

COU15D028

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Admissions position (Confidentiality status: strictly confidential)
REDACTED DUE TO COMMERCIAL SENSITIVITY

Learning and Teaching (Confidentiality status: Open)

Assessment and feedback turnaround times: Just over 300 sets of coursework have been marked and feedback returned before the Xmas break. Some 98% were returned within the 20 day deadline and 68% were returned within fifteen days. This represents a significant improvement in turnaround times compared to the same point last year. By the end of January, we will have data on a further 900 sets of coursework.

Research (Confidentiality status: Open)

- The European Research Council (ERC) is arguably the most prestigious funding scheme available to UK researchers. Figures recently published by the ERC show that UK institutions won 48 of the total of 291 ERC Starting Grants awarded under the 2015 call (16.5%). The Norwich Research Park was awarded a total of four ERC grants, of which two were from UEA (both in ENV) and two were from the John Innes Centre. This total was beaten only by the University of Cambridge, which was awarded five. The University of Oxford was also awarded four grants, with both Imperial College and UCL being awarded three.
- A light touch output reading exercise is currently being rolled out in all Schools as part of introducing a culture and practice of supportive and developmental output reading where this is not already in place. The exercise is to be completed by summer 2016 so that each School can provide a summary report which will initially be considered by ADRs and the University Research Executive before being reported to Executive Team.
- The University has obtained funding for postgraduate research activity through bid success with the AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) Cultural Engagement Fund, BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council) In Vivo funding, NERC (Natural Environment Research Council) NEXUSS Centre for Doctoral Training.
- Work continues on the BBSRC-ESRC Biosocial Research Centre for Doctoral Training (4 February 2016 deadline) and ESRC SeNSS (Economic and Social Research Council; Southeast Network for Social Science) Doctoral Training Partnership (18 February 2016 deadline) bids, with activity across ten universities in the latter including the Universities of Essex, Kent and Sussex.
- Discussions are also being held regarding incentives for international postgraduate research recruitment, with some actions taken to increase the number of visiting research student placements offered and taken up via the UK government's Newton Fund and other calls.

Enterprise (Confidentiality status: Open)

- UEA (Norwich Business School and the Careers Service) planned and ran a 54 hour startup weekend, called Sync the City 2015 (following the success of the 2014 event) to bring together to bring together Norfolk's business community of entrepreneurs, product developers, software developers, designers and digital creatives with students from UEA, Norwich University of the Arts and the College of West Anglia. There were 115 active participants for the whole event, this was an increase of nearly 60% on the number of participants in 2014. The presentations on Saturday night were open to the public and approximately 100 additional people attended.
- The University has recently completed its return to HEFCE for the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey (HEBCIS). There has been an increase in key areas of enterprise activity including consultancy, facilities, and income from intellectual property with the overall return increasing from £30.34M to £34.47M.
- Two of the Universities spin-out companies, Intelligent Fingerprinting (a spin-out from CHE) and Spectral Edge (a spin-out from CMP) are currently in the process of closing funding rounds raising a combined total of £4M.
- A number of technologies have been licenced or received funding for development from companies including a sugar beet disease resistance gene licenced to a plant breeding company, an agreement for the further development of liquid crystal technology for the security industry and a collaboration with industry to develop innovative potato crop protection.

Capital/Estate (Confidentiality status: Open)

- Blackdale Residential development construction work is progressing well and is on programme for completion before the start of the 2016/17 academic year. The current budget is on target and the standard being produced by the contractor R G Carter is good. It is being constructed to a high level of environmental standards and is on target to achieve a BREEAM Excellent certification.
- The first activities of the developing Estates Strategy was started with the Briefing document being completed as part of what is parochially named Project Zero, the replacement building for Congregation Hall and the extension to Thomas Paine Study Centre. Invitations for the appointment of consultant services has been made for the services required in developing the project initial stages of the project.
- A refresh to the external and internal areas of Edith Cavell Building was carried out over the Christmas period.
- We have engaged with Norfolk County Council Highways Department in relation to our concerns for pedestrian safety crossing the Colney Lane Road near to the hospital. They have agreed to carry out improvements to the local highways signage to raise awareness to road safety, prior to planned improvement that should be carried out by the end of 2017.
- Improvements to accommodate the expansion of the School of Psychology has commenced in the Lawrence Stenhouse Building. Work started in mid-December and programmed for completion early February.
- Earlham Hall Court Yard development will commence on site on 11th January. This is the second phase of investment to the Hall, being £2.2M to fully refurbish the existing Stable Building to provide additional Seminar Rooms and a provision for the Law Clinic. The works also includes landscaping to the immediate area.
- As part of our planned improvements to the Estates Infrastructure one of the original electrical sub-stations switch gear was successfully replaced over the Christmas period. This required the closing down of mains power to the Library and buildings within the close vicinity. The works was completed as planned and all services were reinstalled as programmed.

Student experience (Confidentiality status: confidential pending the outcome of the review)

REDACTED DUE TO COMMERCIAL SENSITIVITY

International (Confidentiality status: Confidential)

REDACTED DUE TO COMMERCIAL SENSITIVITY

Faculty of Science (Confidentiality status: Open)

Future Leaders Fellowship

The School of Biology has secured a prestigious BBSRC Future Leaders Fellowship (an independent fellow). Dr Lewis Spurgin, who will start in April, comes to the UEA from Oxford University, where he won an Oxford Fellowship (2 years).

Research

In December, we were pleased to hear that the Faculty of Science had been successful in being awarded two highly competitive Leverhulme award. The first, awarded to Prof Gregory Wildgoose (CHE) is for a ,PhD studentship and will last for 42 months for “developing metal-free electrocatalysts for renewable hydrogen production”. The second, awarded for Prof Tracey Chapman (BIO) is to support research over 12 months into “Evolutionary genomics of the enigmatic male sex peptide”.

Other awards include:

- Prof Tracy Chapman (BIO) has been awarded £521k by the BBSRC for a project titled “Unravelling the microRNA-chromatin circuitry that drives myogenesis”.
- Prof David Wright (PHA) has been awarded £60k by the NHS to support research into “Integrating the pharmacist fully into hospital ward teams”.
- Prof Philip Gilmartin (BIO) has been awarded £33k from the Gatsby Foundation to support research into “Floral heteromorphy in *Primula*”
- Prof Simon Clegg (ENV) has been awarded £22k from NERC, for a project being led by the University of Bristol .
- Prof Graham Finlayson (CMP) has been awarded a 50% funded studentship from Apple amounting to £30k, with matched funding being made available by the Faculty.
- Prof Corinne Le Quere (TYN) has been awarded a NERC CASE top up studentship, to run over 48 months.

Faculty of Social Sciences (Confidentiality status: Open)

New appointments

The Faculty is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Jonathan Dickens as the new Head of the School of Social Work. Prof Dickens will take up the role in August 2016 when Prof Gillian Schofield steps down.

The School of Economics is pleased to welcome Prof Kai-Uwe Kuhn, previously the chief economist of the Directorate General for Competition at the European Commission.

Research

The School of International Development will be part of the major new £7 million research centre established between UK and China to tackle the issues of nitrogen use and pollution from agriculture. The virtual centre is being led by the University of Aberdeen with partners from UEA, the University of Cambridge, Scotland's Rural College and the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, as well as nine leading partner institutions from China. The centre, which will be called N-Circle to emphasise the focus on recycling nitrogen resources and closing the nitrogen cycle - will receive almost £3 million from the BBSRC and the Newton Fund, and over £4 million from sources in China.