



QUEEN'S
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Queen's University Belfast Social Charter Newsletter

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Welcome to the first edition of the Queen's University Belfast Social Charter Newsletter. This newsletter will provide updates on current and emergent research and activity happening at Queen's. In this edition, we introduce the University's Social Charter, and demonstrate how its principles and themes help shape and inform how we do our business.

Queen's University Belfast Social Charter

Queen's University's Social Charter shines a light on the significant contribution made by our students and staff and the positive impact we have on our society. The Charter reaffirms our commitment to engaging with society and celebrates the many ways our students and staff contribute to our place.

Within the University's Corporate Plan, the Social Charter provides the platform for demonstrating the innovation, discovery and creativity of our staff and students and the regional, national and global impact of their work.

The Social Charter principles are realised by the way we promote: **research with impact; education with social purpose; breaking boundaries to produce new knowledge; equality and excellence; civic culture and intercultural dialogue; sustainability; and by recognising and rewarding contributions from students and staff.**



QUEEN'S
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SOCIAL
CHARTER

We are committed to providing leadership locally and globally.

We are committed to promoting a positive impact on society through our research and education.

We are committed to equality and social justice.

Research with Impact: **New study to identify highest risk factors for COVID-19**

Scientists are calling on the public to sign up to a new study which will help identify who is most at risk of contracting COVID-19 and why some people become more ill than others with the disease. Public health scientists at Queen's University Belfast are collaborating with colleagues from Queen Mary University of London, King's College London, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, the University of Edinburgh and Swansea University on the COVIDENCE UK study.

"This study represents a tremendous opportunity for the public to help researchers to discover better ways to defeat the COVID virus and people from Northern Ireland can play a vital role in that effort."

Professor Frank Kee, Director at the Centre for Public Health, Queen's University Belfast

Education with Social Purpose: **Virtual celebration to mark momentous day for Queen's new medical graduands**

For the first time, over two hundred medical students at Queen's University recited the Sponsio Academica virtually, as they embarked on their careers early in order to aid the health service during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Breaking Boundaries to Produce New Knowledge: **Researchers at Queen's are at the heart of supporting global efforts to understand the Coronavirus (COVID-19).**

As we advance our knowledge of the global challenges presented by COVID-19, Queen's has established a dedicated webpage on how the University is leading new research projects to address COVID-19, supporting local, national and international efforts to expand our knowledge of the pandemic and deploying this enhanced intelligence to develop solutions that will benefit our society here in Northern Ireland, across the UK and globally.

Equality and Excellence: **Postdoctoral Development Centre of MHLS faculty launches online career development programme for University women**

UNique is an online career development programme for early career researchers who identify as women. It covers everything from potential career paths, personality profiling, job applications, time management, saying no, to setting goals and more. The first webinar of five took place on 1 May 2020, through EJW Solutions the training provider.

Civic Culture and Intercultural Dialogue: **Social Charter Podcast Page launched**

'The Charter', the University's Social Charter podcast series has recently launched and features interviews with students and staff who are making a positive and significant impact on society. It explores some of the projects making a great contribution to our communities here at home and farther afield including Shared Education, CITYZEN and CASE, The Belfast Climate Commission and PCAN and Social Enterprises at home and abroad.

'The Charter' series is produced and hosted by Dr. Maurice Macartney of Queen's University's Public Engagement Office.



Sustainability:

Queen's University research highlights impact of plastic pollution on marine life

Researchers at Queen's University have discovered new ways to convert single-use plastic waste into products such as storage tanks for water and fuel, and sporting goods such as kayaks and canoes, which could help to solve global environmental problems.

"With these findings of effects on animal behaviour, the microplastic pollution crisis is therefore threatening biodiversity more than is currently recognised so it is vital that we act now to tackle this issue before it becomes too late"

Dr Gareth Arnott, lead researcher from the School of Biological Sciences at Queen's University

Recognising and Rewarding Contributions from Staff and Students:

Queen's academic elected Fellow of the Royal Society 2020

Professor Stephen Smartt from the School of Mathematics and Physics, at Queen's University Belfast has received the highest recognition of scientific endeavour in the UK, being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) 2020. Recognised internationally, it is a major national honour and one of the highest scientific achievements in the UK, Ireland and the Commonwealth. Fellows are selected for their outstanding contributions to scientific understanding.

