Sussex has “world-leading” research in every department, RAE reveals

Sussex and other universities this week received a detailed breakdown of the results of the national Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) also published overview reports for each subject area on Monday (5 January).

The detailed breakdown of the scores for ‘research outputs’, ‘research environment’ and ‘esteem’ will help the new heads of school to plan for the future.

The initial RAE results, released on 18 December 2008 (see right for table), reveal that Sussex has world-leading research in every single department.

The RAE assesses the quality and quantity of research activity in UK universities. In March HEFCE will announce its funding allocation for 2009–10, based on the results.

Over 90% of Sussex research activity is rated as world-leading, internationally excellent or internationally recognised, confirming the University among the leading 30 research universities in the UK on a simple average across all scores.

The RAE gives all institutions a grade profile for the subject areas for which it made submissions. Initial analysis of the figures shows that, across all subject areas, Sussex’s overall grade profile is:

- 16% at 4* (“world-leading”)
- 40% at 3* (“internationally excellent”)
- 35% at 2* (“internationally recognised”)
- 8% at 1* (“nationally recognised”)

For the results in detail, see
www.sussex.ac.uk/res/rae08

Sussex submitted the work of over 535 staff to the RAE, nearly 90% of those eligible, with over 485 achieving work that is internationally recognised or better. Taking account of all staff who could have been submitted, with some institutions excluding many eligible staff, Sussex is at 16th place overall – a measure of the research intensity of the institution.

18 subjects at Sussex rank in the top 20 in the UK, across the arts, sciences and social sciences, with the American Studies department ranked number 1 in the UK, Politics ranked at number 2 in the UK and Art History at number 3.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, said: “These results confirm our position as a strong, broadly based, research-intensive university, producing peaks of world-leading research across all our departments in the arts, sciences and social sciences.

He added: “Sussex should be pleased, but not satisfied. During the next five years we should plan to do even better, growing in both research quality and capacity.

“We will be developing and growing research activity, building on these results to strengthen further our world-leading bases. We are focussing on developing new cross-cutting research themes that address real-world issues, growing income from research contracts and attracting high-quality postgraduate research students.”

Sussex RAE results by subject, published 18 December 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit of assessment</th>
<th>4*</th>
<th>3*</th>
<th>2*</th>
<th>1*</th>
<th>u/c UK rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Hospital-based Clinical</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-clinical and Human Biological Sciences</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Mathematics</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science and Informatics</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Engineering and Mineral &amp; Mining Engineering</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography and Environmental Studies</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics and Econometrics</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics and International Studies (SPRU)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics and International Studies (International Relations)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work and Social Policy &amp; Administration</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Studies and Anglophone Area Studies</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Studies</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language and Literature</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Art, Architecture and Design</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, Cultural and Media Studies</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inside
2 Neighbours
Research shows how horses can recognise each other’s ‘voices’.  

3 Opinion
Sussex’s two main undergraduate surveys get underway this term.

4 Experience
Calendar of photos by Sussex students studying abroad.

5 Facilities
Work has begun on the new teaching building at the heart of campus.

6 GMC review
VC chairs group looking at education of tomorrow’s doctors.
New research shows how horses recognise their neighbours

A new study into how horses recognise members of the same herd suggests that it’s not just humans who use complex memory processes to identify each other.

University of Sussex mammal communication researchers studied the reaction of horses to the sight of one member of the same herd while they heard the call of either the same horse, or a different herd member.

They found that the horses showed a stronger reaction to the ‘incongruent’ calls that didn’t match the herd member they had just seen compared with the congruent calls.

The results, published last month in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, suggest that horses, like humans, use a ‘cross modal’ system for recognising each other – one that involves a combination of sensory cues such as auditory and visual/olfactory information.

Astronomers map the history of the Universe

Sussex astronomers are set to expand our knowledge of the history of the Universe as part of a new project to map the inception and formation of galaxies.

Making use of an Infrared Array Camera on NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope, the Spitzer Extragalactic Representative Volume Survey (SERVS) will make a very large map of the sky, capable of detecting extremely faint galaxies.

The primary aim is to chart the distribution of stars and black holes from when the Universe was less than a billion years old to the present day.

Leading co-investigators on the international project include University of Sussex astronomers Dr Duncan Farrah and Dr Seb Oliver.

Duncan says: ‘This is likely to be the benchmark near-infrared survey for the next decade."

‘The great depth of the SERVS data means we can detect moderately massive galaxies when the Universe was less than 8% of its current age.

‘The combination of the SERVS data with data from the Herschel spacecraft (launch April 2009) also means we can see both relatively old, evolved stars, and young, dust-shrouded bursts of star formation. We will thus obtain a complete picture of how galaxies are assembled in the early Universe."

The combination of sensitivity and area mapped by SERVS is unprecedented. The sensitivity means that galaxy formation can be studied from when the Universe was very young, while the wide area means that these formation processes can be studied in the context of the underlying distribution of ‘dark’ matter.

Work on the survey is due to start early this year.

The study, by Leanne, her DPhil supervisor Dr Karen McComb and mammal communication researcher Dr David Reby, focussed on 24 horses at Woodingdean Livery yard in Sussex and the Sussex Horse Rescue Trust in Uckfield.

Subjects watched a herd member being led past them before the individual went out of view and a call from that or a different associate was played from a loudspeaker positioned close to the point of disappearance. The researchers measured how long the test horse looked in the direction of the loudspeaker.

They found that horses responded more quickly and looked for longer in the direction of the incongruent calls (which didn’t match the horse they had seen) compared to the congruent calls, indicating that the mismatched combination violated their expectations.

Leanne says: ‘Given that the stimulus horse was out of sight when the vocal cue was heard, it is likely that the test horse was accessing or activating some form of multimodal memory of that individual’s characteristics.’

Karen, from the Centre for Mammal Vocal Communication Research in the Psychology department, says: ‘Our experimental design could provide a powerful way to study the cognitive abilities underlying individual recognition in a wide range of species.’
Should we learn to love league tables?

National assessments such as the Research Assessment Exercise, the future Research Excellence Framework and the National Student Survey have significant financial and reputational implications for universities. It's vital that we continue to approach them positively.

Prof Michael Farthing,
Vice-Chancellor

The overall RAE results were announced just before the Christmas break. A lot of detail received just this week gives us the breakdown between the different elements that make up the results: the scores for 'research outputs', 'research environment' and 'esteem'. That will help the new heads of school and their teams understand how our strengths have been assessed and help inform their plans for the future.

We do not yet know what the direct financial implications will be for individual institutions, but we can see the challenges we will face. We currently receive around £13m of annual research funding, based partly on our 2001 RAE result. We know that the overall volume of submissions grew by 12% for 2008, while ours remained broadly the same.

Funding may remain focussed on research of the highest quality: 4* and 3* in the new scoring system. However, as the Times Higher points out, the new profile system means that these top grades are found at many more institutions, and this could spread funding more thinly across the sector.

This adds weight to but does not alter our drive to diversify funding sources for research activity - a fundamental part of the new strategic plan. Looking to grow our contract income for research is vital and a key part of development for each of the new schools in the coming year.

The RAE of course also affects the University’s overall standing. We have maintained our research ranking between 2001 and 2008 - being in the top 30 in terms of research quality. The future metrics-based REF system should mean that strengthening and improving our research can be reflected year on year - rather than be locked into a ranking; good or bad, for seven years.

The RAE results will also feed into the national and international league tables - and could affect us, depending on how the 2001 and 2008 results are interpreted. Love them or hate them, the tables are a firm feature of the higher education landscape and ones that influence perceptions and expectations of colleagues, students, employers and businesses.

We have seen already how making and demonstrating improvements in what we do can help in our standing. In the National Student Survey for 2008 we showed a significant improvement in the satisfaction scores expressed by our finalists, reflecting the fundamental quality of education at Sussex and the attention that had been paid by staff to addressing issues from previous surveys.

Those results have already started to feed through into the latest league tables (such as the Sunday Times), resulting in an improved position. But it will be some time before consistently strong and improved NSS scores year on year feed back into wider student perceptions, following a number of years of more disappointing NSS results.

And as we embark on the NSS period for 2009, we need to ensure that all finalists are encouraged to complete the survey; work is in hand with departments to do this. Without the complete picture of student satisfaction, we can’t address those areas that need improvement, nor get an accurate measure of how well we are meeting students’ needs.

As with our strategic plan overall, it matters that we do the right things for the long-term interests of the University, for our students, staff and external customers, and not in response to league tables. But doing the right things well should ensure that league tables reflect the quality of what we do.
Calendar gives insight into student life abroad

Both Meridian and BBC South East Today ran with the story (16 December) and The Times, the Daily Mail (18 December) and regional press had a field day with punning headlines. It's a neat joke!

But research of this nature is also, occasionally, a target for the media to mock. The Daily Star (22 December) listed it as one of the ‘ten worst’ research projects of the year, although didn’t make it clear why. As the pun-makers might say: “You whiny some, you lose some.”

Those who were digesting their lunch to Radio 4 on the afternoon of Christmas Day may well have heard Andy Medhurst taking part in a celebration of Carry On films with actors and other commentators on popular culture. And those who were up at an ungodly hour on 30 December will have heard Dr Clive Webb talking on Radio 5 Live about how World War II rescued the USA after the Wall Street crash.

In print, Professor Mike Land commented in the New Scientist (24 December) on the discovery that the spookfish, found in New Zealand, has eyes unlike any other creature. The story also appeared on Radio New Zealand (5 January) and in the Argus (27 December).

Also in the Argus (24 December) was a feature on PhD student Alexandra Loske, who is researching the interiors of the Royal Pavilion.

And, finishing with animals once again, Dr Karen McComb’s research that shows lions are skilled at numeracy – particularly when judging the different roaring sounds of a rival group – was referenced in a feature in the Economist (30 December) about whether humans have an innate sense of how to count.

For a fuller account of December’s coverage, see ‘Sussex in the News’ at www.sussex.ac.uk/pressandcomms/1-4-6.html

And for a sample selection of University of Sussex research and events that caught the media’s imagination during 2008, see www.sussex.ac.uk/press_office/media/media720.shtml

A 2009 calendar showcases photographs taken by Sussex students who have been studying or teaching abroad as part of their degree.

The 12 varied images include an Indonesian beach and a fruit-and-vegetable market in Spain, Alaska, Taiwan, Mexico and British Columbia also feature.

More than 200 Sussex students go abroad on exchange programmes each year.

Those in Europe are organised through ‘Erasmus’, a scheme supported under the European Commission’s Lifelong Learning Programme. The University receives funding from the EC each year to support and promote the Erasmus programme, and part of this was used to produce the calendar.

Emily Sinclair, Head of International Programmes, says: “The calendar is a good tool for promoting Erasmus, publicising our other exchange programmes and sending out a goodwill message for the new year, especially to those University staff who help to make study abroad a positive experience for both incoming and outgoing students.”

The calendar will be included in packs for Admission Days. “This is a great way to promote the opportunities Sussex offers students to spend part of their degree overseas,” says Emily, “both as part of a four-year language or American Studies programme or as a voluntary period within a three-year degree.”

The calendar will be sent to sixth form colleges and secondary schools in the area. It will also be given to incoming visiting and exchange students who start their term at Sussex this month, to Sussex students currently abroad, and to those who returned in 2008 from time overseas and are now in their final year.

Emily says: “The calendar gives an insight into the many positive and diverse aspects of living and studying in another culture, the accomplishment of which is no small achievement.”

If you would like further information on Sussex abroad, contact the International and Study Abroad Office; email sussex abroad@sussex.ac.uk
Work begins on new teaching building

The design of the new teaching building with red brick and glass matches the Swanborough buildings and echoes the original designs by Sir Basil Spence for the core campus buildings, particularly the Pevensey building.

The building has also been designed to minimise impact on the environment, with concrete floors acting as heat sinks, and natural ventilation systems.

In line with the campus masterplan to ensure further development of the green spaces on campus, the site also includes the creation of a new grass courtyard at the eastern corner of Arts Road and Refectory Road.

For further information about the range of recent and future building projects on campus, see www.sussex.ac.uk/efm

More recycling, less waste

A new contract for campus waste and recycling services will reduce the amount of rubbish that staff and students throw away.

One of the many benefits to the new contract with Veolia Environmental Services, which began this month, is that paper, card, cans and plastic bottles go into one recycling bin.

At the moment segregated bins are available in all buildings for individual items of waste; these bins will remain in situ and will be re-labelled to indicate which items you can and cannot place in them.

“We’d rather spend the money on education than getting rid of waste.”

Another benefit is that none of the waste produced on campus will go to landfill; it will be reused, recycled or go to a facility that converts the waste to energy.

And general waste will be removed on a vehicle with “pay-by-weight” technology, enabling staff in Estates and Facilities Management (EFM) to have accurate information on the weight of waste going off site, and clear data on the reduction of waste.

Rachael Adari, Support Services Manager in EFM, says: “We will be working with Veolia to improve the University’s recycling rates and investigate further opportunities to steer even more waste away from disposal.

“All landfill sites are getting full, and legislation means the polluter, i.e. Sussex, has to pay,” explains Rachael. “We need to recycle because we’d rather spend the money on education than getting rid of waste.

“Please support our efforts by using the recycling facilities offered on campus.”

For more details on what can be recycled and who to contact, see www.sussex.ac.uk/efm
News in brief ▼

**Investors in People**

Sussexsport has retained its Investors in People accreditation following a reassessment exercise in December. Brenda Jackson assessing said: "Sussexsport continues to demonstrate a very conscientious approach to managing and developing its staff."

**Sports survey results**

594 members of staff completed a survey at the end of the autumn term about their health, fitness and exercise attitudes and activities. Sussexsport, who ran the Active Staff Survey between 24–30 November, will use the results to improve sports services and will shortly present a summary of the answers given by staff.

**Sussex Teaching Awards**

Nominations are invited for the Sussex Teaching Awards and can be made by students, alumni or staff. There are four awards of £1,000 across three categories: experienced teachers, early career teachers and academic support staff. Details and documents are available at www.sussex.ac.uk/ltdu/1-5-9. The deadline for receipt of nomination statements is 12 noon on Monday 16 February.

**National Teaching Fellows**

Nominations are now open for the individual strand of the National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS). Fifty awards, of £10,000 each, will be made to recognise and reward individual excellence. Further information can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/ltdu/1-5-9. The deadline for completed nomination forms is 12 noon on Monday 26 January.

**PG Open Day Wed 28 Jan**

The Postgraduate Open Day will take place on 28 January from 11.30am to 2pm in Bramber House. The Open Day provides an ideal opportunity to learn more about postgraduate study and research opportunities for 2009. For further details and to book a place, see www.sussex.ac.uk/units/grad/open-days

VC heads group to review education of medical students

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, is chairing a group to review the General Medical Council's guidance for undergraduate medical education in the UK.

The guidance, called 'Tomorrow's Doctors', sets out the standards for the knowledge, skills, and behaviour that medical students need to meet in order to graduate.

Professor Farthing has a distinguished background in medicine, both as a physician and as an academic. Before coming to Sussex in 2007 he was Principal of St George's, University of London, which specialises in medicine and health sciences, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Medicine for the University of London.

The draft guidance separates the desired outcomes for medical students into three sections, covering the doctor as a scholar and scientist, as a practitioner, and as a professional. It also sets out separate standards for the delivery of teaching, learning and assessment.

Since the guidance was last produced in 2003, there have been many fundamental changes to medical education and training. These include the establishment of four new medical schools, including the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), which is a joint partnership between the Universities of Sussex and Brighton as well as the NHS.

In December the General Medical Council launched a three-month consultation into its review of Tomorrow's Doctors.

Professor Farthing said: 'The consultation takes into account several important areas for review, such as prescribing and patient exposure, professionalism and leadership, assessment, quality management, student-selected components and disability. They will help us to set the appropriate standards for a new generation of Tomorrow's Doctors.'

The revised guidance will be published in summer 2009.

---

**FIRST CLASS ▼**

Chemistry student Liz Atkinson has been awarded a 2008 Salters’ Graduate Prize. Every year the Salters’ Institute awards up to ten of these prizes, of £1,000 each, to final-year undergraduates studying at UK universities. The selection committee were looking for candidates who will ultimately be able to occupy leading positions in the UK chemical industry.

CCE Lecturer in Creative Writing Abi Curtis is one of six poets to be awarded the inaugural Crashaw Prize by Salt Publishing, an independent poetry press. A "surprised and delighted" Abi says, "I've long admired Salt's list — they publish some of my favourite poets and they aren't afraid to take risks. It's real honour to be among them." The prize means Salt will publish Abi's first poetry collection, Unexpected Weather, which, Abi says, "engages with scientific concepts, the natural world, art and mythology through a variety of experimental forms."

The January issue of county magazine Sussex Life picks out two Sussex students as "ones to watch" in 2009: champion rider Emily Llewellyn, who is in her second year of a degree in Business and Management Studies; and baritone Richard Moore, a finalist in Music with Spanish. Richard told Sussex Life: "I wanted to study music in the right place and being in Brighton there is music everywhere."
Engaged staff create evolving display

Around 250 members of staff contributed to an interactive, evolving exhibition at the end of the autumn term, based on the wide range of community-engagement activities in which Sussex is involved.

The Big Picture, held in the InQbate Creativity Zone on 16-18 December 2008, was a drop-in event featuring a variety of scheduled discussions and workshops as well as a giant collage made up of different printed and electronic media.

The display became more interactive as the space filled. People covered the walls with notes offering and requesting information and collaboration. Home-made and downloaded posters, photos, moving images and slideshows were added to the writing on the walls and hanging banners illustrating a huge range of outreach activities, events, services and research projects.

One corner showed the hundreds of community organisations served by University of Sussex volunteers, both through Project V’s placements and those staff who give their time as trustees, governors and other roles.

Another area displayed a range of potential funding for community and public engagement projects.

Staff working with local schools and colleges – including the government’s Aimhigher initiative, which aims to promote higher education to students from non-traditional academic backgrounds – also shared their experiences, as did those involved in research initiatives and knowledge-exchange projects in communities.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Michael Farthing, presented the completed exhibition at a celebration reception on Thursday 18 December.

The three-day event was developed to capture a full representation of current activities that help the University to

A walk on the wild side

David Harper
Life Sciences

David Streeter
Life Sciences

22 plants still in flower that compared with 10 recorded on our New Year walk earlier in the year. Having chased the melting snow on Monday (5 January), we can now report a New Year tally of 17, which is more than 50% up on last year.

The most conspicuous of these was Winter Heliotrope, Petasites fragrans, growing on the bank of Boiler House Hill below the Mantell Building.

This attractive plant is a native of the southern Mediterranean and was first introduced into British gardens in 1806. The large round leaves and heads of dusky pink flowers are very distinctive and it soon began to be reported as established on roadside banks, on rough ground and along stream sides.

It is still spreading northwards and can produce large persistent patches that swamp surrounding vegetation and, like several other introduced species, is beginning to cause some concern.

As in all Butterbur it is dioecious, with separate male and female plants, but only male plants are known in Britain so its spread is wholly vegetative. Along with Primroses, it is usually one of the first flowers of spring.

Campus was blissfully quiet during the Christmas closure (25 December to 4 January). Since we had to come in to replenish our bird feeders, we took the opportunity to monitor the birds on campus.

We saw 51 bird species on campus and a further three flying overhead (Canada Goose, Mallard, Cormorant); this was nearly a third of our total of 160 species since January 1985. Although no species were unexpected, we were surprised by how much use Buzzards made of the nearly deserted campus.

In January 1985, only four Buzzards were recorded in the whole county. But two pairs now nest close enough to campus for sightings to be regular. During the closure, one of these pairs made great use of the eastern part of campus. Both birds repeatedly sat on prominent high perches calling to each other, and both hunted from fence posts, presumably for rodents. The male often cruised beneath the tree canopy in Tenantain Belt, causing great alarm to the local Jays.

Eighteen bird species were heard singing, but in only two cases was song frequent enough for us to estimate the number of territories. Three Tawny Owl territories (defended throughout the year by pairs) had boundaries that have remained almost identical ever since 1985. There were at least 48 Robin territories (some defended by individuals of both sexes and some by pairs), the highest New Year count we have recorded on campus.

More information will be added in the coming weeks at www.sussex.ac.uk/cee/bigpic
TUE 13 JAN
4pm Cognitive Science seminar: Barbara Webb (Edinburgh), Multimodal control and learning in insects and robots. Revessey 1, 1AT.

M.60pm BSMS lecture: Darrell Evans (BSMS), Making and repairing the body’s tissues: Is it simply a matter of ingredients? BSMS lecture theatre.

WED 14 JAN
12.30pm GDSC seminar: Pietro Ghizzi (Sussex), Glutathione in immunity. GDSC seminar room.

1pm Development seminar: Fauke Urban (IDS), Low carbon energy for developing countries. IDS 221.

5pm BSMS/Sociology seminar: Charles Bosk (Pennsylvania), Conscientious objection and genetic information. BSMS 1.08-1.09.

5pm Politics seminar: Stefan Rumens (Leuven), From deliberation to representation. Bramber House 232.

THU 15 JAN
1pm Development seminar: Hui Zhu (Kent), The impact of rural-to-urban migration on consumption patterns and savings in rural China. IDS 221.

FRI 16 JAN
1pm Development seminar: Lawrence Flint (ENDA-TM), Cognitive skills and community-based adaptation. IDS 120.

2.15pm Freeman Centre seminar: Andrew Barnett (Policy Practices Ltd), The current debate in agricultural research for development. Room G2/4/25.

MON 19 JAN
4.30pm German Jewish Studies seminar: Michael Mack (Nottingham), The Holocaust and Hannah Arendt’s philosophical critique of philosophy.


TUE 20 JAN
1pm Conflict, Crime and Violence seminar: Patricia Justino (IDS), A micro level perspective on the causes and duration of warfare. IDS 221.

2pm SEI seminar: Stephen Burman, Jon Monar and Jim Rollo (Sussex), The future of transatlantic relations under the Obama administration. Arts C233.

6.30pm Professional lecture: Ed Steinmueller (Sussex), Communicating knowledge. BSMS lecture theatre.

8pm Café Scientifique: Rob Ifflie (Sussex), Natural theology: Freewill, self motion and the divine cosmos in the thought of Isaac Newton. Quadrant, North Street, Brighton.

WED 21 JAN
1pm Development seminar: Kitty Oswald (IDS) and Tao Wang (Sussex), Insights on the UN climate change negotiations. IDS room 221.

2.30pm Life History seminar: Ken Lukowick, The Soldier’s Song. Arts A159.

7pm Archaeology talk: Robert Miller-Gulland (Sussex), The puzzle of the Washington Anglo-Saxon estate. Arts A1.

THU 22 JAN
4pm Psychology seminar: Mark Good (Cardiff), Memory processes in an APP mouse model of Alzheimer’s disease. Pevensey 1, 1B3.

FRI 23 JAN
1pm Development seminar: Various speakers (CAFOD), Supporting livelihoods through partnerships with local faith-based organisations. IDS 221.

Small ads

Wanted: Furnished accommodation in B’ton or Lewes, Feb–June, for visiting prof from Mexico. House-sit or rent furnished 1-bed or studio flat Max. 6650pcm incl. Contact Magdalena Barros on mbarros65@hotmail.com or Jenny Money on 07709 539780, jenny@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: 2-bed 1F furnished flat, Nf Kenthouse/Queen’s Pk. Available 20 Jan. £750 pcm. No pets. Contact Omar, ext 7434, E o.lakiss@sussex.ac.uk.

Wanted: Furnished flat or cottage to rent for 2 ppl, central B’ton, for approx 4 wks mid May to mid June. E c.will@sussex.ac.uk, ext 8449.

Short-term let: Double room in family home in Preston Pk area. Available now. Suit visiting lecturer or mature student. £85 p/w incl. WiFi, garden. T 07796 133660.

Wanted: Carshare from Southwick to campus daily. Driver or passenger. Leaving 8am, returning 5pm. E a.j.stevens@sussex.ac.uk, ext 7488.

 sprung lectures

Staff, students and visitors can enjoy a wide-ranging series of free lectures on campus this spring.

The Sussex Lectures, which are put on throughout the year to highlight the University’s research expertise, will start again on 13 January with the BSMS (Brighton and Sussex Medical School) Inaugural Lecture on ‘Making and repairing the body’s tissues’. Presented by Professor Darrell Evans, Associate Dean of BSMS, this lecture will look at the way our tissues form, the decisions that cells must make and the difficulties they encounter.

There will be four Professional Lectures – from Ed Steinmueller, Professional Fellow in SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research (20 January); Jorg Monar, Professor of Contemporary European Studies (3 February); Ben Martin, Professor in SPRU (3 March); and Francis Ratielks, Professor of Apiculture (17 March). Subjects include terrorism and insect sprays. The concept of personal ‘agency’ – the ability of individuals to act independently – in the writing of the new social historians, particularly Herbert Gutman, will be tackled by Professor Walter Johnson of Harvard University on 2 February.

‘Chinese porcelain in the Yuan dynasty: Were the Mongols a help or a hindrance?’ is the question to be answered in the Barlow Lecture on 10 February, Rosemary Scott, International Academic Director (Asian Art) at Christie’s, will lead the discussion.

A second BSMS Inaugural Lecture (24 February) will see Professor Sornnphakphdavv discuss the study of the allergy and asthma epidemic and seek to interpret natural experiments.

The series concludes with the fourth Professional Lecture on 17 March and the Sussex Centre for Intellectual History Lecture on ‘Word and image in the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes’ (11 March), when Professor Quentin Skinner (London) will investigate the sources of Hobbes’ images and the insights they offer into the development of his thought.

The lectures are free of charge and everyone is welcome to attend, but you are asked to RSVP as indicated for each lecture. For details of each lecture, see www.sussex.ac.uk/events.

Selected lectures will be available online a couple of weeks after the event and can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexlecturesarchive.

The Sussex Lectures are co-ordinated by the Development and Alumni Relations Office as part of a programme of activities aimed to promote Sussex’s excellent research and teaching, and to provide opportunities for alumni and friends to celebrate and support this work.
UNISON: your friend at work

With more than 50,000 members working in higher education, being part of UNISON means you have the full weight of the UK’s leading public sector trade union behind you.

Your branch brings you together with other colleagues who face common issues in the workplace. We work together to improve pay, conditions of service, and promote equal pay for work of equal value. The 5% increase in salaries we all received last year was negotiated by UNISON and the other campus trade unions as part of a 3-year pay deal and your branch continues to work on your behalf for the benefit of all support staff.

Join UNISON today to benefit from:

- Protection and representation at work
- Confidential welfare service (including respite care & hardship grants)
- Excellent legal service for members & their families
- Free financial advice
- Access to education & training courses
- Special deals on everything from mortgages, holidays, car breakdown services, insurance & credit cards

Su Balcombe is our Membership Secretary, email: S.Balcombe@sussex.ac.uk, extension: 8344 or go to www.sussex.ac.uk/unison to download an application form. Alternatively you can complete the form overleaf and return it to Su c/o 24 Hour Reception, York House, or bring it along to our January “lunchtime social” at the Meeting House on Thursday 29 January.
Join UNISON – your friend at work

Please fill in this form in BLOCK CAPITALS using black ink and give it to your UNISON rep or steward or post to the address below.

1. YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS Please tick or fill in the boxes below

Mrs  Ms  Miss  Mr  Other
First name  Other initial(s)
Surname/Family name  Date of birth
Home address
Postcode
National Insurance number (from your payslip)

How would you describe your ethnic origin?
☐ Bangladeshi  ☐ Asian  ☐ Black UK
☐ Chinese  ☐ other  ☐ Black other
☐ Indian  ☐ Black  ☐ White UK
☐ Pakistani  ☐ African  ☐ Irish
☐ Asian UK  ☐ Black  ☐ White other
☐ Caribbean
☐ Please tick this box if you require materials in a different format (e.g. large print or Braille) – be sure to supply contact details below. Please give a telephone number/voice/text/email address for UNISON to contact you – indicate if work or home
Contact tel/voice/text/email

2. YOUR EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Employer's name
Your job title/occupation
Department/section
Workplace name and address
Postcode  Payroll number (from your payslip)

3. WHAT YOU WILL PAY – FROM 1 October 2003

Please tick the appropriate box for your earnings before deductions.

Weekly pay  Annual pay  YOUR SUBSCRIPTION—WHAT YOU PAY
Up to £38.47  Up to £2,000
£38.48–£96.16  £2,001–£5,000
£96.17–£153.84  £5,001–£8,000
£153.85–£211.53  £8,001–£11,000
£211.54–£269.23  £11,001–£14,000
£269.24–£326.92  £14,001–£17,000
£326.93–£384.61  £17,001–£20,000
£384.62–£480.76  £20,001–£25,000
£480.77–£576.92  £25,001–£30,000
£576.93–£673.08  £30,001–£35,000
£673.08+  over £35,000

Please tick the appropriate box to indicate how often you are paid
☐ Weekly  ☐ Fortnightly  ☐ Four Weekly  ☐ Monthly

☐ Please tick this box if you are a student member in full-time education (including student nurses or Modern Apprentices).
Your subscription is £10 per year.

4. POLITICAL FUND

UNISON's Affiliated Political Fund (APF) is used to campaign for and promote UNISON policy and the need for quality public services within the Labour Party, locally and nationally, in Parliament and Europe. UNISON APF affiliates to the Labour Party.

UNISON's General Political Fund (GPF) is used to pay for campaigning at branch, regional and national levels of the union and for research and lobbying in Parliament and Europe. It is independent of support for any political party.

It is important that you indicate a choice of fund by ticking one of the boxes below. Your subscription shown above includes a political fund payment so you do not pay any more by being in one of the funds.

5. YOUR AUTHORISATION

☐ I wish to join UNISON and accept its rules and constitution.
☐ I authorise deduction of UNISON subscriptions from my salary/wages at the rate determined by UNISON in accordance with its rules to be paid over to them on my behalf and I authorise my employer to provide information to UNISON to keep my records up to date
☐ I authorise deduction of the following Political Fund payment as part of my subscription: Tick one box only
☐ Affiliated Political Fund  ☐ General Political Fund

Now please sign and date below

Signature

Date

OTHER WAYS TO PAY
☐ direct debit  ☐ cheque

Please return your completed form to:
Su Balcombe
c/o 24-hour Reception, York House

DATA PROTECTION
UNISON will process your membership information together with other information for administration, statistical analysis, conducting ballots and other statutory requirement purposes.
We may also send you newsletters, journals and surveys and let you know about educational and campaigning matters. We will disclose your information to our service providers and agents for these purposes.
☐ If you do not want any mailings from UNISON besides those required by statute as shown in bold above, please tick this box.
We may share your information with organisations with whom we have a business relationship for your benefit. We, or they, may contact you by mail, telephone, SMS, fax or e-mail to let you know about goods, services or promotions which we think may be of interest to you.
☐ If you do not wish to receive such information please tick this box.