

Autumn 2012

University of Birmingham sees impressive league table rise

The University of Birmingham has been shortlisted as 'University of the Year' in *The Sunday Times University Guide 2013* and ranked 13th overall in the UK, a rise of 12 places.

The University was particularly recognised for its impressive graduate employment, with 86.5% of its students in graduate level work within six months of graduating, higher than both Oxford (80.8%) and Durham (84.5). In addition, the University's student satisfaction score in the 2012 National Student Survey increased by 3% overall to 88%, placing it significantly above the national average.

Alastair McCall, Editor of *The Sunday Times University Guide*, said: 'Our league table rewards those universities which have placed great focus on providing top-quality teaching,

with prompt and useful feedback on students' work and assessment.

'With most institutions now charging £9,000 a year for tuition, students have every right to expect this as a given. If a university provides a great student experience, can offer good graduate job prospects, plus a strong track record for degree completion and outcomes, good rankings and students will follow.'

The Sunday Times University Guide 2013 provides students and their parents with an invaluable first reference point on the path-leading colleges of higher education. The league table is drawn up from criteria including student satisfaction, teaching and research quality, entrance qualifications held by new students, degree results achieved, student/staff ratios, graduate unemployment levels and university dropout rates.

What is KIS?

Launched in September, Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of information about full- or part-time undergraduate courses and are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students. All KIS information will be published on the Unistats website and can also be accessed via the small advert, or 'widget' on display on all university course pages. On the Unistats website students will be able to compare all the KIS data for each course with data for other courses.

The development of KIS forms part of HEFCE's work to enhance the information that is available about higher education. It will give you access to robust, reliable and comparable information in order to help your students make informed decisions about what and where to study.

The KIS contains information that prospective students have identified as useful, such as student satisfaction, graduate outcomes, learning and teaching activities, assessment methods, tuition fees and student finance, accommodation and professional accreditation. To see the KIS information please visit www.unistats.co.uk

Policy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

From September 2013 Birmingham will be offering a new degree in Policy, Politics and Economics. This programme specialises in the study of cutting-edge, real-world issues in a way that crosses the boundaries of traditional disciplines as a means of better understanding the realities of our 21st-century world. Students who study on our PPE programme will be provided with a highly stimulating educational experience, studying in state-of-the-art, high-tech teaching and learning environments with support from academics whose work is internationally recognised.

To learn more about this programme, visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/social-policy/policy-politics-economics.aspx



Student Recruitment Services

If you would like to book one of our higher education experts to come and visit your school during the 2012-2013 academic year, we recommend you get in contact soon. Our team travel the country visiting schools, presenting on a wide range

of topics covering all aspects of higher education. Our services are in high demand with over 200 school visits taking place in the last academic year – therefore booking early is highly advised.

For more information about our services or if you would like to book, please contact Clair Abbey 0121 414 2242/c.abbey@bham.ac.uk

Student satisfaction soars at Birmingham

In the 2012 National Student Survey, Birmingham significantly improved its performance in all 22 questions and achieved the highest scores the University has ever achieved in 19 out of 22 questions. We were also ranked ninth out of the 24 Russell Group universities.

Against the 'Overall Satisfaction' question, we achieved a score of 88%, which is 3% higher than the sector average, and 3% higher than our score last year. Our overall score on 'teaching' places us joint fourth within the Russell Group, surpassed only by Exeter, Cambridge and Oxford. The accompanying free text comments from our students commend the enthusiasm, commitment, and inspiring nature of their teaching.

The National Student Survey (NSS) is a survey of all final-year undergraduate students at the University. The survey assesses students' opinions of the quality of their degree programmes. Further information about the survey and how it is compiled can be found at the NSS website. We have clear plans and an unwavering ambition to be an exceptional university in which to study, and with enhancements planned for 2013 we are committed to improving the quality of our student experience even further.

To view the NSS results please visit www.thestudentsurvey.com

Third for sport in the UK

Congratulations to all of our athletes throughout the 2011–2012 season, who enabled University of Birmingham Sport (UBSport) to finish third overall in the British University and Colleges Sport (BUCS) rankings. Consistently ranked in the top three in BUCS, this season saw some exceptional performances by UBSport teams and individuals. UBSport have BUCS champions in cross country, cycling, modern biathlon, triathlon and athletics.



Opening of the Bramall Music Building

This summer saw the official opening of our new Bramall Music Building, completing the historic Aston Webb semi-circle. The building provides our outstanding Department of Music with a permanent home at the heart of the University, with a 450-seat auditorium and state-of-the-art teaching, research, performance and rehearsal facilities appropriate to its reputation. This £16 million facility benefits everyone involved in the University's music making, as well as being open for use by our regional communities.



Careers advisors' and teachers' conferences 2013

The University of Birmingham arranges several teachers' and careers advisors' conferences each year. In 2013, we will be running conferences in London and Manchester in collaboration with The University of Nottingham.

Our conferences allow teachers and careers advisors who provide higher education advice and guidance to get up-to-date information on issues in higher education from experts at two of the Midlands' largest universities. The programme includes admission updates from both universities and workshops on competitive subjects such as medicine and law.

The dates for the 2013 conferences are:

- ❑ Northern Conference, Manchester – Thursday 28 February
- ❑ Careers Advisors and Teachers Conference, London – Wednesday 15 May

The University of Birmingham also organises its own biennial Careers and Admissions Conference at our Edgbaston campus. In 2013 this will take place on Wednesday 3 July.

For further information about any of these conferences please contact Kathryn Barnett
Tel: 0121 414 7168
Email: k.e.barnett@bham.ac.uk

College of Arts and Law: Sixth Form Study Afternoons 2012–13

The College of Arts and Law are pleased to announce some Sixth Form Study Afternoon dates for English and History during 2012–13.

These sessions are suitable for both years 12 and 13 so why not bring your students to come and study with us on campus for an afternoon?

- ❑ **Renaissance, Reformation and Rebellion: Politics, Religion and Society in the 16th and 17th Centuries**
History Sixth Form Study Afternoon
Wednesday 28 November 2012
- ❑ **Power and Gender Using the Texts: Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*; Churchill, *Top Girls*; and Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale***
English Sixth Form Study Afternoon
Wednesday 5 December 2012
- ❑ **Shakespeare's *King Lear***
The Department of English
Wednesday 27 February 2013

These study afternoons typically consist of three or four 30-minute talks by individual members of the academic staff, with a concluding 30-minute question-and-answer session. There will also be a 30-minute interval during which students can talk to academics and students about studying related subjects at university.

The price is £5 per pupil, with no charge for teachers. Each school may bring a maximum of 40 pupils and five teachers to each session.

For further information about any of these sessions, or to find out how to book onto them, please contact Dr Lisa Alberici, Student Experience Manager, at l.a.alberici@bham.ac.uk