



Queen's University Belfast Social Charter Newsletter

JULY 2020. VOL 7

Welcome to this edition of the Queen's University Belfast Social Charter Newsletter. In this volume: Queen's Student of the Year 2020; COVID-19 research continues; Fully Funded Masters in Nursing; Developments in Colorectal Cancer research; Prisons Memory Archive online event; Rob Saunders Sports Scholarship 2020; COVID-19 and Food podcast discusses link between Covid-19 mortality and obesity; Queen's academics admitted to the British Academy; and exciting Graduation News.

'Humbling and Inspiring' – Queen's Student of the Year 2020

For the first time in its 22-year history, the 2019-20 AIB NI Queen's Student of the Year Award is to be presented to a group of over 700 students from a range of faculties, schools and departments across the University.

The Award goes to frontline final year and graduating students in the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (MHLS) and in the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work (SSESW), in the Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences.

The students in these cohorts are acknowledged for selflessly stepping forward to aid the fight against COVID-19 in the community in various locations throughout Northern Ireland.

The annual Student of the Year Award, is presented by the Queen's Graduates' Association (QGA) with generous support from AIB NI, and recognises exceptional individuals for excellence, achievement or service either to the University or to the wider community.

"As a University, we've had to be extremely flexible and agile as we deal with the many issues arising from the challenging circumstances and no-one has been more flexible and agile than those who have completed their studies early, to join the NHS workforce. Your selflessness and willingness in joining the frontline has been both humbling and inspiring."

Professor Ian Greer, President and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University Belfast



Research with Impact:

Queen's awarded grant to research bacterial co-infections in COVID-19

A research team from Queen's has been awarded a £500,000 UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Rapid Response Fund grant to investigate the role of bacterial co-infections in COVID-19, and drug repurposing for the treatment of the disease.

The grant is one of only 5 projects supported in the UK by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBRSC) and will last eighteen months.

The anticipated findings of the research will help to better manage severe COVID-19 patients and identify those at risk of complications due to the presence of bacterial co-infections. In addition, the research team will leverage their unique knowledge to test the antiviral efficacy of FDA-approved drugs in the co-infection interface. These drugs will be considered in clinical trials as new treatments for COVID-19.

"There is an urgent need to develop new therapeutics to treat COVID -19 targeting the virus/bacteria co-infection scenario. It is critical that bacterial co-infections should not be underestimated and instead be part of the plan to limit the global burden of morbidity and mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond."

José Bengoechea, Professor of Molecular Microbiology and Director of Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine (WWIEM) at Queen's University Belfast

Education with Social Purpose: Fully Funded Masters in Nursing

Commencing in September 2020, The School of Nursing and Midwifery has launched an innovative new pre-registration graduate entry masters in professional nursing, aimed at existing graduates from other disciplines who want to move into a career in nursing.

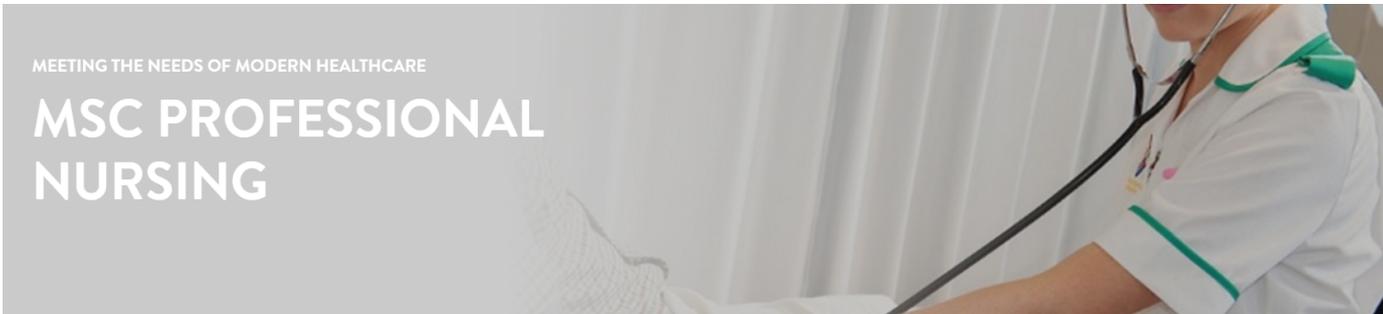
The Department of Health has commissioned 50 places on the masters which means if you are a citizen of Northern Ireland or the EU, your fees will be paid for and you will also receive a bursary.

The professional nursing masters programme provides graduates with a fast-track to an exceptional nursing career. Focussing on interdisciplinary learning throughout the two year course, students will have an enriched experience and help prepare for the reality of professional practice. Learning will take place in our state-of-the-art clinical skills and simulation suite with practice placements in a range of settings including hospital wards and within the community.

Applications close on 7th August 2020, click on the image below to apply.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF MODERN HEALTHCARE

**MSC PROFESSIONAL
NURSING**



Breaking Boundaries to Produce New Knowledge: New research finds the 'Guardian of the Genome' gene can prevent cell death in colorectal cancer

Research led by Queen's University has found a new way through which the p53 gene, also known as the 'Guardian of the Genome', the most frequently mutated gene in cancer, can prevent cell death in colorectal cancer.

Following this new discovery, the research team have identified new treatments that may improve the effectiveness of chemotherapy given to patients to treat colorectal cancer.

The tumour suppressor gene p53 normally tells cells to stop growing or die in response to cancer-causing stresses, such as DNA damaging UV light from the sun. However, how and why the ~50 percent of colorectal cancers in which p53 is not mutated suppress its ability to induce cell death remains poorly understood, until now.

The research has been published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academics of Science (PNAS) and was jointly led by Principal Investigators, Dr Simon McDade and Professor Daniel Longley's Research Groups from The Patrick G Johnson Centre for Cancer Research at Queen's.

Civic Culture and Intercultural Dialogue: Queen's University celebrates the Prisons Memory Archive project

Queen's celebrated the achievements of the Prisons Memory Archive (PMA) project at a special online event which featured reflections from a range of people involved in the project over its lifespan and an exclusive preview of the new PMA website.

The PMA collection will be housed and preserved at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland's (PRONI) digital repository. Over the coming months, the complete collection of recordings will be made available so the public can access 300 hours of audiovisual footage and associated material.

The project is an inclusive collection of filmed walk-and-talk recordings with those who had a connection with Armagh Gaol and Maze and Long Kesh during the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. The collection features first-hand accounts of major historical events, as well as stories of everyday life in the prisons with more than 150 recordings made at the prison sites in 2006 and 2007.

"Given the political and psychic sensitivities of addressing the legacy of the past, we are privileged to have so many people trust us and our methods in order to share their memories with us. We are very grateful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for funding this project, and to the PRONI for partnering with us and making possible public access to the archive."

Professor Cahal McLaughlin from Queen's and Director of the PMA



Equality and Excellence: Rob Saunders Sports Scholarship 2020

Are you, or someone you know, a passionate sports person applying to Queen's University Belfast for entry 2020? If so then the Rob Saunders Sports Scholarship may be for you...

Thanks to the generosity of Queen's alumnus and former Irish international rugby player, Rob Saunders, we are delighted to offer this unique opportunity for undergraduate students from lower income households (under £25,000) to apply for a complete package of financial support for the whole of their time at Queen's.

Rob Saunders graduated from Queen's University Belfast with a degree in Politics in 1990. A hugely successful school and university rugby player, he went on to captain the Ireland team in 1991 as one of its youngest ever captains, winning 12 caps between 1991 and 1994.



Sustainability: Covid-19 and Food podcast - Episode 3

In this recent podcast, Professor Chris Elliott OBE, the founder of the Institute for Global Food Security (IGFS) at Queen's University Belfast, shares his expertise on global food systems, food fraud, food standards and food quality - including the link between Covid-19 mortality and obesity - post-Covid and post-Brexit.

The COVID-19 and Food podcast is a new series from IGFS, exploring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the food landscape.



Recognising and Rewarding Contributions from Staff and Students: Queen's academics admitted to the British Academy

Two leading academics from Queen's have been admitted to the British Academy.

Isabel Torres, Professor of Spanish Golden Age Literature from the School of Arts, English and Languages, and Kieran McEvoy, Professor of Law and Transitional Justice from the School of Law at Queen's, are two of 86 distinguished academics admitted to the British Academy in recognition of their outstanding contribution to research in the humanities and social sciences.

Professor Isabel Torres has an international reputation in Spanish Renaissance ('Golden Age') Literary and Cultural Studies; her major contribution has been in the field of Renaissance and Baroque poetics. In 2016, she was elected to the Royal Spanish Academy – one of Spain's highest accolades – in recognition of her outstanding scholarly contribution to Spanish literature.

Professor Kieran McEvoy is a leading figure internationally on societies transitioning from conflict, most notably on issues such as dealing with the past, human-rights protections and reparations. He is the recipient of awards from the Economic and Social Research Council, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the British Academy and the Leverhulme Trust.

Read about some of our inspiring students as they graduate from Queen's University this summer



- **Inspirational young mum of four graduates despite losing husband to cancer**
- **First Class Honours student graduates to pursue career researching treatments for children's cancer**
- **International student Hadeel fulfils dream of completing PhD at Queen's**
- **Queen's student overcomes three years of illness to graduate**
- **Brave Queen's student graduation tribute to both parents who died during her studies**
- **Morven graduates from Queen's with First Class Honours in memory of her dad**