Why Sussex students stay loyal

The attractions of Brighton and Hove have long played their part in winning over talented students keen to study at Sussex. Now a new study from the independent Institute of Employment Studies (IES), based on the Sussex campus, shows that the initial attraction to both university and city can develop into something longer-lasting.

However, the challenge for the city, says the study, is to provide affordable housing and the right sort of graduate job opportunities.

According to the findings, based on a survey of 648 final-year undergraduates and postgraduates at Sussex, the quality of life in the city is important to students, particularly those originally from outside the south-east.

The findings, by IES and the University’s Career Development & Employment Centre (CDEC), also show that Sussex is able to pull in students from outside the local area and generate “considerable” loyalty to the University.

This ability was attributed to the teaching experience, the attractions of a campus located in the Downs and access to the vibrant lifestyle of Brighton and Hove.

The majority of final-year students felt they had made the right choice in coming to the University and would recommend Sussex as a good place to study (85 and 80 per cent respectively), while 46 per cent would consider returning for further study.

The city, too, generates a positive feel, with 71 per cent of students planning to stay on to live and/or work in the south-east or London after finishing, and 36 per cent wanting to stay on in the city itself. The pull of the city is particularly strong for younger students.

However, the lack of affordable housing and graduate-level job opportunities were identified as critical factors in deciding whether to stay on in Brighton. Only 38 per cent thought they could find a job in or near the city that would match their level of qualification, with non-local students most pessimistic in this regard.

The capital is therefore a significant draw for prospective graduates, with 24 per cent planning to work in London. Graduates wishing to remain in Brighton, therefore, are likely to be commuters.

Prospective graduates also indicated that the city could do better on public healthcare, public transport and tackling road congestion.

Welcoming the report, Linda Buckham, Director of CDEC, said: “This research is the first part of a longer study to understand more about Sussex graduates, the importance of high-level skills and the contribution graduates play in the local and regional economy.”

The next stages of the work will look at whether expectations are met, whether those wishing to stay local find their way into graduate-level jobs, and how the city can make the best use of these highly skilled graduates who want to stay.

The Brighton Factor. Graduating into the local labour market is available online at www.employment-studies.co.uk/pubs/report.php?id=450

Summary facts

85% felt they had made the right choice in coming to the University.

80% would recommend Sussex as a good place to study.

71% are planning to stay on to live and/or work in the south-east or London after finishing.

Key factors for students when choosing a university:

- suitable course (97%)
- teaching quality (86%)
- quality of city life (71%)
- first impressions of the university (67%)
- research reputation (64%).

The top five factors that make a city attractive after graduation:

- friendly atmosphere (91%)
- availability of affordable housing (85%)
- good restaurants, cafes, bars and clubs (82%)
- good public transport (81%)
- good healthcare (77%).

What really matters:

- genuine graduate-level opportunities and jobs (78 per cent)
- decent pay (72 per cent) and
- low unemployment in the area (60 per cent).
Why climate change policy has to be energy policy

Energy policy must deal with climate change, argued the Director of the Sussex Energy Group in a high-profile lecture on 21 April.

Professor Gordon MacKerron from SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research, was delivering the 2008 University of Sussex Lecture in London.

The subject of the lecture, entitled ‘Energy, climate change and nuclear power’, could not have been more topical and important, and the packed lecture theatre was testament to its popularity.

Gordon argued that due to the persuasive evidence for climate change, directly connected to human behaviour in general and the burning of fossil fuels in particular, climate change policy has to be energy policy. However, energy policy has other concerns such as security of supply and this is where problems can arise.

He went on to explore the consequences for energy policy-making of a central concern for the future of the climate, and examined the contemporary, often fiercely disputed, arguments about nuclear power in the context of climate policy and wider energy policy objectives.

The University of Sussex lecture is organised by the Development and Alumni Relations Office and is presented annually at One Birdcage Walk, Westminster.

It aims to make world-leading Sussex research accessible to a wider audience of alumni, friends and supporters of the University, as well as raising the profile of the University among policy-makers at the highest level from government departments and non-governmental organisations.

Business leader inspires budding entrepreneurs

Over 150 staff and students heard the co-founder of Nielson Active Holidays and other local entrepreneurs speak at the grand finale of Enterprise Thursday last week.

Pip Tyler was the keynote speaker at the networking event on Thursday 8 May, which marked the culmination of a series of seminars featuring talks by inspirational business leaders and entrepreneurs.

Sharon Phillips, Regional Development Manager, headed up the team who organised the events. She said: “Promoting entrepreneurship as a development option – as well as encouraging cross-campus links for students, staff and the local community – are the main reasons behind these events.”

Popular speakers from previous weeks as well as Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), also spoke at the final event, held in the BSMS lecture theatre and foyer.

University celebrates global life story day with holiday tales

From postcards to personal diaries to video documentaries, the various ways in which people recount their lives was being celebrated today (16 May) as part of the first International Day for Sharing Life Stories.

The event, which was organised by the Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research, gave people an opportunity to share their holiday stories in an interview booth and take part in a global story-telling chain.

There were also opportunities to find out about the University’s unique collection of 20th-century diaries, the Mass Observation Archive, as well as hear the true tales of migrants’ journeys and listen to the songs to which people fell in love – and out of love.

“Life story-telling is more and more popular and increasingly being recognised as central to personal and community wellbeing,” said Dr Margarettta Jolly, co-director of the Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research.

“Community oral histories, autobiographical or biographical writings, family albums, health stories, blogging and digital networks are tools for collective memory-making and popular representation. We believe that they can be a powerful way for communities and groups to find identities and to educate or lobby for social change.”

Parallel events to share and gather life stories took place in Africa, Australia, Europe, India and in North and South America.
New Research and Enterprise Director appointed

A leading higher education research professional has been appointed as the new Director of Research and Enterprise. Dr Ian Carter, currently Director of Research at Liverpool University, will be joining Sussex in September.

Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) led the recruitment work with the executive search firm Perrett Laver Partnership.

He is delighted with the outcome: "Ian is a terrific appointment. He has tremendous strengths and experience, a proven track record at two Russell Group universities and an involvement at national level that is second to none. This signals an important step change in the strategic support we are able to provide for research and enterprise at Sussex."

The new Research and Enterprise Services team, which is being created as a result of the Professional Services Review, will bring together the work and staff of the existing Pre-Awards Office, Sussex IP and the Regional Development Office. It will include responsibility for research governance, the planned Doctoral School, and liaison with the now wholly University-owned Sussex Innovation Centre (SInC).

Ian said he is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that Sussex offers: "I am excited about helping make a difference to the way research and enterprise activity at Sussex can be supported and developed."

"I am impressed by the dynamism and commitment of the new senior management team, by the quality of academic staff whom I met during the recruitment process, and by the strengths and enthusiasm of Professional Services colleagues within the new team."

Ian’s career has spanned industry, an interdisciplinary research centre, and university administration and management. Previously, he worked at the University of Glasgow (1992–2004), where he was latterly Director of Research Development. Prior to that, he worked at the SERC-funded Engineering Design Research Centre at Glasgow (1990–93), and as a systems engineer for NEI Parsons (1983–90).

Ian sits on the UK Research Councils' Joint Grants Processing Steering Group and has numerous other national roles. He is Chair of the Association of Research Managers and Administrators (UK) and a member of the International Committee of the US-based Society of Research Administrators International.

He is a Chartered Engineer, and a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Chartered Management Institute.

Ian will be working alongside Bob and members of the executive team on strategy development. Sharon Phillips and Ross Dowsett (currently joint acting heads), colleagues working on the Doctoral School, and Mike Herd (Director of SInC), will work with Ian and Bob as they shape up the new team and its services.

Developing our organisational structures

We have this week published the Senate paper that sets out proposals for developing our organisational structures.

I want all staff and students to read and reflect on that document, and understand why this evolutionary development is being proposed now.

As I said at the open meetings with staff on Tuesday (13 May), it is important that we get our organisational structures right to ensure we can deliver the ambitious growth agenda that is envisaged for Sussex.

Prof Michael Farthing
Vice-Chancellor

I do not believe that our current structures are optimal for this. For example, two-way lines of communication between departments – which are the academic heart of the University – and the senior executive are too long. In a range of ways, responsibilities and accountability at departmental, school and institutional levels are unclear. As a result, Sussex finds it difficult to respond in a timely and flexible fashion to new opportunities and challenges.

The plans now before Senate will devolve financial and management responsibility much closer to the academic heart of the University, and at the same time create a direct connection between our academic leaders and the executive. Such structures would support faster decision-making and involve a greater number of leaders in key strategic issues.

The proposals would create a new set of around 12-14 academic units that become the primary focus for planning, resource allocation and management purposes. These units would need to have a certain critical mass and would be formed from one or more of the existing academic departments.

Some people have asked if we can go further and push responsibility to existing departments. I do not believe we can do this with the current size of all of our departments. But I see this as a flexible structure, which can develop as academic areas grow and change over time.

The new units formed of more than one current department are likely to be most effective when related disciplines are brought together. While this should have benefits in terms of strengthening inter-disciplinarity, it is also vital that disciplinary identity remains in place – and our new structures would provide for this.

The proposals set out in the Senate paper are not invented by me or my executive. They are based on discussions with deans, heads of departments and other staff, and reflect academic responses to the opportunities provided by this framework for devolution.

Appointing strong and effective heads of school and providing the right support would be important for making these new structures work. All heads would be members of a new university senior management group, which would include the current executive group and would meet regularly to look at key strategic issues.

Once decisions have been made, we should move with due speed, but taking time to get the implementation right. I saw 2008-09 as a transitional year, working towards new structures operational in 2009 – with current systems and processes maintained as the new ones are developed. This includes the important matter of aligning the professional and support services with the new structure.

We will ensure that any of the changes proposed are properly managed and that staff are fully informed and supported during the change process, and will do our utmost to ensure staff and students see how they will benefit from these developments.
Undergraduates land research windfall

Timeliness is what the media like, which is why an interview with Professor Nick Till appeared in the Guardian this week (13 May).

Jacqui Bealing  
Senior Press Officer

Nick’s new Masters degree in Opera and Music Theatre ties in nicely with the start of the Glyndebourne season, especially as students will have a chance to do to study days and workshops at the opera house.

Then again, if a story is good, it’s worth repeating. The Times unearthed research carried out at the University four years ago about why women cradle babies to the left (26 April), which was then repeated by Psychologies magazine (1 June). Perhaps it’s time to recycle your past glories.

Elsewhere in the printed media, Professor Andrew Liddle contributed to a debate in the New Scientist (10 May) about the true definition of science (that its claims must be debunkable), and pointed that astronomers cannot yet decide whether theories about why the universe continues to expand support a simple or a complex model.

On national radio, Professor Alan Winter was asked by ‘Analysis’ on the BBC World Service (6 May) what would happen if farming subsidies were junked; Dr John Drury talked about panic buying of petrol on BBC Radio Four’s ‘Broadcasting House’ (27 April); and a performance of Ed Hughes’ musical score to accompany Eisenstein’s film Strike was played on BBC Radio Three (3 May), together with an interview with Ed.

On BBC Southern Counties Radio, Professor Richard Black was interviewed about East European migration to Sussex (2 May); Dr Tim Baile talked about the local council elections for the drivetime show (2 May); and Dr Gavin Ashenden can now be heard every Sunday evening (6–9pm) talking about matters of faith.

On the telly, Dr Helga Dittmar’s research on how pop videos of skinny singers affect young girls’ attitude to body image formed part of the ‘Am I Normal’ series on BBC 2 (21 April). Helga’s work was also referred to in an article in The Times (12 May) about the latest BBC 1 series of ‘Child of Our Time’ (14 May).

Following a highly successful competition that attracted more than 100 applications, 33 Junior Research Associate bursaries and four joint University of Sussex/Wellcome Trust bursaries have been awarded to Sussex undergraduates.

The bursaries, equivalent to £200 per week, allow undergraduates to undertake paid research for up to 10 weeks during the summer vacation.

The eight-strong awarding panel had a hugely difficult but immensely rewarding task in selecting the best applications. “The quality of the applications was fantastic,” remarked panel member Dr Winfried Hensinger. “It’s a shame that we couldn’t fund more.”

Among the successful applicants was Social Work student Marie Bliss, whose research will involve working alongside Brighton Housing Trust to examine the nature of support provided in a hostel to adults who have suffered from homelessness and substance misuse.

Marie was thrilled with the award: “I had never imagined at the start of my academic journey that I would be given this kind of opportunity.”

Equally thrilled was Biochemistry student Basil Yacoub, who was awarded a prestigious joint University of Sussex/Wellcome Trust bursary. His research focuses on a particular type of bacteria that are responsible for numerous infections in humans, causing many diseases (e.g. salmonella) and deaths every year.

Basil said: “Not only will I get vital experience working in a laboratory but I’ll also be involved in exciting new research that could make a big difference for people in this situation.”

“I had never imagined at the start of my academic journey that I would be given this kind of opportunity.”

The Pro-Vice- Chancellor (Research), Professor Bob Allison, said: “The competition has been a tremendous success and the quality of the submissions was outstanding. All those students who participated were postgraduate material and will be encouraged to consider a career in research after graduation.”

The School of Social Sciences subsequently awarded bursaries to three of its undergraduates who had narrowly missed out on a University award. A list of all the successful applicants, including the project titles, is available online at www.sussex.ac.uk/scholarships_and_bursaries/jra
Students develop their skills

Sussex students taking part in skills-development programmes have yet again attracted rave reviews from local schools and employers.

A celebration on 23 April acknowledged the achievements of students who have taken part in the ‘eXperience factor’ programmes this year.

The Career Development & Employment Centre (CDEC), which hosted the event, co-ordinates three development programmes, enabling students to enhance their employability, network with potential employers and demonstrate their initiative and entrepreneurial talents.

Every year around 400 students apply to take part, with Humanities and Life Sciences being most highly represented.

Many students volunteer in local schools, for half a day a week for the duration of the spring term. In the primary sector they work alongside teachers in the class room. In secondary schools and sixth-form colleges the students act as mentors, working with small groups of individuals on issues such as study skills, motivation, time planning and preparation for exams. Training is provided by CDEC and by the schools.

Daniel Tomlinson, a finalist in Law & International Relations, was a mentor at Vannadene 6th Form College, where he helped A level law students to understand the differences between studying law at college and at university.

Marion Houston from Vannadene was so impressed with Daniel and the other “wonderful, high-calibre students” that she urged: “Please can we have more Sussex students.”

At the celebration event, Economics finalist Hussain Al Hussaini presented a talk about his experience of work shadowing at business consultancy KPMG. Hussain described how his specialist knowledge came into sharp focus as he attended meetings about currency regulations.

This year, work shadow placements included the Argus newspaper, Glyndebourne Opera, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, BBC World Service, the Department of Work and Pensions, the House of Commons, Hilton Hotels, Midnight Communications and the Sussex Police Authority.

Year 2 History undergraduate Shanielle Blake enthused about her experience of shadowing a Sussex alumnus - a Crown Court judge - and his wife, who works in the Family Division Crown Court. Shanielle said: “It was a brilliant experience and I learnt so much about the skills and personal qualities required in this profession.”

The third of the three development programmes is the Student Development and Alumni Fund, which provides up to £500 for student-led projects that develop career-related skills such as project planning, marketing and communications, decision making and innovation.

Recent applications have included a group planning to produce an International Relations journal, some MA students hoping to mark 2008 ‘Year of Reading’ by making literature available to the visually impaired, and a fund raising event for a school in Tanzania.

Economics & Politics finalist David Rosenfeld shared the experience of running a Model United Nations conference at Sussex in January.

He said: “Chairing meetings and managing debates about contentious international issues that individuals can often get extremely passionate about was very challenging. The logistics of organising a complex conference for over 100 student participants was also an excellent experience.”

To find out more about any of the eXperience factor opportunities, see www.sussex.ac.uk/cdec/experience.php or contact Claire Ward on c.ward@sussex.ac.uk, ext 8642.

Top left: Economics finalist Hussain Al Hussaini talked about his workshadowing experience at business consultancy KPMG.
Top right: Law student Daniel Tomlinson mentored A-level students at Vannadene 6th Form College.
Middle right: Marion Houston from Vannadene 6th Form College with Sussex students Emily Spence, Michael Tidwell and John Maulde, who all spent time at the college in mentoring and tutoring roles.
Bottom right: Shanielle Blake, Year 2 History, shadowed a Sussex alumnus – a Crown Court judge – and his wife.
New Equality and Diversity Coordinator

The University's new Equality and Diversity Coordinator started work on Monday (12 May).

Abi Salmon is part of Human Resources and has a dual brief for staff and students. She has responsibility for the effective coordination of, and administrative support for, the University's diversity agenda, and a key component of her role is the collection and analysis of data on equalities.

Abi joins Sussex from Barclays Capital Investment Bank in Canary Wharf, where she worked most recently as Diversity Executive Administrator. This role covered all aspects of equality and diversity, in particular working with internal diversity networks (disability, cultural awareness, LGBT, women’s, and parents and family) to promote diversity throughout the bank.

In a previous role with Barclays Capital, Abi was a member of the Campus Recruitment team. Her role involved liaison with London universities, attending career fairs and giving presentations to students to encourage them to join the company. In this role, she also liaised with equality target groups such as disabled applicants and LGBT groups to promote diversity.

First Class

Dr Lucy Allais, Lecturer in the Philosophy department, has won the annual JHP prize for her article ‘Kant’s idealism and the secondary quality analogy’, published in 2007. The Journal of the History of Philosophy is the leading journal in the field, with an acceptance rate of around 5%; it publishes around 30 articles a year, one of which is selected for the prize.

The University and College Union (UCU) has given a ‘Life Changer award’ to Kerith Harris, a Student Advisor in the School of Science & Technology and President of the Sussex branch of the UCU. Branch Secretary Jim Guild said: “I’ve worked with Kerith in both her professional and trade union roles and have been impressed by her ability to cope with levels of stress and hard work which would break many other colleagues. I don’t think I’ve met a more impressive case worker and negotiator.” Kerith is the second member of Sussex staff to receive a UCU Life Changer award: chemist Dr Hazel Cox was nominated in 2007.

Dr Elaine Sharland, Senior Lecturer in Social Care and Social Work, has been appointed as the ESRC Strategic Advisor to lead development of an interdisciplinary and inter-agency initiative aimed at promoting fundamental change in the UK research base in social work and social care. Elaine has also been elected Vice Chair of the UK Joint University Council Social Work Education Research Committee.

Media Practice and Theory (MPT) finalists Lauren Simpson and Laura Bailey have won the Best UK University Film award at the End of the Pier International Film Festival in Bognor Regis. Their final-year project, Coed Hills, interrogates the essence of communal living. It is screening at the MPT degree show in EDB until Tuesday (20 May).

Doctoral student Ben Warren won a bronze medal in the Men’s 10,000m at the BUSA championships in Bedford from 3-5 May. Ben, who is supported by a University of Sussex sports bursary, finished in a time of 31 minutes and 36 seconds. Karen Creffield, Head of Sport, said: “This was an outstanding performance and was our first athletics medal at a BUSA (British Universities Sports Association) championship in over 10 years.”

Fun run in the sun

Over 100 staff and students walked or ran round the boundary of campus last week, as part of a popular annual event hosted by Sussexsport.

The sun came out for the boundary fun run and walk, which was held on Wednesday 7 May. Nineteen people competed in the three-mile race, while 92 members of staff or students took a more relaxed approach as they were guided round by plant and wildlife expert Dr Martyn Stening.

Neuroscience student Ben Warren completed the circuit in the quickest time – 19 minutes and 27 seconds – rounding off a fantastic few days for the young athlete. Earlier in the week he had become the first Sussex student in more than a decade to win a medal at a BUSA (British Universities Sports Association) championships, taking bronze in the 10,000-metre race.

Dr Fiona Powell of BSMS was the fastest woman round the course, finishing in 20 minutes and 58 seconds.

Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), handed out awards to the runners and to the unit with the most walkers (the Sussex Institute, with 21).

Dissertation dash

The sounds of cheers filled Sussex campus late on Monday (12 May) when the ever popular ‘dissertation dash’ took place.

The dash for final-year students to hand in their work on time has become a Sussex tradition and, true to form, there were some finalists who, papers in hand, made a last-minute sprint as 5 o’clock approached.

The masses of onlookers, who were enjoying live music and sunshine around Falmer House, gave them a hero’s welcome.
Parking selfishly?

This morning, due to an unavoidable appointment, I arrived on campus at 10.30am. I went first to the EDB car park, then to East Slope. I was disgusted to see that there were at least four spaces where I, or any of the other cars circling round, could have parked, had it not been for the incredibly selfish attitude of some of the other drivers.

They park their cars either on, or totally straddling, the line separating their space with the adjacent one, or park at an angle, with the same deleterious effect.

At the very minimum, these people should be charged for both spaces; I would prefer, however, to see them receive a paper warning. Maybe then they will realise that they are not the only people trying to park on campus, especially at a time when space is at a premium.

I am sure I am not the only person on campus who feels strongly about this and who would like to see these arrogant drivers named and shamed.

Jenny Money, Sussex Centre for Migration Research

Chris Wadey, Transport Manager, replies:

When the patrolling officers from the security team identify bays that have been obstructed by poor parking, they issue a notice. This will continue as our preferred method of encouraging considerate parking on campus.

Engineers inject a touch of ‘je ne sais quoi’

Last month (Bulletin 18 April) we mentioned that young Rabbits have been emerging above ground in large numbers since late February. This abundance of naive prey has meant easy pickings for many local predators.

As often as not, when one of the local Buzzards flies over the sports fields the sad bundle in its talons reveals that Rabbit is about to be on its chicks’ menu yet again.

Nor do the young Rabbits gain much respite by night; in early May a car’s head lights picked out a Badger carrying a limp bunny across the Ring Road. Since Badgers are reputed to rarely carry food back to their sets, the unfortunate Rabbit may have been intended for the cubs, at least three of which started coming above ground during April.

The most dedicated Rabbit-hunters on campus are Stoats, especially the males (which are 50% larger than females and rival Grey Squirrels in size). Not only are Stoats much larger than Weasels (which remind us of animated pencils), but they also differ by having a black-tipped tail.

An exceptionally early litter of Stoats have been entertaining students revising in the Library and gazing out towards the Richmond Hill shelterbelt in search of inspiration. The female Stoats among the youngsters now gambolling in the sun were mated (by an adult male) several weeks ago while they were naked, blind and deaf in the darkness of their burrow.

Last month we also invited readers to let us know if they came across any plants that they suspected of being the native Italian Lords-and-Ladies, Arum italicum subsp. neglectum, on campus that had escaped the attentions of browsing deer.

It’s good to be able to report that we received several likely tip-offs and as a result can now confirm that the plant does indeed grow on campus.

Looking back over our previous spring-time pieces we noticed that spring-time blossom was – not unnaturally – a recurring theme, with the various members of the rose family featuring prominently.

However, one of the most conspicuous flowering shrubs on campus at the moment is not a member of this famous family at all and that is the Wayfaring Tree, Viburnum lantana (right). Rather surprisingly it is related to both the Honeysuckle and the Elder.

It is very much a shrub of the chalk downs and other calcareous soils and has a distinctly southerly distribution in this country, not occurring naturally north of a line from the Wash to the Severn.

At this time of year the tight heads of small white flowers are a familiar feature of local hedgerows and scrub. In the past the berries have been used for a variety of unlikely purposes: to ‘make a gargle’, ‘fasten the teeth’ and ‘settle the stomach’ and the leaves were used to make a black hair dye. We don’t recommend any of these!

A walk on the wild side

Cafe culture is back with a French flavour in Engineering. The department has bagged The French Revolution creperie to run its snack bar, which will be opening on Monday (19 May).

Judy Bow and Arnold Rose (above) have been on campus for a couple of years, serving galettes and crepes from their stand on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at other student events such as Fresher’s Week.

Now the crepes will be available from the new Coffee Workshop in Engineering II, opposite the bus stop on North-South Road.

On the lunch menu, galettes will be joined by a variety of tortillas and flans. In the salads you can expect some exotic leaves, grown by Arnold in his Brighton garden. The menu caters for vegetarians and those allergic to wheat.

A full range of coffees will flow from the newly installed espresso machine, and cakes and breads will be made by Judy and Arnold or brought in from artisan bakers in Brighton.

The Coffee Workshop, which has wi-fi access, is open Monday–Friday, 8.30am–5.30pm.
Academic events ↓

MON 19 MAY
5pm Education seminar: Miriam David (London). The challenges of diversity and equity for teaching and learning in higher education. Arts D110.

TUE 20 MAY
12.30pm Life History seminar: Graham Dawson (Brighton). Psychoanalysis and cultural memory. Pevensie 1, 2A2.

2pm SEI seminar: Gemma Loones (Sussex). Party strategies in Western Europe. Arts C233.

4pm American South seminar: William Link (Florida), Jesse Helms and the politics of race, 1972-90. Arts A155.

4pm COGS seminar: Derek Bolton (King’s College, London). Order and disorder in the sciences and society. Pevensie 1, 1A7.

6.30pm Professorial lecture: Paul Taggart (Sussex), European integration and representative politics. BSMS lecture theatre.

WED 21 MAY

4pm Maths seminar: Manuel Fernández, title tbc. Mantel 2A01.

4pm Music seminar: Stefano Gervasoni, Performance as research, Palmer House 120.

THURSDAY 22 MAY
12noon Cognitive Psychology seminar: Giles Dickens, Mental imagery and children’s development of a number line. Pevensie 1, 1A3.

1pm Postgraduate seminar: Xavier Roeseler (Sussex) and Debbie Roberts (Sussex), titles tbc. BSMS lecture theatre.

3.30pm Maths and Physics seminar: David Wallace (Cambridge), title tbc. Arts D640.

FRI 23 MAY
1pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development seminar: Neil Dickmore (Sussex). Bacillus thuringiensis: An enigmatic but useful bacterial pathogen. Medical School 2.10.

2.15pm Freeman Centre seminar: Attila Varga (Pecs). From the geography of innovation to development policy analysis. Freeman Centre G24/25.

THU 29 MAY
4pm Maths seminar: Lorena Barba. Preconditioned field interpolation for particle methods. Mantel 2A01.

FRI 30 MAY
2.15pm Freeman Centre seminar: Rob Doubleday (Cambridge). Science, democracy and the responsible development of nanotechnology. Freeman Centre G24/25.

TUE 27 MAY
2pm SEI seminar: Roman David (Newcastle). Lustration systems and their effects. Arts C233.

4pm COGS seminar: David Bain, McDowell, pains, and subjectivism. Pevensie 1, 1A7.

Small ads ↓

For sale: Bean2Bed double. Faux suede cover (stone colour). Cost £200 8 months ago, hardly used, accept £35. E karenm@sussex.ac.uk, ext 8610.


To let: Double room in Hanover house. £100 p/w incl. For rest of May, longer lets poss. F staff or PG, T 07941 615586, E glynys@imperial.ac.uk

For sale: 3 Ikea Billy birch bookcases, 105cm H x 80 W x 28 D: £10 each, £25 for 3. Ikea Billy birch bookcase: 202cm H x 15, T 555043.

To let: Room in house nr seafront. Suit visiting researcher. Available 1 June –17 Sep or any period in between. £500 pcm (+ cat to feed). No-one else resident. E jafc2@sussex.ac.uk, T 07952 961811.

News in brief ↓

Refectory Road to be resurfaced

Work begins on Monday (19 May) to resurface Refectory Road. The contractor will remove speed humps, remove the tarmac, carry out concrete and kerb repairs and construct a new bus stop before relaying the tarmac. There is no intention to close the road. The work is due for completion in mid-August.

Survey round-up

Another student survey concluded last week, following a fantastic final response rate for the National Student Survey (NSS) of 75%. The Sussex Student Experience Survey closed on 9 May after hundreds of second-year students had logged on to have their say. Postgraduate research students have until the end of May to fill in their survey (PRES) by going to www.sussex.ac.uk/sp2/pres so far 27.5% of those eligible have responded.

Rogue email warning

Following a spate of fraudulent emails, IT Services are warning staff and students not to disclose their Sussex IT log-in details. ITS will never request your username and password; do not reply to an email asking for this information.

What We Do Well

A day of workshops and presentations for teaching staff on 10 June provides the opportunity to pick up practical tips and discuss current issues. You can attend as little as one session or make a day of it - lunch will be available. An exhibition will showcase new teaching and learning projects and initiatives. The event takes place in the Conference Centre in Bramber House. Book online via TLDU.

All articles are also featured on the internet at www.sussex.ac.uk/press_office/bulletin