together to promote innovation in higher education."

For more information about Spanish and Portuguese Studies at Queen's, visit: [www.qub.ac.uk/spanish-portuguese](http://www.qub.ac.uk/spanish-portuguese)



### STUDENT PROFILE

## Fernando Tovar

**From:** Mexico

**INTO course:** International Foundation Science, Engineering, Computing and Mathematics

**Proposed degree:** BSc Computer Science

**Anticipated graduation:** 2014

### Why did you decide to come study at the INTO Queen's centre in Belfast?

Firstly, because it's not a very big city, which really appealed to me. I wanted to study in the UK and was looking for somewhere a little slower-paced so I could focus on my studies. I think the fact that it's a smaller city; makes it a perfect learning environment.

As well as the location, Queen's University Belfast offers the degree that I wanted to study; BSc in Computer Games Development.

Other universities offer similar undergraduate degrees, but the course at Queen's is designed from a more technical approach and is exactly what I wanted.

The Foundation Science course I'm doing now at INTO Queen's will help prepare me for my degree at Queen's.

### What was your journey like from Mexico to the UK?

I flew from Mexico to London Heathrow then took a quick flight over to Belfast, which lasted under an hour. When I arrived in Belfast there was a Queen's student waiting for me. She was wearing a red INTO Queen's t-shirt and had a board with my name written on it so it was easy to spot her. She was very friendly and welcoming. She brought me to my taxi and we made our way to the Elms Village student accommodation at Queen's. When I arrived at the student accommodation she brought me to the reception and helped me check in which was a great help.

It was nice to relax and catch up on some sleep when I got into my room.

### What do you think about your International Foundation programme in the Science pathway?

My Foundation Science course requires a lot of concentration. I study Physics, Maths and Chemistry. As part of my Foundation I also study English for academic purposes.

I like my English classes as we learn skills like essay-writing and seminar skills which are good preparation for university. In addition to learning my specific pathway subjects, I will be prepared for taking notes during lectures, writing essays, etc.

### What are the facilities like at INTO Queen's and the student accommodation?

I like the Queen's online system as it means I can access my files from any computer. Our lecturers put up the presentations of topics we are going to cover in class on the Queen's online system so we can read what we will be learning in advance of our lesson.

I love the facilities at the student accommodation; it's a really nice place and makes you feel safe. There's a laundry room in the student centre and the Treehouse bar is a good place to hang out. I met some local Queen's students here who have become good friends with now.

My bedroom has an en suite bathroom and I share the kitchen with other students on the floor I stay on. I love the shared kitchen, as it was good for making friends when I first arrived here, I met a guy called Yasir from Pakistan and lots of other international students.

I use Skype to talk with my parents and friends back home. If you're friendly with people here they will be friendly with you and that helps avoid homesickness.



## INTO Queen's

In January 2011, INTO Queen's Belfast welcomed 63 new students bringing the total student number in the centre to 150 students from over 22 countries. The students have settled into life in Belfast and have participated in a number of different social events.

To follow some of the INTO Queen's student blogs please check out: [www.intohigher.com/queens](http://www.intohigher.com/queens) and you will see their photos along with updates on Life in Belfast.

Ratna Julia Sahlan from Indonesia is studying the Graduate Diploma in Management, she hopes to progress on to a Masters in Business at Queen's University. To hear more about her life as a student at INTO Queen's have a read at her blog which can be found at: <http://ratna-julia.blogspot.com>



## Belfast 'punching above its weight'

Belfast is the UK's second most attractive city for foreign investors, according to the UK Trade and Investment Department.

Over the past five years, Northern Ireland has attracted more than 220 inward investment projects, which have generated nearly 21,500 local jobs.

Jobs creation body Invest NI has played a key role in offering financial incentives totalling millions of pounds.

UK Trade and Investment Minister Lord Green is visiting Northern Ireland this week to meet investors Bombardier and Citigroup, which between them employ 6,400 people.

A spokesman for the department said: "Northern Ireland punches above its weight in terms of attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). In the last three years, it has won 7% of the UK's FDI, with only 2.8% of the population, and Belfast has been named as the second most attractive UK city for attracting FDI."

Over the past 20 years, Bombardier has invested more than £1.4bn in Northern Ireland operations, which has provided high value-added jobs and developed capabilities in key aerospace technologies.

Bombardier's investment of more than £500m enables it to develop and produce the advanced composite wings for the new CSeries aircraft – the largest ever single inward investment in Northern Ireland.

Citigroup has established and consolidated its presence in Belfast over the past six years. It has developed into one of a small number of centres of excellence for its Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) operations.

Managing director Brian McAreavey said: "Belfast is an ideal location for our EMEA operations, due to the talent pool and availability of skills, time zone, quality infrastructure and competitive operating costs."

Lord Green is also meeting business leaders and Belfast Harbour Commission to learn about developments in the renewable energy market.

For more information, visit: <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/belfast-punching-above-weight-15069206.html#ixzz1GebvAwj>

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