



Queen's University Belfast Social Charter Newsletter

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Welcome to this edition of the Queen's University Belfast Social Charter Newsletter. In this volume: Queen's leading collaboration to improve outcomes for cancer patients; CSIT profiled in Government Roadmap; Planetary Core Discovered; Language Vital to Economic Recovery; Free upskilling opportunity; Summer School moves online; Public Colab2020 - Climate Stories from the Future; and Recognising our COVID-19 contribution.

Queen's part of £7 million consortium to improve outcomes for patients with early stage cancer


The Precision Medicine Centre of Excellence (PMC) at Queen's is leading a ground-breaking collaboration with the world's largest biotech company Roche, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) specialist, Sonrai Analytics.

The ACTIONED consortium aims to transform the future treatment of colorectal cancer patients across the world. It will bring together a number of specialists to drive a holistic analysis of tissue and plasma samples using state-of-the-art genomics and digital pathology methodologies in an integrated precision medicine laboratory. The collaboration will aim to develop bespoke algorithms across a spectrum of genomics and image analyses to improve the predictive value of these technologies by generating integrated reports.

Colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK and the second biggest cancer killer.

“Developing integrated diagnostic tools for early detection of recurrence could help preventing patients from receiving unnecessary toxic chemotherapy and improve their quality of life, while saving precious resources in our healthcare systems to be invested in further improving early detection.”

*Professor David Gonzalez de Castro, Co-Director of the PMC and Chair of Genomic Medicine,
Queen's University Belfast*



Research with Impact:

Queen's Centre for Secure Information Technologies profiled in newly published government roadmap

The Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) at Queen's University is being used by the UK Government as a case study on how investment in research, development and innovation can deliver economic impact to the surrounding area and beyond.

The UK Research and Development Roadmap, which has just been published by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), highlights CSIT within the Levelling up Research and Development section.

CSIT aims to couple major research breakthroughs in the field of secure information technologies, with a unique model of innovation to drive economic and societal impact, and achieves this through world-class research, new value and venture creation and entrepreneurial approach in the area of cyber security.

"The UK Research and Development policy paper is of national significance as it will help to drive government spending priorities on research and development in the coming years. CSIT has been used as an exemplar of how strategic investments in place based research and innovation activities can have a positive impact to both the regional and national economy."

David Crozier, Head of Strategic Partnerships & Engagement at CSIT

Education with Social Purpose:

Huge interest in online Social Sciences Summer School

Queen's University Belfast has moved its ever popular annual Summer School online, ensuring Year 12 and 13 students interested in studying social sciences at University don't miss out on the opportunity to learn more about important topics such as families, religion, crime and deviance, social inequality, ethnic diversity, politics, and more!

Students will have the opportunity to interact with staff and current students, to get a taste of studying social sciences at university. The Summer School has run for several years now and this year with the Covid-19 restrictions, it has moved online, so that this year's students do not miss out.

The Summer School is hosted by the QUB Q-Step Centre, a teaching hub to promote the quantitative social sciences, with funding from the Nuffield Foundation.

If you, or someone you know, wishes to find out more, please **CLICK HERE**

Breaking Boundaries to Produce New Knowledge: First exposed planetary core discovered allows glimpse inside other worlds

An academic from Queen's University is part of a team who has discovered the surviving core of a gas giant orbiting a distant star, offering an unprecedented glimpse into the interior of a planet.

Chris Watson, senior lecturer in low-mass stars and exoplanets at the School of Mathematics and Physics at Queen's, worked with an international team of astronomers led by the University of Warwick on the discovery.

The core, which is the same size as Neptune in our own solar system, is believed to be a gas giant that was either stripped of its gaseous atmosphere or that failed to form one in its early life.

Civic Culture and Intercultural Dialogue: Language learning vital to pandemic recovery

A coalition of partners has forward to Government a strategy to boost language learning across the UK's four jurisdictions, which has fallen in recent years.

The coalition, including the British Academy, the British Council, Universities UK, and the Association of School and College Leaders believe this strategy is essential to the economic and social strength of the UK as it emerges from COVID-19.

The economic cost of the UK's linguistic underperformance, in terms of lost trade and investment has been estimated at 3.5 per cent of GDP. Languages are vital for fostering effective international cooperation and commercial links, as well as for improving educational performance, cognitive function and skills, opportunity, intercultural understanding, and social cohesion.

'Towards a National Languages Strategy: Education and Skills' is the first UK-wide languages initiative in a generation, and consists of short and medium-term actions for schools, colleges, universities, employers and others.

"Language skills are crucial for economic growth, for building global partnerships and for our cultural life at home. Education is pivotal in achieving the changes that are urgently needed. Grounded in a strong research base, 'Towards a National Languages Strategy: Education and Skills' offers a set of strategic yet realistic proposals that are tailored to the different educational contexts across the UK."

Proposal Researcher, Professor Janice Carruthers,
Professor of French Linguistics at the School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen's University



Equality and Excellence:

Queen's launches free upskilling opportunity in Operations and Supply Chain Management

Queen's University Belfast has launched a free online part-time Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) in Operations and Supply Chain Management, to upskill and retrain individuals directly affected by COVID-19.

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 pandemic. It will also increase the supply of skills in an area of strategic economic need.

The fully-funded certificate will focus on developing an understanding of the processes and techniques for developing operations strategy and managing operations and supply chain activities across a wide range of industries. The course is open to applicants resident in Northern Ireland. It is not open to applicants from outside Northern Ireland. Applications will close at **2pm on Friday 24 July 2020**.

For more information **CLICK HERE**

Sustainability:

"Public Colab 2020": Climate change stories from the future that hit home today

Public CoLab is a collaborative research laboratory that leverages the power of architectural design research to investigate complex issues of public concern. Each year Public CoLab harnesses the energy, skills and creativity of the BSc stage 1 and the MArch 1 architecture students at Queen's University Belfast to understand a particularly pertinent spatial phenomenon in Northern Ireland.

This year the participants of Public CoLab will explore climate crisis narratives in Belfast based on the facts of science as we know them now. Together, the participating Architecture and Broadcast Production students collectively investigate how climate change has influenced and will influence the development of the built environment in Belfast city and its hinterland.

Public CoLab 2020 has shared the outputs of a five-day design research workshop where architecture and broadcast production students, from Queen's University, explored the spatial consequences of the ecological crisis in Belfast. The event was curated by Nuala Flood and Don Duncan with input from Belfast's Resilience Office, Climate Northern Ireland, Sustainable Northern Ireland, the Northern Irish Human Rights Commission, Lucy McCarthy and Qiyao Han.

Recognising and Rewarding Contributions from Staff and Students: Medical students volunteering their skills

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on our Health and Social Care workforce throughout the UK and Ireland.

Recognising this, Senior Medical students from Queen's University have been assisting clinical staff with the care of patients on the wards and in the community COVID-19 centres across Northern Ireland as part of a joint initiative with the Health and Social Care Trusts.

A total of 120 medical students have been undertaking these voluntary roles in a part time capacity, with duties including taking blood samples, performing electrocardiogram (ECG) tests and helping to complete the various tasks to allow timely and effective discharge of patients.



Queen's University students and staff are helping us fight back against #COVID19. Together we have already achieved all this.

Our Response to COVID-19



10,000

PPE face shields produced



70 teams

in the university working on COVID-19 research



686

healthcare students joined workforce early



£28,000

raised so far in COVID-19 rapid response innovation fund



200

students volunteering



6,000

door openers manufactured