



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

Queen's University Belfast Social Charter Newsletter

MAY 2020. VOL 2

Welcome to the second edition of the Queen's University Belfast Social Charter Newsletter. In this volume: the University continues to play its part in the COVID-19 response; our researchers publish post-Brexit recommendations; students join the frontline in healthcare provision; University staff efforts recognised with awards; and during Mental Health week, the University tackles Mental Health in the Workplace.

Queen's launches free software development opportunity for workers affected by COVID-19

Queen's University Belfast has launched a free online part-time Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) in Software Development, to upskill and retrain individuals in programming, testing and computing foundations.

The Department for the Economy will be funding 100 places on the course, offering meaningful upskilling for those who have either been Furloughed or lost their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also increase the supply of skills in an area of strategic economic need.

Those completing the course will be awarded a PgCert in Software Development or alternatively can progress directly into Year 2 of the part-time MSc in Software Development at the University, working towards completion of their Master's in September 2021.



Research with Impact:

Queen's academics publish recommendations for Northern Ireland post-Brexit

Experts from Queen's have produced 80 recommendations as to what measures can be taken in order to ensure that Northern Ireland's interests can be protected and heard in the new post-Brexit landscape.

The recommendations are from a final report, *Anticipating and Meeting New Multilevel Governance Challenges in Northern Ireland*, co-authored by Dr Katy Hayward, Professor David Phinnemore and Dr Milena Komarova from Queen's University Belfast and published today (19 May 2020) by The UK in a Changing Europe.

"Even after the end of the transition period, as the UK government chooses to diverge and 'go its own way', Northern Ireland will have to continue to align with rules of the EU's single market and customs union. This raises a wide range of challenges for Northern Ireland that need to be – and can be – addressed with appropriate sensitivity and flexibility from both the UK and the EU."

Professor David Phinnemore, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, Queen's University

Education with Social Purpose:

Social Work students at Queen's qualify early to join the frontline

Final year Social Work students from Queen's have qualified early so they can enter the workforce and join the frontline during the coronavirus pandemic.

It is not compulsory for the students to qualify early, however 103 final year Social Work students from the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work at Queen's opted to fast-track their studies in order to support social work service delivery, and health and social care services more widely during the pandemic.



Breaking Boundaries to Produce New Knowledge: Local Universities and AWARE tackle mental health in the workplace

Researchers from Queen's and Ulster University, in collaboration with AWARE, have developed an innovative pilot project to explore the link between mental health training and improvements in wellbeing in the workplace.

People in Northern Ireland experience 20-25 per cent higher levels of mental health illness when compared to the rest of the UK, and around one in five adults are reported to have a diagnosable mental health condition at any given time.

"The COVID-19 outbreak has caused huge upheaval to working life and underscores the importance of ensuring workers are skilled at recognising signs of strain in themselves and in colleagues, which is what the iAmAWARE programme sets out to achieve."

Dr John Moriarty, Lecturer from Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation (CESI) and the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work at Queen's University

Academic receives funding for study on the psychological health and wellbeing of ex-service families

An academic from Queen's University Belfast has been awarded £306,956 of funding to conduct a UK-wide study examining the psychosocial determinants of psychological health and wellbeing for UK military veteran families.

Professor Chérie Armour, Director of the Stress, Trauma and Related Conditions (STARC) research lab, at Queen's University is leading on the project, which was commissioned by Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT).

The project will identify the psychological health and wellbeing needs of families of ex-service personnel across the UK.

"We are delighted to receive this award and take forward this important piece of research. Families are key to the health and wellbeing of military veteran populations as they provide that first line of support. We understand that being a family member of a veteran can at times come with challenges."

Professor Chérie Armour, Director of the Stress, Trauma and Related Conditions (STARC) research lab, Queen's University

Equality and Excellence:

Success for Queen's Schools in latest round of Athena SWAN awards

Five Queen's University Schools have been successful in the latest round of Athena SWAN awards which recognise commitment shown by Universities and their individual Schools and Departments to advancing gender equality.

Queen's currently holds an institutional-level Silver Award and the latest round brings the University's departmental awards to two Gold, seven Silver and six Bronze.

"Queen's is committed to the values of equality and fairness that Athena SWAN awards represent – seeing five of our Schools achieve recognition for their work in this arena is fantastic. As an institution, we are proud of what has been achieved in the advancement of gender equality in higher education".

Professor Adrienne Scullion, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University

Civic Culture and Intercultural Dialogue:

Conflict and Change: A Conversation with Rory Montgomery and Jonathan Powell

A joint initiative between Queen's University Belfast and the Trinity Long Room Hub chaired by Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub with a conversation facilitated by Richard English, Professor of Politics and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Internationalization and Engagement at QUB.

Take this opportunity to listen back as Prof English leads the conversation exploring how states respond to crisis, challenges and change.



Sustainability:

Queen's academic receives funding to enhance farmed chicken welfare research

Academics from Queen's University have been awarded \$310,738 for research towards intelligent welfare monitoring of chickens farmed for their meat.

Professor Niamh O'Connell, from the Institute for Global Food Security (IGFS) at Queen's University Belfast, is one of six recipients funded in Phase 1 of the SMART Broiler programme. She will work jointly on this project with world-leading experts in video analytic techniques, based at the Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology (ECIT) at Queen's.

"Using vision-based technologies to monitor animal behaviour offers enormous opportunities to the agri-food sector. Working with Moy Park, this project will trial the technology with poultry, and will help us better understand how the birds engage with their environment and each other."

Professor Niamh O'Connell, Institute for Global Food Security at Queen's University

Recognising and Rewarding Contributions from Staff and Students: Queen's Professor among leading biomedical and health scientists elected to Academy Fellowship

Queen's Pro Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences, Professor Stuart Elborn, is among 50 of the UK's most prominent biomedical and health scientists elected to The Academy of Medical Sciences' prestigious Fellowship.

The new Fellows were chosen for their exceptional contributions to advancing biomedical science via world-leading research discoveries, running national science communication and engagement programmes and translating scientific advances into benefits for patients and the public.

