

### Admissions Update

We are pleased to announce that Jo Hamilton has been recently appointed as the new Head of Admissions, in addition to several new members of staff joining the application processing team in Admissions. Training these new staff has been a priority but we are pleased to report that processing of UCAS applications is nearly up to date and international postgraduate applications are being prioritised.

This year our Undergraduate admissions policy for most subjects is to release offers continuously to International fee payers who match our minimum requirements rather than hold the weakest until after the UCAS deadline. The 'gathered field' approach remains in place, however, for a small number of our most in-demand undergraduate programmes where capacity is limited. As we approach the UCAS 15 January deadline we expect to receive a surge of applications which might result in a short term increase in processing times, however we will still be accepting applications from qualified international students after this date.

We would like to apologise for the delay you may have experienced in processing times for postgraduate decisions. This is an unintended result of opening for applications earlier and a general increase in the number of postgraduate applications we have received compared to the same time last year. We are aware there are outstanding decisions, but reducing the backlog is our top priority and we anticipate that the new members of the admissions team will assist with this running up to Christmas and into the New Year.

### Visa update

The Home Office recently announced some changes to the Immigration Rules which came into effect on 24 November 2016. From this date, any student relying on a qualification obtained in a majority English speaking country as proof of their English language ability will be required to obtain a statement from UKNARIC confirming the level of this qualification to submit with their visa application. There will be a cost attached to getting this statement. The good news, however, is that we have received confirmation from UKVI that we can continue to state on students' CAS that we have made our own assessment of their English language, so that our students will not need to get this statement from UK NARIC. Nationals of majority English speaking countries remain exempt from having to demonstrate English language proficiency.

The new changes also clear up some of the difficulties caused by the changes to academic progression guidance last year. Students adding a year of study as part of an integrated Masters programme (for example, upgrading from a BEng to an MEng) will now be able to remain in the UK and make their visa application, as will students who need to apply for a new visa as they have previously had to repeat a year of their studies. The rules around transfers of programme remain in place however, so any students who want to transfer to a longer programme will be required to return to their home country and make a new visa application before changing to their new course.





## New PGR Funding

The University is committed to world-class research (98% of our research is of international quality REF 2014) and nurturing academic talent. Our [Doctoral College](#) works across all six Academic Colleges and brings together institution-wide support and training for all researchers. As a result the University is an exciting and dynamic environment to pursue a PhD: 30% of academic staff are early career researchers.

The University has created a new scholarship scheme exclusively for international PGR applicants. The **Exeter International Excellence Scholarships for Postgraduate Research** provides 20 fully-funded scholarships (tuition PLUS living stipend) for a PhD in any discipline. Application deadline is **15 January 2017** – [further information can be found here](#).

The **China Scholarship Council** is finalizing the agreement after recent meeting with the Vice Chancellor to support up to 10 Chinese students studying for a PhD in our STEM Colleges ie Engineering, Maths & Physical Sciences / Life & Environmental Sciences / The Medical School. Students interested in this scheme should apply to the University by **30 January 2017**. Further info on this scheme is available from the East Asia team [eastasia@ex.ac.uk](mailto:eastasia@ex.ac.uk)

## New six-month fast track Business programme with generous progression scholarships

INTO University of Exeter is launching a brand new six-month foundation programme in Finance and Accounting, and Management, starting in March 2017.

This fast track International Foundation is the first of its kind at INTO University of Exeter and has been designed as an intensive academic programme for students with a higher level of English.

This new programme is structured differently in that it has a more concentrated academic content and less English-based input compared to a standard foundation programme. Students will have 4 hours of English per week, as opposed to 12 hours on the standard Foundation, as well as 20 hours of the other subject modules covered in the programme. This programme is being taught separately to the other Business foundations which means small class sizes and more 1-1 academic support, which will allow a greater depth of study through regular discussions and class debates.

As well as providing an excellent level of support through weekly group tutorials, the programme will offer two brand new practical elements, an English for Business module and an Independent Study for Business module. As Karen Glide, Undergraduate Business Assistant Programme Manager explains *"We have introduced an Independent Study Module to provide students with the opportunity to research a current business topic or problem and present findings both in written and spoken forms. We feel that this new module will support students to develop their research practice and skills as well as giving them the opportunity to consider a specific business topic in some depth."*

Students completing the programme and achieving the progression requirements have a guaranteed place on one of the following popular degrees at the University of Exeter Business School: BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance, BSc Business, BSc Business and Accounting, BA (Hons) Business and Management, BA (Hons) Management with Marketing. In support of the programme and the excellent calibre of students it is expecting to attract, the Business School is offering a generous scholarship of £1,500 to the five highest performing students on the course.

To find out more about the programme please visit our [website](#) or if you have any questions please contact [Santashree Mitra](#), Head of Recruitment at INTO University of Exeter.

## Exeter Celebrates Thanksgiving

On Thursday 24 November we celebrated Thanksgiving by hosting Thanksgiving lunch. This two-course lunch included roast turkey or nut roast, creamed potatoes, buttered sweetcorn, roasted butternut squash and gravy, followed up by pumpkin pie or American cheesecake. The Terrace restaurant where the lunch was held was decorated for the occasion, and was very popular with students.

## University Christmas Vacation Closure Dates

The University will close for the Christmas Holidays at 5pm (GMT) on Friday 23 December 2016 and will not re-open until 9am (GMT) Tuesday 3 January 2017.

Applications received during this period will be dealt with as quickly as possible by the Admissions Office upon their return after 3 January, 2017. Your assistance in managing the students' expectations regarding turnaround of their application decisions will be greatly appreciated.

In the event of emergencies, please note that the Estates Patrol Office will remain open 24 hours a day every day (including Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day) and can be reached on (01392) 723999 or, if telephoning from abroad, +44 1392 723999.

Estates Patrol will also be the first point of contact for emergencies related to immigration (e.g. student is being deported the next day or the Immigration Officer at Heathrow airport has refused to permit a student to enter the UK) over the Christmas closure period.



**We would like to wish all our Agent partners a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. We appreciate very much the excellent support provided by our partner Agents on behalf of the University throughout the world.**

Our International Officers have loads of trips planned in the New Year. To see if anyone will be travelling near you please visit our [Overseas Travel Schedule](#).

