



U21: Discover

Issue 35, April 2016

www.universitas21.com

Annual U21:Review to be published online in April



U21:Review 2014/15



The U21 annual newsletter, ***U21:Review*** will be live online to view, download and share in April.

The yearly review covers all events and goings-on in the network during the period of November 2014 to October 2015. Highlights include an introduction and overview from the Chair of the U21 network, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, Professor Sir David Eastwood as well as a review of the year from *Universitas 21* Executive Director Eva Wiberg.

Professionally printed copies will be made available during the upcoming AGM taking place at the National University of Singapore as well as during forthcoming events from across the Educational Innovation, Researcher Engagement and Student Experience clusters.

Keep an eye on the U21 website for more!

From the Secretariat

With preparations in full swing for May's Annual Network Meeting and Presidential Symposium at the National University of Singapore, the office coffee pot has rarely remained full for long. Likewise ever-creative ways of sourcing said coffee short of growing it ourselves has (so far...) staved off a looming inflation of the monthly office tea fund, which has just about seen us through to the lighter evenings of a Birmingham in bloom.

As winter closes out and the last dregs of cloudy skies dissipate, the prospect of yet still warmer climbs come May is tantalising, with Noreen Tan's words: "It's always sunny in Singapore" still pleasantly ringing around my ears.

This turning of the seasons brings with it a packed U21 schedule with cluster events (...and registration forms aplenty) filling the coming Spring months.

The RE cluster are readying for their annual Research Leaders and DDoGS meeting in Maryland. Meanwhile the Student Experience cluster also head stateside for the Student Leaders meeting at UConn and Mobility meeting in Denver.

It's safe to say the Secretariat has a bit of a spring in its step - let's hope it's not just from the coffee!

*Ben Griffiths
U21 Administration Manager*



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NETWORK NEWS

Birmingham and Melbourne launch global collaboration

The University of Birmingham and the University of Melbourne have signed an expansive new agreement to formally collaborate on research, education, and cultural engagement.

The partnership will strengthen the existing collaboration between the universities, with the centrepiece being a joint PhD programme co-funded by both institutions giving up to 20 'Priestley Scholars' in engineering the opportunity to study alongside world-leading academics in Birmingham and Melbourne.

The A\$4 million 'Priestley PhD Fellowships' programme reflects the unique, 20-year relationship between the universities, which have a shared history in Sir Raymond Priestley, the British geologist and Antarctic explorer who was Vice-Chancellor of both institutions.

Working together across shared areas of priority research including energy storage, biomechanics, artificial intelligence and robotics will lead to high-quality research with global impact, and provide exciting research opportunities for PhD students.

Beyond the Fellowships, the agreement also provides for a A\$200,000 collaborative fund to encourage closer working between academics in each university and increase exchanges between the UK and Australia.

And staff at both institutions will collaborate across a range of cultural areas drawing upon each institution's unique special collections, including an extension of the successful U21 Birmingham-Melbourne International Museums and Collections exchange programme.

University of Birmingham Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood and University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis signed the partnership agreement at a special ceremony held at Melbourne's Parkville campus.

Sir David said: "Signing our strategic partnership heralds an exciting new era of close collaboration that will lead to high-quality research with global impact as well as exciting education initiatives for students.

"Our universities are founding members of *Universitas 21* - the leading global network of research-intensive universities. We are natural partners with a shared history through Sir Raymond Priestley, who was Vice-Chancellor of both institutions, and I am delighted that we have taken this significant step towards further strengthening our successful relationship."

Professor Davis said: "This is a significant change in our relationship with Birmingham, and an extremely positive one at that. At Melbourne we have made it a priority to establish deep partnerships with leading universities around the world that would provide for excellent research collaboration and student mobility opportunities, and that is why today's announcement is a welcome one."



"This partnership will build strongly off a multi-faceted relationship that already exists with Birmingham, and we're thrilled that the Priestley Fellowships will bring our two institutions together even more closely than before."

The two universities have been collaborating since 1996 and there is considerable work between individual academics; at last count, the universities had academic co-authors on approximately 500 research papers since 2010. The institutions already run joint PhDs in medicine and life sciences.

The agreement allows for the continuation of teaching of an International Public Management subject, co-designed by academics at Birmingham and the Melbourne School of Government, with a potential expansion to include a joint research workshop.

Melbourne and Birmingham already work closely with the University of Delhi to deliver an intensive MA module in India. This explores international security with reference to South Asian topics and challenges. It draws staff and students from all three universities.

A cultural engagement strand to the partnership will expand the successful International Museums and Collections exchange programme for Birmingham and Melbourne students, and will support collaboration that draws upon each institution's unique cultural assets.

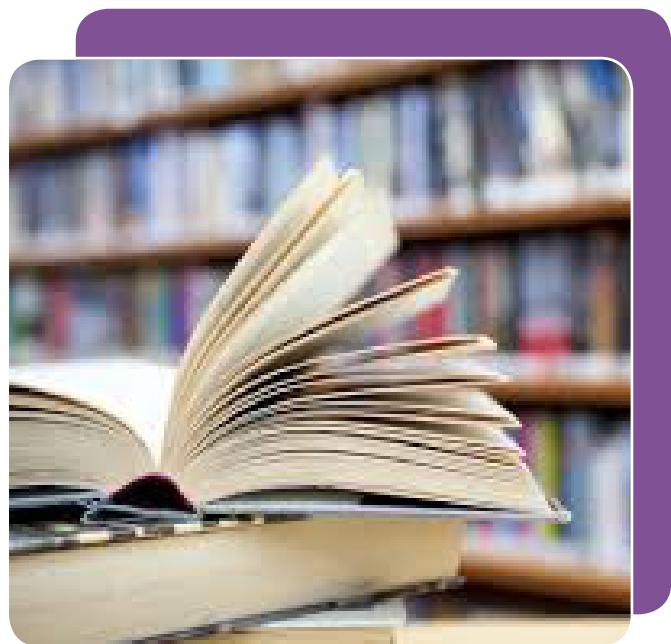
Over the next two years, the proposed staff mobility fund will allow academic staff from both institutions to visit counterparts and collaborators at the other, further building the institutional relationship between the two universities and leading to new projects and initiatives. Both universities remain committed to exploring enhanced mobility and study programmes for students.

David Scott
The University of Melbourne



NETWORK NEWS

U21 Librarians to hold inaugural Summit and Library Pioneer Conference



The 1st U21 Librarian Group Summit and University Library Pioneer Conference on 3 - 5 July, 2016, co-organised by Shanghai Jiao Tong University Library.

In order to throw light on the developing trends of university libraries and foster mutual communication among librarians all over the world, the U21 Librarian Group is pleased to invite you to the 1st U21 Librarian Group Summit and University Library Pioneer Conference on July 3-5, 2016, co-organised by Shanghai Jiao Tong University Library.

The theme of the Conference is "Academic Libraries: Going Global, Going Open". The latest practices and developments in academic libraries will be shared, and cutting-edge issues and topics will be discussed in the conference. Domestic and overseas directors and research librarians from academic libraries are welcome to the conference.

Shanghai Jiao Tong University will also be celebrating its 120th anniversary and welcomes U21 members to Shanghai to share in the celebrations.

Discussion Topic Include:

Open Access
Data Management
Institutional Repository
Scholarly Communication & Publishing

Speakers include; Ms. Ingrid Parent, University Librarian, The University of British Columbia, and Mr. Xiaolin Zhang, Former director National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Mr. John Willinsky, Professor Graduate School of Education, Stanford University and Mr. Philip Kent, University Librarian, Melbourne University as well as Ms. Antonia Yiu, Associate Librarian, The University of Hong Kong.

Registration opened on March 7 2016 - to register your interest in the event please follow the link below and complete the process:

www.universitas21.com/link/LibSummit16

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NETWORK NEWS

International Museums and Collections Award



The International Museums and Collections (IMaC) Award was established in 2010 as a pilot exchange programme between the universities of Melbourne and Birmingham and offers students the unique opportunity to engage with the museums and cultural collections of the partner institution. The Award enables recipients to advance their professional skills in the museums sector while discovering the arts and culture of the host city. Eleven students have benefitted from a fully funded, month-long placement working on collection management projects with art, archival, library, scientific and medical collections. Further, through these assignments, the students have been able to develop international networks with curators, conservators, librarians, archivists, collections staff, academics and peers. It is the distinctive multidisciplinary nature of the Award that has made it so keenly sought by students from diverse backgrounds.

Two recent recipients of the IMaC Award had very different study pathways and motivations for applying, and yet both were greatly enriched by their placement experience. Earlier this year Kim Goldsmith (pictured), the 2015 IMaC Award recipient from Melbourne, spent an inspiring month with the University of Birmingham's museums and collections. Kim, undertaking a Masters in Cultural Materials Conservation, and a practising artist and teacher, worked on multiple projects during her placement based with Birmingham's Research and Collections Unit. Her projects included exhibition design, object interpretation, paper conservation, attendance at workshops and contribution to a disaster plan and a children's art trail. Four months earlier, the Cultural Collections Unit at the University of Melbourne hosted Katherine Grayson, a Birmingham student with a background

in English Literature. Katherine saw the Award as the ideal way to acquire vocational experiences in the heritage sector, be introduced to collection management practices and gain an understanding of possible museum-related career paths. This was in contrast to Kim, who with previous experiences in arts practice, teaching and conservation regarded the Award as a way to advance and apply her existing skills and to find her niche.

While Kim and Katherine's motivations for participating in the exchange differed, on completion of their respective placements they were unanimous in how beneficial it had been. In addition to the development of professional skills, a common theme of their experience (also acknowledged by previous 'alumni' of the Award), was how the placement had been instrumental in increasing confidence in their abilities and belief they had something valuable to contribute. Kim recently reflected: "I gained new skills in conservation during this award, as well as confidence in my own judgement and expertise. I liked the fact that all of the professionals I worked with during the award had trust in my judgement, as this in turn made me feel that I do have valuable skills and knowledge that are applicable to work within archives, galleries or museums."

There is now a move to extend this award opportunity to include other U21 institutions that would like to be involved in this unique and valuable initiative. Last year as well as selecting a student to travel to Melbourne, Birmingham trialled sending an additional recipient to Lund University and will again this year be offering the placement to Lund. It is anticipated that in coming years the IMaC Award will be extended to include further universities in the network. For the students and institutions who participate in this unique Award opportunity it continues to provide global experiences that have enduring and significant outcomes.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of your institution becoming involved with the IMaC Award please contact Helen Arnoldi, Cultural Collections Projects Coordinator, at Melbourne or Clare Mullett, University Curator, Head of Research and Collections at Birmingham.

The International Museums and Collections Award is generously supported by the University Library and Melbourne Global Mobility at the University of Melbourne, and the College of Arts and Law and the International Office at the University of Birmingham.

Helen Arnoldi
*Cultural Collections Projects Coordinator,
University of Melbourne*



EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

EI: Cluster Introduction



The U21 Education Innovation (EI) Cluster plays an important role in working with network members to explore other complex, interconnected factors which dictate the parameters within which universities design and deliver their

teaching. These include pressures from national higher education performance and quality assurance metrics, the considerable influence of global university rankings, the value placed on pedagogic scholarship and the ever-present debate around the most effective balance to be achieved between teaching and research. In recent years, the EI Cluster has also recognised the need to develop effective and sustainable approaches to learning and teaching in a time of fast-paced digital change.

We look forward to advancing the network's EI agenda by further developing initiatives that harness the possibilities of online and blended learning and the research-intensive character of our member universities and by providing opportunities to reflect on and advance

our shared strategic goals in the area of educational innovation and teaching excellence.

Recognising that educational innovation is a significant focus of many of our member institutions, the U21 Educational Innovation cluster strives to identify best practice and to share learning with the broader U21 network. We look forward to working with all U21 members in 2016 to ensure that the development of contemporary and effective approaches to world-class student learning remains one of hallmarks of Universitas 21.

For additional information about the work of the cluster, please contact me at lavinia.winegar-gott@universitas21.com.

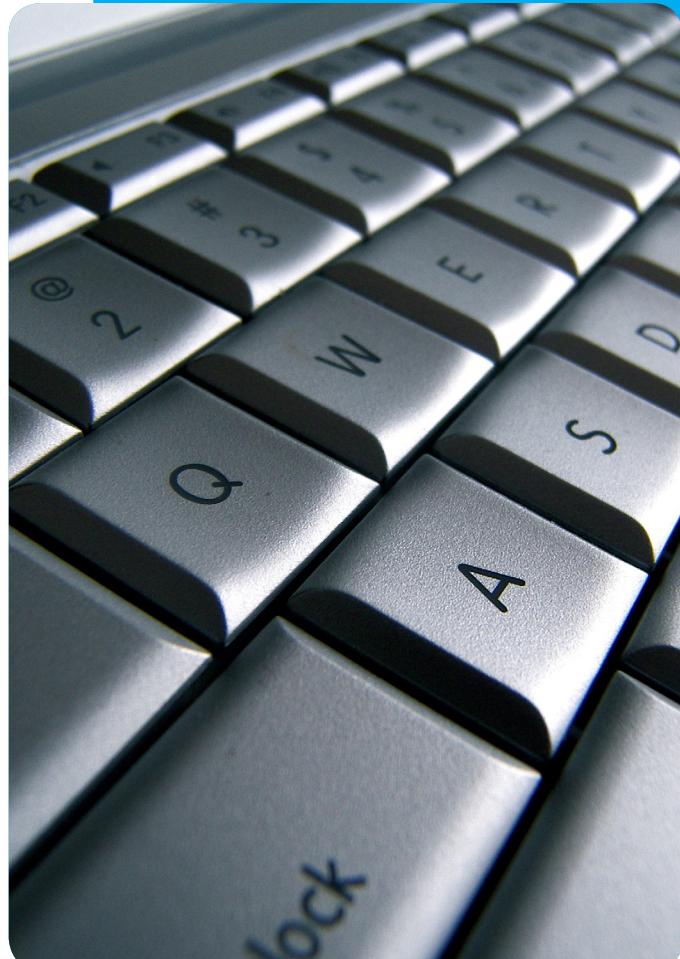
Lavinia Winegar-Gott

U21 Shared Online Course (U21 SOC)

A new U21 Shared Online Course (U21 SOC) is in preparation and will be run its first iteration in November 2016, with two other U21 iterations scheduled for 2017. The course will run over 5 weeks and will be pitched at a first year undergraduate level, but it will also have the capability of being embedded in larger modules by U21 partners, and there is also an interest by some U21 partners in using it as a CPD offering in areas such as architectural technology.

The course is being developed by a team at UCD's College of Social Science and Law, led by Dr Niamh Moore, School of Geography. Using a working title of 'Future Societies' the course will help students understand that where individuals make their home has a powerful and significant impact on their health, education, occupation and overall quality of life.

The core questions addressed during the U21 SOC will be: what challenges does planetary urbanisation present to the lives of those in different geographical settings and how can cities be made more liveable for future generation? Through stimulating taught materials and innovative assessment this course will encourage students to appreciate the impact of planetary urbanisation on different social, physical and economic aspects of the city in which they live and/or study and at a broader international level. U21 students will be encouraged to share their learning experiences actively online with other students across the world, and to appreciate how planetary urbanisation influences their own area of study and the shape of their future careers.



EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

Developing a Conceptual Framework for Teaching in U21 Institutions

Over the last twelve months, the U21 Education Innovation Steering Group (U21 EISG) has developed a proposed conceptual framework for teaching, to assist in the development of a better range of indicators, metrics and standards for reviewing and recognising teaching in research intensive universities.

To ensure that this framework is appropriate for the further development of such indicators, metrics and standards, we are conducting a survey of individual within the U21 network who are in formal positions of management responsibility in relation to teaching staff such as DVCs, PVCs, Deans, Heads of Schools, Programme Directors, Course Coordinators along with current practitioners including course convenors, teaching award recipients, lecturers, tutors, and demonstrators. The aim is to determine whether the proposed framework has face validity and is fit for the purposes for which it is intended.

We are looking for institutions who may already be reviewing their approach to recognising, rewarding, and/or developing teaching or those who may be planning on doing so in the future. We believe the outcomes of this research will not only be useful for the purposes of developing the stated conceptual framework for teaching and its associated indicators, metrics and standards, but that the outcomes will provide a valuable resource for those institutional managers leading such processes.

If you would like more information about this research please contact Professor Stephen Marshall at stephen_marshall@unsw.edu.au.



U21 EI Teaching Practices Survey (TPS)

A project is being undertaken by the U21 Educational Innovation Cluster and led by Professor Simon Bates of UBC. The original survey was developed at UBC and will be customised the original survey to reflect local terminology and organisational structure for U21 institutions that opt-in to delivering it, to support ethics review board processes within U21 institutions and to undertake a full analysis of response datasets, both in aggregate and by participating institution. Institutional data and analysis will be shared back with U21 contacts. Responses will shed light on:

- What practices are faculty using in their teaching, and in what combinations and proportions?
- What are their attitudes towards teaching and learning?
- What are their views on the institutional climate and culture around teaching and learning?

U21 Educational Innovation Conference

Mark your diaries now for the annual U21 Educational Innovation Conference, which will take place 26-28 October 2016.

This year's conference will be hosted by the University of Birmingham and will focus on a number of issues around teaching excellence, especially what teaching excellence means in research-intensive universities. Further details about the full programme will be available later this month, so watch this space!



RE: Cluster Introduction

I joined U21 as the Researcher Engagement Manager at the beginning of December 2015 and after a quiet few weeks leading up to Christmas, which allowed me to familiarise myself with the network and introduce myself to some key contacts, 2016 has been non-stop. While there are no activities to report on in this edition of Discover, plans are being made for a variety of events across the year which will be reported on in future editions of Discover. The first of these events are the RE Cluster meetings and DDoGS pre-meeting workshop which are outlined in the following pages. These meetings are taking place at the University of Maryland on 2-4 May and I'm looking forward to my first U21 trip, which will also be my first visit to Washington DC (I'm told its very pretty in May!). This will be closely followed by the U21 AGM in Singapore where myself and the RE Cluster Chair Prof Les Field will be updating the Presidents and Managers on RE Cluster activities over the last year and plans going forward.

Other activities being planned include the Early Career Researchers workshop taking place at the University of Edinburgh on 29-30 September. This year's theme is 'Big Data at the heart of 21st century research' and delegate selection processes are taking place at members as you read. I've been told via several members that the workshop is proving very popular and, to be honest, I'm not surprised. Big Data has the power to transform research across many fields, spanning both STEM and social sciences, and is therefore highly relevant to the next generation of researcher leaders currently at the early stages of their career. Those selected to attend are sure to find the workshop extremely beneficial and will hopefully use the experience to further their career in Big Data research. The Researcher Collaboration Group will hold their annual face-to-face meeting at UNSW Australia on 8-9 September. This meeting is aligned to the INORMS conference in Melbourne the following week, ensuring maximum value for those travelling long distances. Also, a number of members of the RCG have submitted proposals to run sessions at the INORMS meeting which, if accepted, will share best practice on administering international research collaborations and increase the awareness of U21. Planning for the annual U21 3MT competition is also starting to get underway. The final is due to take place in October with local heats already starting to take place across the network. The 3MT is a great idea as it instils the importance of getting your message across in simple terms in a short space of time, a skill that all researchers should have and which we will be looking to address in other RE Cluster activities in the future.



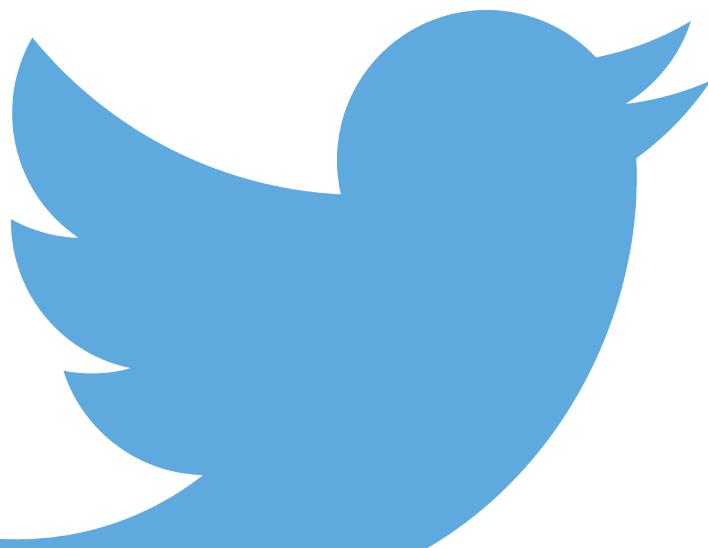
In between all the planning, there are also two projects I'm currently working on. The first is a review of the RE Cluster activities. It's always good to get a fresh perspective, and as I'm new to the network it seemed like a good idea for me to take a look at the Cluster's Programmatic Plan for 2013-2018. I'll be focussing on what is working well and if there are areas where we can add further value, with the outcome reported on in future editions of Discover. The second project I'm working on involves ways to simplify setting up Joint PhDs with a view to increasing the number of doctoral students who study across two partners of the network. This is easier said than done as each country has a different set of rules for what is required of a PhD, and each university interprets these in their own way too.

There's no room left for me to introduce myself; however you can find out more about me in this edition's back page interview. I look forward to working with you all and welcome any ideas you have to increase researcher engagement across the network, together I'm sure we can build on the solid foundations that have been set so far.

Dr Christina Mellor

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RESEARCHER ENGAGEMENT

RE Cluster Meeting

Plans are well underway for the RE Cluster meeting which is taking place at the University of Maryland on 3-4 May. The Research Leaders and the Dean and Directors of Graduate Studies (DDoGS) will have parallel meetings following an initial joint meeting at which the U21 Executive Director Eva Wiberg will outline plans for thematic working across the network. 'Future Societies' has been proposed as the overarching theme and Eva will present her plans, including updates from pilot thematic workshops, and gather thoughts and feedback from the RE Cluster.

The Research Leaders will discuss a variety of topics related to the strategic management of research in academia, including communicating the value of research to the public and how to get the best out of researchers across all stages of their career. This year there will also be a focus on research collaborations with a number of invited speakers. Distinguished University Professor Ben Shneiderman from UMD will present on his new book 'The new ABCs of Research: Achieving Breakthrough Collaborations'. The book is meant as a guide to junior researchers and a manifesto for senior researchers and policy makers, challenging widely-held beliefs about how applied innovations evolve and how basic breakthroughs are made. It has been well received by senior academics and influential industry and government stakeholders so we expect plenty of questions and discussion following the presentation. Representatives from the International Offices of the NSF and NIH have also been invited to discuss initiatives for increasing international research collaboration.

The DDoGS have a very packed agenda for their meeting. There will be a session on Student – Supervisor relationships which will follow on from topics discussed in their pre-meeting workshop on Research Supervisor Support Development held in Shanghai last year. Mental health and counselling services for graduate students are becoming more widespread across our members and this session will also include sharing of policies and discussion of best practice. Other sessions will look at employability and what is distinctive about a U21 doctorate. Discussions will focus on ensuring that across U21 we are giving our graduate students all the support and training required to enter the labour market post PhD, particularly for the increasing numbers who will not continue in academia. The DDoGS will also spend some time developing a new activity to replace the Graduate Research Conference. Plans for the new activity will be reported on in the next edition of Discover.

Christina Mellor

Doctoral Mobility Workshop

Prior to the RE Cluster meeting in Shanghai last year, the DDoGS held a very successful pre-meeting workshop whereby they spent a full day focussing on one topic: Research Supervisor Support Development. The DDoGS felt that this workshop added much value to their annual face-to-face meetings and decided to make it an annual event. This year, the DDoGS pre-meeting workshop will focus on Doctoral Mobility. The RE Cluster meetings are taking place at the University of Maryland and the local host Professor Chuck Caramello is putting plans together for this workshop, which takes place on Monday 2 May. Chuck has used his Washington connections to invite Suzanne Ortega, President of the US Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) to participate in the workshop. Suzanne will join the discussions on doctoral mobility and look at ways in which the Global Affairs Unit of the CGS could work with U21 in the future.

The morning session will look at what opportunities are offered via doctoral mobility, such as new research skills, cultural awareness and an increased academic network, and also the challenges and obstacles faced, be they national or international and what the differences are compared to undergraduate mobility.

In the afternoon session, examples of best practice will be shared and concrete plans will be made to take activity forward in this area. We will hear from UMD faculty and about their experiences of doctoral mobility and get the view from both sides (student and supervisor) on what works well and not so well. We will also look at what U21 can do to encourage more doctoral mobility across the network and share best practice on the monitoring of this activity as in some members this goes on largely unchecked.

Christina Mellor



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

SE: Cluster Introduction



We welcomed this New Year with two new members to our steering group. The student experience is a broad area and Dr David Garza, who is Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at Tecnológico de Monterrey, brings to the group his expertise in curriculum integration and educational models. Daniel Rattigan joined as the new Student Leaders' group representative; he is the Education Officer at Students' Union of The University of Nottingham. We also recognise the continued work of our committed members: Professor Frank Coton (Glasgow), Katherine Beaumont (Melbourne), Fiona Docherty (UNSW Australia), Julie Duck (Queensland), Liang Gou (SJTU), Eluned Jones (Birmingham), Brendan Mosely (Auckland) and Anouk Tso (Amsterdam).

In these past few months we have been busy finalising details for our 2016 activities. We are very pleased that the Global Ingenuity Challenge is underway with teams from 15 members. Nomination dates approach for the U21 Summer School, Undergraduate Research Conference and U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps. We expect these to be as successful as in the past. We also continue work in the Quality Standards for Student Mobility and Short Term Mobility projects; which will be some of the many areas of focus for the U21 Student Mobility meeting this May.

As activity for 2016 is taking shape we keep our eyes on the future. We conducted a survey aiming to gather further information on U21 members' institutional priorities related to student experience. The results of the survey provide evidence for the continued support of work in relation to student mobility. This includes networking opportunities and shared projects with student mobility staff, U21 branded short term mobility opportunities (such as the long standing U21 Summer School and URC) and sharing of good practices. A focus on employability might be a key to future developments for the SE cluster. Initial steps have been taken in this direction, such as initial proposals for a U21 internship (or similar) scheme and the proposed Careers and Employability group.

As always, I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Ninna Makrinov

Global Ingenuity Challenge underway

The 2016 U21 Global Ingenuity Challenge is shaping up to be even bigger and better than the inaugural event last year. In 2015 there were nine members involved; this year that figure has more than doubled with several institutions putting forward more than one team. As an administrator of the software platform we are using for the competition it is a real privilege to see the names of contributors loading on the dashboard. And perhaps the most striking thing to remark on is the diversity of those names. One might expect a preponderance of, for example, Hispanic names from Monterrey and Chinese names from Shanghai but there are so many names that do not reflect a local demographic. It emphasises the trans-national nature of education today and the fact that students are eager to engage with their fellows right across the world to solve problems. Hopefully, once the competition is over, they will use the experience to build their own international networks. Events like the U21 GIC are the means whereby they, rather than us, can start to make a better future.

Paul Kirkham
**Haydn Green Institute for Innovation
and Entrepreneurship**
The University of Nottingham



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Student Events Update

U21 Summer School

The U21 Summer School will be held between 4 and 18 July by Shanghai Jiao Tong University on the theme “Traditional Chinese Medicine and its Culture”. It will be preceded by an online course open to all U21 students, integrating a virtual element to the programme, which is now live and can be accessed at <http://www.cnmooc.org/portal/course/1389/2407.mooc>

Each U21 member is invited to nominate up to five students and one staff member to the face-to face element of the U21 Summer School. Participation in the online element of the U21 Summer School is open to all students and staff in the network. Nominations close on 10 April 2016. For more information, visit our 2016 U21 Summer School webpage.

Undergraduate Research Conference

The 2016 URC will be hosted between 11 and 16 July at Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Monterrey with the theme “A global perspective on ageing societies”. Tecnológico de Monterrey are pleased to invite all U21 partners to nominate up to three of their best undergraduate students to participate, giving either an oral or a poster presentation on the chosen theme. In addition, all U21 partners are invited to send a member of their faculty or teaching staff to accompany the students and take part in the conference.

The conference programme will include an introduction to presenting materials in a virtual environment. Tecnológico de Monterrey, through its virtual universities, will offer a workshop to participating students and staff, preparing them for a recording of their presentations. This is an exciting opportunity to build on skills and participate from a professional broadcasting environment. Recordings will be available widely to network members, so students who do not have the opportunity to travel can also experience that part of the conference.

Attending students will need to register by 15 May 2016. Students who require a visa prior to entry to Mexico are invited to register by 15 April 2016.

For more information, visit our 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference webpage.



Social Entrepreneur Corps

Students interested in international development will work directly with Social Entrepreneur Corps field professionals and social entrepreneurs in Ecuador to help establish new and grow existing micro-consignment supported businesses. This course has two main components: background on the political and social context in Ecuador, and the integration of Social Entrepreneurship theory and practice. There are pre-trip readings and assignments on Ecuadorian society and Social Entrepreneurship; and the second part of the course is completed in country, and includes weekly news analyses and the development of a business plan.



Students will participate on the virtual element from 30 May to 25 June; followed by a visit to Ecuador from 26 June to 22 July. For more information and nominations, please visit our U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps webpage.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

U21 Quality Standards for Student Mobility Update

The U21 Quality Standards Project, made up of colleagues from seven U21 partners (Glasgow, UBC, UNSW, Melbourne, Maryland, Edinburgh and Nottingham), has begun the task of putting together a set of best practice guidelines for student mobility relevant for leading research institutions. Following a consultation period both within the working group and more widely within the network the following four key themes have been identified:

- Pre-departure support, orientation and reintegration advice.
- In-country support and learning interventions; including health, safety and ethics
- Academic integration: seamlessly fitting an experience into a degree or award, breadth of experience beyond term based exchange, discipline oriented learning interventions.
- Credit transfer and equivalence: guidance on amount and level of credit for U21 institutions.

During the next phase work will begin on drawing up the guidelines. An update on progress, as well as an opportunity to input into the different themes, will be provided during the breakout sessions at the Student Mobility Meeting in Denver at the end of May.

Thomas Ozers
Assistant Head, Go Abroad Office
University of Edinburgh



Short-term Mobility

We have now published a compilation of our members' short-term mobility opportunities at our website. At this stage, the information is presented in a single document to start the process of sharing information across the network and support the expansion of short-term mobility within U21.

Volunteers from 9 members (Glasgow, UConn, Edinburgh, HKU, ITESM, Maryland, Melbourne, UBC and Amsterdam) have started work to Share best practice, commonalities and future directions on STM among U21 members. As well as develop a system for sharing information on STM between U21 members that is structured and fit-for-purpose.



COLLABORATIONS

HSG: Strategic Planning

Professor Eva Wiberg, Executive Director of U21 and the HSG Executive Committee met early this year to discuss the emerging strategic direction of the network entitled 'Future Societies'. While the plan is in early stages the HSG is considering ways that it can lead and engage both health science stakeholders and those from across the network in initiatives that are aligned with this theme and are topical, relevant and impactful.

The first few months of 2016 have been focused on developing strategic plans for key projects within the HSG such as Social Media in Health Education and the HS UN Sustainable Development Goals initiative. Plans are almost finalised and we look forward to announcing exciting new opportunities in the coming months.



U21 HSG Annual Meeting: Birmingham



The 2016 annual HSG meeting is shaping up to be a dynamic and engaging event which will be hosted at the University of Birmingham from 12 - 16 September. The HSG is thrilled to explore the themes of Global Health and Health and Wellbeing. The programme is available on our website and while still under development, we are delighted to share some key highlights. Global Health will be discussed over two days. The first day will focus on Global Wellbeing along with the continuum of the lifespan. We have secured talented speakers such as David Lissauer who will discuss maternal health, Semira Manaseki-Holland on child health, and Janet M Lord on healthy ageing. The second day will investigate social inequalities and health with presenters from the HSG network. The first speaker will be Alastair H Leyland from the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit at the University of Glasgow. The final day will explore Health and Wellbeing, with Anna Phillips leading the discussion.

Our inaugural winners of the Teaching Excellence Award Allison Mandrusiak and Hong Gao will be facilitating an inter-professional workshop. The agendas for vibrant workshops on Social Media in Health Education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals are already underway. Registration will be available through our website at the end of March. We look forward to seeing many of you in Birmingham.

GLP - Nepal

The GLP received an overwhelming interest from HSG students. On April 17th, 13 students from 7 universities and 6 disciplines will commence their four week programme in Nepal alongside colleagues from Kathmandu University.

Three HSG academics and a project officer will collaborate with teachers from Nepal to deliver the course. Students will engage in classroom and community field work where they will complete a community needs assessment and implement a health intervention/education activity. We wish the group great success whilst in Nepal.



Doctoral Student Forum

The HSG is pleased to host the annual Doctoral Student Forum (DSF), an inter-professional and international networking and learning opportunity. The 2016 DSF will be held on 12 September at the University in Birmingham. The theme will be 'Increasing the Global Relevance of my Research'.

The forum will provide an opportunity for students to present aspects of their project in relation to challenges and success they have experienced in situating their research in a broader, global context. The day will include international panel reviewers, master classes, and poster presentations. We will be inviting submissions for abstracts at the end of March.

COLLABORATIONS

2016 U21 HSG Teaching Excellence Award

Among its members, the HSG Teaching Excellence Award facilitates an awareness of achievements of their educators, acknowledging two individuals for their extraordinary accomplishments in this area. The 2016 call for submissions will be launched at the end of March.

The recipients of the 2016 award will be supported to attend the 2017 HSG meeting at the University of Johannesburg where they will facilitate an inter-professional workshop together. We appreciate Professors Bairbre Redmond and Simon Bates from the EI Steering Group for their willingness to assist with the selection of the recipients.

2016 HSG

Summer School

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC) will host the HSG Summer School in July 2016. The theme will be 'early critical windows of preventative interventions'. Students will learn the importance of how preventative interventions in maternal and infant health can fight chronic diseases later in life. Students will be selected by the end of March. This will be a unique opportunity to experience South American winter!

CHANGING FACES



Kelly Jacobs to leave U21

Kelly Jacobs who has been the acting Executive Officer of the HSG will be returning to her role within the Faculty of Medicine in the Undergraduate Program at UBC at the end of April when Caroline Voisine returns from maternity leave. Kelly has greatly appreciated the warm welcome from the network and has enjoyed the opportunity to engage with such inspiring students and academics.

Best wishes to Kelly from across the network for her hard work and dedication over the past year.

Prof. Les Field takes Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor role at UNSW

Previously Les was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and has served as the U21 Research Leader for UNSW, since the Researcher Engagement cluster was formed. He is also a member of the Researcher Engagement (RE) Steering Group, taking on the Chair's role in 2014. Due to his promotion to the role of Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at UNSW Australia, he will be standing down from the RE Steering Group following the RE Cluster's annual meeting, in May.

We wish Les well in his new post and start the process of electing a new Chair for the RE Steering Group



Gravitational waves: making a ripple around the world

The first direct detection of gravitational waves by the two Advanced Ligo interferometers in the US, from the merger of two massive black holes more than a billion light years from Earth, has been a global media phenomenon, with blanket coverage on newspaper front pages, news bulletins and websites worldwide.

As perhaps befits a discovery so important for Einstein's general theory of relativity, the human story of how we discovered gravitational waves also stretches far across both space and time.

It reaches back 100 years to Einstein's pioneering prediction of these tiny ripples in the fabric of the cosmos – which he believed were too elusive ever to be detected – and since then across many decades of perseverance, ingenuity and determination as the huge technological barriers to making such an insanely difficult measurement were overcome one by one.

"our discovery feels like a triumph for Big Science"

And the discovery – and the research that made it possible – spans the globe: the result of a worldwide collaboration featuring thousands of scientists in hundreds of laboratories and institutions based in dozens of countries.



In this sense our discovery feels like a triumph for Big Science: for the vision and commitment of the National Science Foundation and the UK's Science and Technology Facilities Council (among several other national agencies) to invest long term in a project so challenging that many were sure it would never succeed; and for the perseverance of the hundreds of scientists involved who have devoted their entire careers to a quest that many had regarded as an academic dead end.

For an individual UK academic, however, the day-to-day experience of being part of a Big Science collaboration such as Ligo can be strange and disorienting at first. To begin with, there's the problem of managing your diary, and balancing teaching and administrative commitments across the regular working week when so much of your research time involves teleconferences that stretch well into the night. Then there's adjusting to the deluge of emails that awaits

you each morning, from colleagues across the world who keep the balls rolling – and the questions coming – while Glasgow sleeps.

Increasingly, with the research excellence framework and impact agendas ever more important in the UK, there's also the need to strike a balance between the short-term quest for 4* papers, and the collaboration's long timelines for carrying out thorough and painstaking analyses; with the resulting publications authored by many hundreds of scientists. All of this seems in stark contrast to the widely held (albeit somewhat mythological!) perception of Albert Einstein himself, working in quiet isolation as the "lone genius" in his Swiss patent office.

It doesn't take long for the Big Science experience to grow on you, however. Sharing the excitement of discovery with a global scientific "family" – all of whom are passionate, idealistic and supremely dedicated – is endlessly rejuvenating.

The past five months since "detection day" in September 2015 have surely been the most intense of my scientific career, and the past few weeks have taken that intensity to an even higher level as we frantically prepared for our 11 February press conference and the tidal wave of media and public attention that followed

it. And yet throughout these months I have constantly marvelled at the energy and commitment of the Ligo team across the world. No stone was left unturned as the collaboration strove to make our discovery announcement (and the suite of scientific papers that underpin it) as rigorous, comprehensive and clearly communicated as we could possibly make it.

That the global impact of our discovery has been so far-reaching has surprised and delighted us all. And perhaps even more exciting is the fact that this is not the end of the story – it's just the beginning, with many more discoveries ahead as we open an entirely new window on the universe.

Martin Hendry
professor of gravitational astrophysics and cosmology
University of Glasgow

(Credit: Times Higher Education)



FORTHCOMING U21 EVENTS

07 Mar - 18 Mar 2016	Global Ingenuity Challenge: The Challenge of Sustainable Housing	Online / Virtual
02 May 2016	RE Cluster Workshop	University of Maryland, USA
03 May - 04 May 2016	RE Cluster Meetings	University of Maryland, USA
11 May - 13 May 2016	AGM and Annual Presidential Meetings	National University of Singapore
04 Jul - 18 Jul 2016	U21 Summer School: Traditional Chinese Medicine and its Culture	Shanghai Jiao Tong University China
11 Jul - 16 Jul 2016	Undergraduate Research Conference: A global perspective on ageing societies	Tecnológico de Monterrey Mexico
29 Sep - 30 Sep 2016	Early Career Researcher Workshop	University of Edinburgh UK
03 May - 05 May 2017	AGM and Annual Presidential Meeting	University of Nottingham UK

www.universitas21.com/link/agm16



THE BACK PAGE INTERVIEW

Dr. Christina Mellor



What is a typical day in your job as RE Cluster Manager for *Universitas 21*?

I'm still finding my feet here in the U21 Secretariat and therefore every day is different. Ask me again in a few months time!

What are the key challenges you are facing currently?

One of the biggest challenges for me so far has been getting used to what time zone colleagues are on. Prior to taking up the RE Manger's role was working in research development with a focus on EU funding. I was therefore used to working with colleagues who were one hour ahead (occasionally two) but now everyone is in entirely different time zones. The timeanddate.com website is currently my best friend!

What does 'internationalisation' mean to you?

To me internationalisation is about breaking down barriers and enabling

people to work together across the globe. With the advent of web-based communication technology it is now almost as easy to collaborate with colleagues on the other side of the world as it is those just down the road. Setting up these collaborations in the first place is not so easy, and can require face-to-face interaction to share ideas and build trust. That's where U21 comes in - our meetings and activities bring people together in environments designed for knowledge sharing and developing new relationships.

What was your proudest professional moment?

This has to be finding out that the REF Impact Case Studies I worked on for the School of Pharmacy at the University of Nottingham had all been awarded the maximum 4*. We had not expected them all to score so highly and it was recognition of the effort I put in to piece together and evidence each impact story. One particular case study involved a lot of detective work and a touch of good fortune to enable me to figure

out how the original research had been used to develop a new product within a large multinational company, which was completely outside the scope of the original research.

What are your hobbies/how do you switch off from academic life?

I'm a big music fan and particularly like to see my favourite bands perform live. At least once a year you'll find me at a music festival, taking in as many bands as possible! I have been known to combine this with my love of travel and have seen bands play in Spain, Portugal, Norway and Canada.

What or where was your most memorable holiday/business trip/lecture?

I have a map of the world at home with pins in the places I would most like to visit which I'm slowly ticking off. I've travelled to around 30 different countries across 5 continents so it's difficult to pick my most memorable holiday. I suppose the one that sticks in my mind the most has to be my honeymoon. My husband and I visited British Columbia in Canada and combined cities, mountains, beaches and big trees as we toured Vancouver, Whistler, Tofino and Victoria. I would go back again in a heartbeat but there are many more pins in the map...

If you were starting out your career, what might you do differently?

Looking back, the one thing I would have done differently during my career would have been to continue learning a language after I left school. Wherever I travel, I always try to learn a few words or phrases in the local language even if it is just hello and goodbye.

How would you like to be remembered?

As someone who looked at the facts from both sides before making a decision.



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The deadline for receiving articles for the next newsletter is 1st July 2016.

Please send text, photos or ideas to Ben Griffiths (ben.griffiths@universitas21.com).