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League latest

Each year, The Guardian, The Times, and The Sunday Times publish rankings of the UK’s universities based on a variety of criteria including student satisfaction, research assessment, entry standards, and graduate prospects.

In The Guardian University Guide 2011, Loughborough has risen to equal 10th place in the subject rankings of Building, Librarianship and Information Management, and Sports Science – and has dropped from the top 10 in the subject rankings of University archives and Print on Essential Silk, Design and Print Services.

In The Times league table for 2011, the University has risen one place to equal 16th. Loughborough is placed top in three of the subject tables – Building, Librarianship and Information Management, and Sports Science – and has dropped from the top 10 in the subject rankings of University archives and Print on Essential Silk, Design and Print Services.

In the Complete University Guide 2011, which appears in The Independent, Loughborough was ranked 21st which is, disappointingly, a drop from the previous year. In many of the indicators used in compiling the table, the data for Loughborough has changed very little from last year and there is only a small difference between the overall scores of the institutions on either side. As a result even a minor change in some of the indicators will cause a drop in ranking.

However, Loughborough has continued to do well in the subject rankings of this guide, appearing top 10 in 16 of the tables and ranking as the best in the UK for Building and Sports Science.

The Sunday Times Good University Guide is due to be published in September.

University Court revamped

More than 120 VIPs, alumni, business leaders and dignitaries turned out for the new look University Court which took place at SportPark in June.

Court has been revamped this year to better engage with external partners and promote Loughborough’s ongoing work, successes and future plans in an informal environment. Themed ‘Making a Difference’, the event reflected the new publication now available in print and online, which provides an overview of some of the University’s recent activities that are influencing business and industry, people’s health, culture and the local community.

Vice Chancellor Professor Shirley Pearce welcomed the new members and was joined by Chancellor Sir Dennis Passmore for a series of presentations highlighting the University’s research, achievements and ambitions. The event was organised by members of the Marketing and Communications team with support from the Vice Chancellor’s Office and Faculties Management.

Pensions update

Many of the University’s staff are members of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), which is currently being reviewed.

High quality pension provision in higher education is part of a strong reward package and, with considered reforms, should remain one of the key benefits offered to staff. USS has been a very successful scheme for 35 years and it is generally agreed that steps need to be taken to bring it up to date. A fundamental decision of action is not taken now, the financial pressures will increase further and threaten the future sustaintability of the scheme.

The review process is being conducted through the USS Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC), which comprises representatives from both the Employers Pension Forum (EPF) and the University and College Union (UCU).

On 7 July the JNC voted on the proposals for changes to the scheme put forward by both the EPF and the UCU. The EPF’s proposals were accepted and will now be put to the USS Trustee Board.

The changes outlined by the EPF are seen as the minimum necessary to address the massive pressures facing the sustainability of USS, primarily because people are living longer and investment returns have fallen.

It is important to understand the proposed changes are not an attempt to cut the cost of pensions. In October 2009, higher education employers were required to increase their USS contributions by 2%, bringing the amount they put into the scheme to 16%, and a further increase for employers is proposed for 2011. At present USS members pay 6.35% of their salary into the USS scheme.

The USS pension scheme will be valued again next year and a shortfall is widely anticipated. The universities will have to meet this gap and the proposals put forward by the EPF are intended to ensure that USS remains a viable and sustainable pension fund.

Exceptional trio earn University Medal

Three long-serving members of staff are to receive the University Medal in recognition of their exceptional service. With more than 90 years of employment at Loughborough between them, cleaning supervisor Sandra Moody, small works manager Dennis Ball and senior assistant registrar Robert Bowyer are to be honoured at this year’s graduation ceremonies.

Sandra joined Loughborough in 1974 as an evening cleaner and rose through the ranks to become Holwell Park’s cleaning supervisor. Known as ‘mother’ to her cleaning team, Sandra is well-known for ‘spitting’ Holwell’s tenants and providing extra support to international students on her watch. She has also played a valuable role in helping to set up SportPark. Away from her direct responsibilities, Sandra is actively involved in University tradition, having worked as an usher at graduation ceremonies for the last 15 years including the recent centenary graduations when she accompanied less mobile recipients onto the stage.

Dennis joined the University in 1978 at a time when estate projects were designed in-house and he soon became an accomplished draftsman, developing plans by hand. As the volume of projects increased in the mid-80s Dennis concentrated on small works contracts, progressing them from an idea through design development to tendering and supervision. There were several informal environment.

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Labour launches sports manifesto on campus

Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown met with sports staff and athletes in April to launch the party’s sports manifesto in the final week of campaigning for the general elections.

Mr Brown toured the Gymnastics Research Centre and talked to some of the University’s top gymnasts, before giving the campaign feature in the Daily Telegraph.

The week-long celebration was split over six themed days. Loughborough’s enterprise activity was well represented on the ‘business’ day with spin-out company Inspired Bicycles, formed by Sports Technology graduate Dan Mace, taking part in the campaign feature in the Daily Telegraph.

The ‘arts, culture and sport’ celebration, held on the Friday, also saw the work of the Sports Technology Institute on the adidas ‘Jubilanti’ World Cup football featured prominently.

The University medal is awarded for exceptional service in any field for and on behalf of the University.

Nominations for the 2011 awards close on 5 February 2011. For more information contact Chris Garrod on c.m.garrod@lboro.ac.uk or 01509 228483.

Alumni reunion

Students that graduated in 1980, 1970, 1960 and prior to 1960 are being invited back onto campus for our special alumni reunion weekend from 10-12 September.

The alumni office has planned a packed two days of activities including tours, demonstrations, exhibitions and celebratory meals.

Staff interested in getting involved or attending should contact Marilyn Johnson on m.johnson@lboro.ac.uk or 01509 228483. For more details see www.lboro.ac.uk/alumni
**Library leads with IIP Bronze**

Pilkington Library is celebrating after becoming the first department in the University to achieve the Investors In People (IIP) Bronze Award. IIP is a national benchmarking programme which offers a business improvement tool designed to help organisations develop performance through their people. Having initially achieved The Standard mark in 2007, the library was upgraded to Bronze at its latest assessment. The IIP assessor interviewed 33 employees from the library and human resources and carried out checks against the organisation’s ‘plan, do, review’ framework.

The library had to achieve at least 65 evidence requirements from the framework for Bronze, and received particular praise for its training and development programmes, equality and diversity, and opportunities for staff to contribute ideas and suggestions.

imago Services and imago at Loughborough Limited have also been successful in achieving Investors in People accreditation. They achieved an overall score of 88, and are now aiming for the Bronze accreditation towards the end of 2011.

**Crowds descend upon 2010 degree shows**

Hordes of visitors flocked to the annual Art and Design and Design and Technology degree shows in June, where the incredible talent of more than 200 final year students was on display.

The exhibitions provide a unique opportunity for the students to showcase their artwork and innovative products to an external audience. Visitors were able to see a whole host of artistic genres, including furniture, painting, film, graphic design, animation, textiles and industrial design.

A painting by student Deborah Aves from the School of Art and Design, entitled ‘Contemporary Dance’, won the Edward Sharp Purchase Prize. The painting will be kept by LUSAD for a year before going into the University’s collection to be displayed across the campus.

Rachael Roberts from the Department of Design and Technology won first prize in the Innovation Award – sponsored by the University’s Enterprise Office – for her ‘Casablanca’s controversial cooling and impulse increasing system’. She was awarded £400.

**ENTREPRISE AWARDS – CAST YOUR VOTE**

Staff are being asked to take part in an online vote to select winners of the University’s annual Enterprise Awards. Eleven trophies have been announced across four categories which illustrate the commercial application of Loughborough’s research expertise and student entrepreneurship. Each of the projects has received expert support and guidance from the Enterprise Office and all are making significant economic and social impact by tackling a range of key issues.

The winners will be decided by public vote and will receive their awards from Sir Nigel Rudd, the University’s Chancellor, at a presentation in October. The finalists in each category are:

**COMMERCIALISATION**

- **AGREEMENT DOCUMENTS ACHIEVING ACOUSTIC REALTIME MONITORING SYSTEMS ALARMS**
  - Siân Evans and Matthew Sargis
  - Civil and Building Engineering

- **FLEXIBLE SOLAR CELLS WITH INTEGRATED SUPERCAPACITOR**
  - Usual Wujie ettukum and Stephen Pitchett (Chemistry)

- **DUAL FLEX FOOTWEAR**
  - Neil Hopkinson (Additive Manufacturing Research Group), Mike Caile and Dan Toon (Sports Technology Institute, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering)

**KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER**

- **RWA RAIL LTD**
  - Chris Hinde, Ian Phillips and Tom Jackson
  - School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

- **SANWOOD DESIGN & BUILD LTD**
  - Christine Parissio and Stephen Emmitt
  - Civil and Building Engineering

**STUDENT**

- **EXEMPLARY INNOVATION**
  - Ali Lindsay (Accounting and Finance), Chris Wickson (Management Science)

- **BOUJANGLE BEADS**
  - Katy Widdowson (Textile Design)

- **200 SHOP**
  - Ben Farquharson (Design and Technology)

- **PINECON SYSTEMS**
  - Laurence Hardwell-Goad and Mark Wear (Design and Technology)

**CONSULTANCY**

- **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE**
  - Victoria Harris (Engineering and Safety Research Institute), Jason Bowker (Advisory Technology), Keith Lumsden (Civil and Building Engineering), Martin Thompson (Consultants for Renewable Energy Systems Technology)

- **SEDMETRICS**
  - David Graham, Kim Reid, Stephen Rice (Geography)

**Cutting carbon reaps rewards**

The University has won three major awards in recognition of its activities to cut carbon emissions and manage its carbon footprint.

Not only has it picked up the Carbon Positive Footprints Award (for organisations with more than 250 employees) at the East Midlands Carbon Positive Awards, but it was also named Carbon Positive Pioneer at the same event – recognising the University’s commitment to sustainability across research, enterprise, teaching, and operations.

On a national scale, the University was Highly Commended in the carbon reduction category at the prestigious Green Awards, which celebrate the UK’s most sustainable universities and organisations.

All awards recognise the success of the University’s innovative Green Awards campaign which helped lower the University’s carbon footprint by over 50% in its first year. Since the initiative’s launch in 2009, its team of Environmental Champions has gone from strength to strength with more than 250 staff signed up to spread the word – the largest contingent in the higher education sector.

“Told you to thank all the staff across the University who have got behind the It’s Better Off campaign,” said director of change projects Dr Anne Mumford, who has been leading an institutional project to make a step change in Loughborough’s approach to sustainability. “Without their help our recent success would not have been possible.”

**Students get flash for library comp**

Civil and building engineering postgraduate Wes Cheng has won the inaugural University Library photography competition with an architecturally-inspired image of a stairwell.

Fourteen photographers submitted a total of 40 images to the competition which was open to staff and students and judged by the library’s marketing and publications group. Entrants were asked to submit up to three photos each under the theme ‘what I like about Loughborough University Library’.

All entries are currently on display on Level 3 of the library and can also be seen on the library’s flickr account (search Loughborough University library at www.flickr.com).

A selection of the images will be turned into prints to decorate the library and following the competition’s success, plans are already afoot to run it again next year.

**Centenary celebrations clinch national gold**

The team behind last year’s innovative Centenary Graduation Ceremonies have been recognised at the annual Higher Education Information Services Trust (HEIST) Awards.

- The Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) claimed Best Alumni / Fundraising gold for the success of last year’s events which welcomed back around 1500 students who attended Loughborough’s constituent colleges before 1979.
- The former students – some in their nineties – were invited to receive honorary degrees, and demand was so huge that a second centenary graduation event in December was added to the summer celebrations.
- DARO worked with colleagues in Academic Registry, image, Design and Print and Security, as well as a team of alumni volunteers, to welcome the 2500 plus alumni and guests.

“Told you to thank everyone who pulled together to make the centenary graduations such a huge success,” said director of development and alumni relations Ron Gray. “Never before has a university attempted such a celebration.”

**Awards**

- The Association of American Geographers’ Political Geography Speciality Group has named its Lifetime Achievement Award in honour of Loughborough’s Professor Peter Taylor. Professor Taylor received the inaugural award last year for his extensive research on globalisation and world cities.
- PhD researcher Abbert Pham (Welsh School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering) won the best paper award at the 12th International Business Conference in Dubai and was given a fellowship to the World Business Institute.
- Finalist Paul Dexton continued Chemical Engineering tradition by becoming the department’s 16th student to win a Saffers Graduate Prize in the last 17 years.
- Image have added two more awards to their burgeoning trophy cabinet, claiming Access for All gold at the national Engage Education Awards for Excellence and taking the top spot for sales and marketing at the Leicester Business Awards.
- Materials Engineering student Grace Smallley has received the RMIJ Royal Charter Prize for outstanding performance during her course of study.
- Dr Sergio Savelli from the Department of Physics has received the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award from the Humboldt Foundation in Germany.
- The Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (IEHF) has presented Professor Alastair Gale with the President’s Medal for his breast cancer screening scheme PERFORMS.
- Research magazine The View has been Highly Commended at the University Print Managers Group Design and Print Awards Dinner. The magazine is edited by the PR Office and designed by Design and Print.
Spit for Steve success

A donor drive for the Anthony Nolan Trust hosted on campus in May has hauled in £5,000 as the best ever one-day recruitment event at a University.

Coordinated by staff in engineering following news that Dean of Engineering Steve Rothberg needed a bone marrow transplant, the ‘Spit for Steve’ event attracted a staggering 266 new donors on the register. This tops the existing university best of 230 which was also held by Loughborough.

Better still the event a donor has since been found for Steve. For more information on the Anthony Nolan Trust and to find out how to sign up as a donor log onto www.donatebonemarrow.co.uk

Travel and hospitality cost saving measures

As the University continues to look for ways to tighten its belt, the Operations Committee has recently approved new cost saving measures including no first class travel car bookings and no exceptions to the travel car bookings and haul flights, no executive train travel, no business including no first class new cost saving measures has recently approved operations committee to tighten its belt, the saving measures outside the University, “she said. “We are delighted to be able to support them also put in a huge amount of time and effort to a range of community activities.

The Vice Chancellor presented the cheques at a ceremony held on campus on 5 July. “Staff contribute a great deal to the success of the University and they put in a huge amount of time and effort to a range of community activities outside the University,” she said. “We are delighted to be able to support them also put in a huge amount of time and effort to a range of community activities.

Improving your email efficiency

The Staff Development team has run a pilot project on email efficiency, which could save employees an estimated 29 minutes per day dealing with emails! Employees have been offered via e-learning or through 90 minute seminar or webinar sessions to 50 staff.

Working with a steering group including Dr Tom Jackson, Information Science, the team are now evaluating the outcomes with a view to making the training available to all staff. For more information contact Claire Bradshaw on C.L.Bradshaw@lboro.ac.uk

New incarnations for art, design and ergonomics

It’s all change this summer as two new schools come into existence. From 1 August Loughborough University School of Art and Design (LUSAD) will be known as the School of the Arts, whilst the launch of the new Loughborough Design School brings together Design and Technology, Ergonomics (Human Sciences), and the Ergonomics and Safety Research Institute (ESRI).

DALLEKS pilot latest learning technology

A new project funded by the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education is being piloted at Loughborough to investigate how web-based technologies enable people to participate in action learning from their own desktops.

DALLEKS (Desktop Action Learning – Experience, Knowledge and Skills), will look at remote learning via video conferencing on your PC, and aims to generate and share guidance on both the technological and facilitational aspects across the sector. To find out more about the project contact director of capability enhancement Andy Wilson on d.a.wilson@lboro.ac.uk or senior development advisor Claire Bradshaw on C.L.Bradshaw@lboro.ac.uk

Questions, thoughts and bright ideas

Last issue we asked you to send in any burning questions you might have for our senior managers, and after a flurry of emails you think the University really should consider implementing a computer literacy training initiative run by Imago since 2006 and is an extension of a successful programme is an extension of a successful...
Pipe work heating up

Work to replace the University’s ageing underground heating pipes is now underway and many staff will have noticed the various path, car park and road closures across campus as the contractor’s team prepares the site.

Facilities Management is leading this project for the University. The main contacts are Matthew Clarke (project manager) and Stewart Pilkington (engineering asset manager). Here, they provide more information on the project.

Combined heat and power plans

As part of the University’s ongoing bid to cut carbon emissions, a third gas fired Combined Heat and Power Plant (CHP) is set to be installed in the Facilities Management yard later this year.

CHP is the generation of thermal and electrical energy in a single process, optimising use of energy available from the fuel. CHP installations typically convert up to 80% of the fuel’s energy into electrical power and useful heat – a huge improvement on conventional power generation which delivers energy efficiency of around just 35%.

Once the CHP is operational it will provide around 25% of the University’s electricity load and will reduce the annual CO2 emissions by 2,247 tonnes.

Why does the work need to be done?

- Most of the existing system is 25 years old and beyond its working life, which leads to costly and disruptive emergency repairs as we experienced this winter.
- We need to make provision for new energy and carbon saving technologies to be implemented, such as the combined heat and power plant (CHP) which will be installed on Central Park later this year.
- The Victory Hall boiler house is scheduled to be demolished as part of the East Park development and the new system will provide an alternative heat source for buildings in this area.

How long will the work take?

- The work will be undertaken in three stages and is scheduled for completion by the end of September 2010.
- To accommodate contractors’ equipment and facilitate works, parking is reduced in car parks 5, 5a, and the Bridge Centre until early October. There will also be a loss of some disabled car parking during this time.
- Large and deep trenches (shaded red on the plan) will involve the closure of footpaths and roads and subsequent re-routing of pedestrians and traffic.
- Fire exits and entrances to buildings could be closed for some time which may result in people having to take slightly longer routes.

What are the benefits for staff and students?

- A more reliable heating service and less unscheduled disruptions due to emergency repair and maintenance works.
- A lower carbon footprint to the University which is an essential requirement of future funding.

In the pipeline...

Each edition, In the Pipeline outlines a variety of projects, developments and maintenance underway or in the planning process.

- The creation of an Art Centre at the site of the Cape Auditorium has been approved, creating a defined centre for administration, exhibition and performance. Works will comprise the refurbishment of the foyer, office areas and rehearsal rooms.
- Work is underway at the Pilkington Library to improve the quality of its lighting, extend wireless internet coverage and refresh the group study rooms. The improvements are scheduled to be completed by mid-September but access may be limited until that time.
- Legal arrangements are being made for the adoption of Holywell Way and the process should be complete by late summer. This will provide opportunities at the West entrance for improvements in respect of appearance, pedestrian access and traffic control.
- Arrangements are being made for the necessary surfacing of University Road between Admin 2 and David Collett Hall. This work is being combined with road crossings for the thermal infrastructure pipe work to minimise the period of closure of the road during August.
- Refurbishment of the Link Hotel bedrooms is taking place from July to October, with improvements to the public areas scheduled from August to mid-September.
- A strategy establishing an overall approach to the landscape development of the campus has been approved by estates management committee. Road safety and public space improvement projects will be brought forward for approval alongside investment plans for building and infrastructure improvement projects.
- Plans are being prepared for the refurbishment of laboratories in 5 Building and Holwell Park for the Materials Department. The project is benefiting from a Wolstant Grant and some gifts of equipment. The works in 5 Building are proposed to take place this summer and those in Holwell Park will follow.
- A planning application has been submitted for the construction of three multi-use games areas (MUGAs) between the paddock pitch and the Pilkington Library car park. It is proposed this will be available for recreational sport before the end of this year.
West Park

**The Link Hotel**
New Ash Road, T: 011627 / www.thelinkhotellad.co.uk

**Pilkington Library**
Mon-Thu 9am-9pm, Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-9pm; Sun 10am-5pm

**Burleigh Court**
Mon-Thur 9am-9pm, Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-9pm; Sun 10am-5pm

**Holywell Park**
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-3pm

A range of hot and cold drinks, pastries, baguettes, pancakes, soup, jacket potatoes and confectionery (eat in or take away)

**feast@676**
Pilkington Library, Mon-Thur 9am-5pm; Fri 9am-2pm

Shop selling essential grocery items, hot and cold take away food, confectionery, soft drinks and stationery

**feast at west**
Sir David Davies Building, Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am-3pm; Wed 9am-3pm

Offers a range of hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, cakes, pastries, pasta, confectionery, snacks, hot and cold drinks to take away

Village Park

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**Pilkington Library**
All University staff can access the library for free using their staff card and are able to borrow up to 25 books at a time

**Burleigh Springs**
Burleigh Court, Mon-Thur 7am-7pm; Fri 7am-7pm

**Holywell Park**
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-3pm

A range of hot and cold drinks, pastries, baguettes, pancakes, soup, jacket potatoes and confectionery (eat in or take away)

Central Park

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**Let the Games begin**

In two years’ time the country will be buzzing with the excitement of hosting the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. And with Loughborough’s worldwide reputation and passion for sport it’s no surprise Olympic fever is set to take a firm hold on staff and students across campus too.

Already confirmed as the European base and final preparation camp for Japan’s Olympic squad, the University’s Paralympic Games. And with Loughborough’s worldwide reputation and passion for sport it’s no surprise Olympic fever is set to take a firm hold on staff and students across campus too. newsatlboro looks at the impact hosting Japan has already had on campus.

**eastern promise**

Preparations to host the Japanese have been underway for over a year now and the benefits of the University’s relationship with the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) have already stretched beyond performance sport.

Academic partnerships have been cemented and new ones introduced with universities across Japan, including the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Science’s link-up to a global $14m research programme led by Waseda University.

Staff at imago and the Sports Development Centre have trialled a Japanese cultural workshop which is being opened up to employees across campus later this year. Numerous Japanese visitors have added Loughborough to their British tour itineraries, with groups ranging from smaller collections of academics and teachers to a 40-strong contingent from the country’s Olympic sports who visited to appreciate the wealth of on-site facilities.

Athletes from triathlon, pentathlon, athletics and swimming have also sampled what the University has to offer with a series of camps over the last 10 months with many more visits scheduled this summer and beyond.

And trips have been reciprocated as key Loughborough staff, including image head of group catering Mark Price, Burleigh Court chef Andy Grant and Chris Earle and Ben AHinen from the Sports Development Centre, have made the journeys to Japan to make sure Loughborough offers the best possible preparation for their athletes.

Pupils across the East Midlands are also feeling the effects of the Japanese partnership following the launch of the Musubi days which have been developed with six formers from South Wolds School in Nottingham.

**say what?**

Staff at Loughborough have had the chance to learn Japanese for the last 10 years as part of the University’s extra-curricular languages programme. Interest in the course has grown since it was confirmed Japan’s athletes would complete their Olympic preparation on campus and in the last year alone around 80 students, staff and local residents have taken on the challenge to learn the language at one of three levels.

New for 2010/11, the learning resources centre is planning to introduce a short course for conversational Japanese which will focus on basic communicative skills without introducing the complexities of Japanese scripts. The course is scheduled to run for 1½ hours per week for 10 weeks during Semester 1.

For more information on the Japanese courses, or to find out more about classes in Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Czech, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish search extra-curricular languages programme on the University website or contact Val Boyle on v.boyle@lboro.ac.uk or 222982.

**Help welcome Japanese visitors with these handy phrases:**

Hello / good afternoon = kon-ni-chi-wa
Good morning = o-ha-yo-u-go-za-i-ma-su
Good evening = kon-bun-su
Welcome to Loughborough = Loughborough e yo-u-ko-so
How are you? = o-ge-ni-ki de-su-ka
Thank you = arigatou-go-zaimasu
Goodbye = su-you-ni-ga-u

Japanese has five vowels pronounced as follows: a – almond, i – in, u – wool, e – envelop, o – on

**join the culture club**

In anticipation of the increase in Japanese visitors and students before and during 2012, Staff Development is offering a Japan and the Japanese workshop as part of its Excellence Programme.

The two-hour session is designed to help staff make visitors and students feel welcome and comfortable by speaking a few words of greeting and showing a knowledge of Japanese culture and their country.

The next sessions are scheduled for November. For more information search ‘Japan’ at www.lboro.ac.uk/services/sd, call 222381 or email pd@lboro.ac.uk

**spread the word to schoolchildren**

The award-winning Musubi days are led by Japanese language students from South Wolds School in Keyworth and welcome schoolchildren from across the East Midlands onto campus every term until the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Designed to teach lessons in Japanese culture, language and sport, the programme has already received the London 2012 Olympic Mark and more recently the South Wolds students picked up a gong at the European Award for Languages.

Mearing connection in Japan, Musubi days bring together East Midlands school pupils, University staff and students, and visiting Japanese athletes, and include activities such as taiko drumming, judo, sumo making, a sports tour and workshops in Japanese costume, language and characters.

The Musubi programme is supported by the Sports Development Centre and emda.

**Vegetable Tempura**

As part of imago’s preparations for 2012 chefs Andy Grant and Mark Price visited Japan to learn more about the country’s cuisine.

The pair visited food farms and factories, and even the world’s largest fish market, to understand the basic building blocks of a Japanese diet.

They spent time in the country’s kitchens to see how their overseas counterparts prepare their menus, in order to give Loughborough’s Japanese visitors a taste of home when they visit campus over the next two years.

They are currently looking at how they can incorporate elements of some of Japan’s more popular dishes into the fine dining and lunchtime menus at Burleigh Court and are speaking to local oriental food suppliers to source ingredients.

Here Andy shares a vegetable tempura recipe to help staff bring a touch of the orient to their tables at home.

**Ingredients (serves 4)**

1 Egg
1 Cup of iced water
1 Cup of plain flour ( GLUTEN FREE)
1 Breadcrumb
1 Spanish
1 Red pepper
1 Green pepper
1 Aubergine
1 Sweet potato (peeled)
1 Onion

1. Cut the veggie into 1/2 inch thick pieces, coating the vegetable lengthwise. Make sure the vegetables are dry after you cut them or you will have a mess when you put them in the oil.
2. Beat the egg in a bowl. Add iced water to the bowl. Add sifted flour and mix lightly, leaving some lumps in the batter.
3. Heat the oil in a pan or deep enough to fry in. Make sure the oil is 180°C before you begin to fry the tempura (a good way to tell if the oil is hot enough is to drop a bit of batter in the oil – it’s ready to the surface immediately it’s ready)  
4. Put the veggies into the batter mix, completely covering them.  
5. Carefully播出 the ingedients into the hot using a large cooking spoon (or similar)
6. Fry the harder veggies (like potatoes and squash) for around 10-12 minutes and the other, softer veggies for around eight minutes, or until they’re all a very light golden brown
7. Spoon the cooked tempura onto some paper towels to absorb some of the grease
8. Serve with the soy and wasabi dipping sauce immediately.
As thoughts turn to the summer holidays we unearth some seasonal research from across campus.

Holidays are essential for family life

A recent study by the Centre for Research into Social Policy (CRSP) has found parents rate holidays as one of the essential elements of family life. Researchers interviewed parents with toddlers and teenage children across the UK in order to understand what constitutes childhood deprivation. The findings showed parents value activities and possessions promoting family relationships and their children’s safety and development – such as holidays and shared time away from home – and emphasised much could be achieved on a limited budget.

Some parents thought that a long weekend break in the UK would meet the minimum essential need for time together as a family away from home, although others thought that a week was needed. But nobody considered a foreign holiday to be “essential”.

A holiday at home?

Research by the Department of Civil and Building Engineering has examined people’s holiday choices in a bid to understand more about ‘staycations’ and those who opt to holiday in Britain. The study was led by Dr Lisa Davison from the Transport Studies Group and funded by the Royal Geographical Society and the Institute of British Geographers. Its main aim was to assess whether Great Britain is actually an alternative travel destination, capable of competing with other more exotic locations.

A survey of East Midlands households found that 74% had taken at least one holiday in Great Britain in the previous year and over a quarter of households had only holidayed in Great Britain. ‘Staycations’ proved to have wide appeal and were popular with individuals both in the lower and upper socio-economic groups. However, in the last two years the proportion of proportion of people who travel abroad for travel for business purposes. Dr Piga’s big tip – never wait until the last minute.

The best time to book

Dr Claudio Piga from the Department of Economics has been conducting research into the pricing methods adopted by airlines, in particular looking at the best time for travellers to buy tickets to ensure they get the best fares. He found that the departures date is the best time to book as is as early as possible. However, if there is some uncertainty about travel times lower fares can still be purchased from 28 to 18 days before departure. During this time some decrease in price often occurs, especially for flights on routes where passengers are predominantly travelling for leisure. In most cases the two weeks prior to departure prices increase significantly, particularly on routes where a large proportion of passengers travel for business purposes. Dr Piga’s tip – never wait until the last minute.

Supporting the tourism industry

For more than a decade the University’s Business School has been working with leading tour operator Thomas Cook to offer a bespoke Postgraduate Certificate in Management for its staff. The programme is continuously evolving to meet the changing demands of the tourism industry, the design of which is developed with the company. The primary aim is to meet the needs of managers across its business, enabling staff to develop practical skills whilst working towards a university award.

Why volcanic ash can cast a cloud over your holiday

Researchers invited Dr Duncan Walker from the Department of Aeronautical and Automotive Engineering – an expert in the field of gas turbine combustor aerodynamics – to shed some light on why the volcanic ash cloud has been causing so much disruption to air travel.

“There is a particular set of circumstances that make the ash cloud from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano so disruptive. Firstly, the volcano is under 200m of ice which rapidly quenches the hot lava causing it to solidify as glass-like particles not unlike sand paper. Secondly, the eruption is explosive (which is enhanced by the quenching effect of the glacial melt water) and this launches the ash high into the atmosphere. Thirdly, the weather and in particular the Gulf Stream rapidly blew the ash cloud into UK and European airspace.

“An aircraft flies into a dense ash cloud the abrasive nature of the ash could damage the aircraft’s external surfaces or the instruments used to measure air speed, etc, although it’s unlikely that either of these would cause the aircraft to crash. The main cause of concern is damage to the aircraft’s engines. Again the abrasive particles can damage aerodynamic components such as the compressor or turbine blades and the fine ash particles can clog ducts or ports or cooling features.

“Of more concern is that as the glass-like particles pass through the combustion system they melt and then re-solidify on the cooler turbine blades, producing a coating which destroys the aerodynamic shape of the blades. All of this causes significant damage and essentially stops the engine working. In fact in two separate incidents in the 1980s two Boeing 747 aircraft lost all four engines after flying through volcanic ash. Luckily, when the engine is not running it cools, contracts and the coating on the turbine blades breaks off, so in both cases the pilots managed to re-start their engines and land safely.

“Thereal problem is that aircraft engines swallow a huge amount of air so there doesn’t need to be a lot of ash before the engines gets damaged. For example, although the current limit is determined by the highest ash load that aircraft engines can tolerate without damage to the engine. Luckily, when the engine is not running it cools, contracts and the coating on the turbine blades breaks off, so in both cases the pilots managed to re-start their engines and land safely.

“Prior to April 2010 there was a blanket ban on flying through volcanic ash. It was unknown what a safe level was and engine manufacturers had been reluctant to damage their multi-million pound test engines in order to find out. The problem is that aircraft engines swallow a huge amount of air so there doesn’t need to be a lot of ash before the engines gets damaged. For example, although the current limit is determined by the highest ash load that aircraft engines can tolerate without damage to the engine. Luckily, when the engine is not running it cools, contracts and the coating on the turbine blades breaks off, so in both cases the pilots managed to re-start their engines and land safely.

“Dr Piga’s big tip – never wait until the last minute.

Planes and people

Dr Lucy Budd, a lecturer from the Department of Civil and Building Engineering’s Transport Studies Group, has a long standing research interest in air transport operations and the socio-cultural dimensions of commercial aviation. She is currently researching how external ‘shocks’, such as the recent eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland, and a changing climate may impact on air traffic flows and the places people chose to fly to or hold.

Another strand of her research concerns the spread of epidemic diseases and the public health aspects of global air travel. In conjunction with Professor Morag Bird (PVC Teaching) and Dr Adam Warren (Geography), she is exploring the development of sanitary regulations for aviation. This has involved examining the health interventions that are deployed at airports and in aircraft to try and safeguard passenger health and restrict the transmission of infectious diseases by air.
Election reaction

Some of Loughborough’s political experts share their views on the recent General Election and newsatlboro finds out from Vice Chancellor Professor Shirley Pearce what the result means for the University.

The Liberal Democrats as a brand

Dr Gareth Smith, Business School

As its leader/key brand spokesperson, Nick Clegg directly influenced his party’s fortunes (brand equity). A strong brand needs consumer awareness and the first leaders’ debate on 15 May provided him and his party with a unique opportunity that they could now easily justify Clegg’s (brand) personality (his perceived competence, image, attractiveness, handlings and energy) and this contributed to the 11% increase in Lib Dem support in a week.

So why did the party not do better? After the ‘I agree with Nick’ debate, Brown and Cameron attacked his competence (get real) and responsibility (over fiancés and asylum for illegal immigrants). Also, much of the new Lib Dem support was from traditionally toxic ‘brand extension’ policies such as increased student fees.

The electorate could now easily judge Clegg’s (brand) handsomeness and energy) and this contributed to the 11% increase in Lib Dem support in a week. For many of its supporters, the coalition is a point for brand alliance causing negative brand switching. For example, it makes it hard for the Lib Dem brand of disassociate brand switching.

From traditionally toxic ‘brand extension’ policies such as increased student fees.

Positioning on foreign policy

Chris Darlington, Department of Politics, History and International Relations

The 2010 general election was dominated to an unusually large degree by two economic issues: the global recession and the diabolically expressed scandal. Foreign policy was rarely opened up for serious or sustained discussion.

The Conservatives went furthest in terms of setting out a distinctive foreign policy vision by spelling out a ‘Liberal Conservative Foreign Policy’ with an unabashed Globalist focus.

The ‘Internationalist’ Labour and the Liberal Democrats were more positive about the EU but echoed the Conservatives by brushing their foreign policy vision in terms of British leadership on the world stage.

The 2010 election thus confirmed that no party can afford to be too ambiguous about the EU. Appealing to a broadly Eurosceptical British public necessitates a nod to traditionally British themes such as the ‘special relationship’ with the US and a commitment to defend British interests and power against further Europeanisation from Brussels.

Approaching it from quite different angles, it makes it clear how the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives will agree on the European dimension of British foreign policy as the means of coalition government.

Combining celebrity with politics

Professor Liesbet Van Zoonen, Department of Social Sciences

The photo shoot and other celebrity coverage only 12% had expected the Lib Dem to do better. It featured relatively briefly in the manifestos but received more of an airing during the second televised leaders’ debate. The major themes discussed were: Afghanistan, global poverty, climate change, international terrorism, security, and conflict prevention, and the European Union (EU).

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Women left by the wayside

Emily Harmer, Department of Social Sciences

Despite intense media speculation that women votes, and media in particular, were going to be central to the 2010 general election campaign women were effectively marginalised in the media’s coverage.

With polite female politicians were largely invisible in the campaigning. Instead devoid of stimulus on the issues of the party leaders. The ‘I agree with Nick’ debate of the campaign with three white, male leaders and colleagues dominated the media. The only women present within audience members forced to passively spectate rather than speak.

A minor Conservative was the modest increase in the numbers of female MPs, who now make up 22% of parliament.

A new chapter in Government

With the new coalition Government now firmly in place, some of their plans for universities are starting to become clearer. Although it’s still early days, Vice Chancellor Professor Shirley Pearce gives an overview of developments so far.

A change of Government, and even Cabinet reshuffles, provide us with the opportunity to work with a range of different people.

Under the new Coalition we know that, for the time being at least, responsibility for Higher Education will stay within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Secretary of State for which is Vince Cable MP. David Willetts MP has been appointed Minister for Universities and Science.

Other Ministers of particular relevance to the University’s activities are Chris Huhne (Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change), Andrew Lansley (Secretary of State for Health), Philip Hammond (Secretary of State for Transport) and Jeremy Hunt (Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport).

In a letter to all university vice-chancellors and principals, David Willetts and Vince Cable outlined how BIS will be making savings to contribute to the public sector spending cuts announced by the Government. Recognising that all those who receive public funds, including universities, must play a part in reducing the burden of public debt, they underlined that from now on we must all do more with less.

In May the Government announced there would be a further £200 million reduction in HE funding in England, on top of the £449 million cut in the Funding Council’s budget announced earlier this year by the previous Government. Then in the budget on 22 June it was revealed that an additional 25%, on average, is to be cut from Government department budgets. The Comprehensive Spending Review – a complete reassessment of the Government’s spending priorities, which is due to take place in October – will provide clarification of how these latest cuts will impact on HE.

When the first wave of cuts was announced by the previous Government we estimated we’d have to make a 2.3% saving each year up to 2013. We will, of course, have to reassess this in light of the latest announcements. Whatever the impact on us, however, it’s evident that we’ll have to make changes to the way we work so that we’re all operating as efficiently as we possibly can.

As part of this we are embarking upon a series of ‘value for money’ programmes, further details of which will be in the next newsletter. Also, in an important step in ensuring we are robust to the challenges ahead, Council has approved the recommendation from Senate to move from the present Faculty structure to no more than ten academic Schools. Senate’s recommendation followed extensive consultation across the University, and I would like to thank all those who took part. Updates on this will also be provided through newsatlboro.
The University also operates a Cycle2Work scheme, which could save you between 25% and 45% on the retail price of the cycle depending on your Personal Income Tax position. For more information visit www.boro.ac.uk/sustainability and click on travel and finesport.
July
July-October, 11am-4pm Mon to Fri, Car Park 5
*Beneath the Pavement: A Garden*
Radar garden open for picnics, informal gatherings and quiet contemplation

15-20 July, Sir David Wallace Building
Graduation ceremonies

20 July, 7pm onwards, Students’ Union
Graduation Ball

19-23 July and 26-30 July
8.30/9am to 5/5.30pm daily
*Children’s Sport Camp*
www.loughboroughsport.com/kids

27 July, 10.30am, Burleigh Court
*Alumni coffee morning* (includes talk from WEDC)
Call Marilyn on 228488

August
2-6 and 9-13 August
8.30/9am to 5/5.30pm daily
*Children’s Sport Camp*
www.loughboroughsport.com/kids

15-20 August
*Loo Leng Basketball Camp*  
www.dengcamp.com

Old News

Loughborough College students represented the three main parties at a mock election in February 1922. It was a close-run affair, with Students’ Union Representative Committee President WJ Morgan (Liberals) edging the win 196-195 over College Union President DE Edwards (Labour). RS Lloyd-Smith (Conservatives) came in last with 107 votes.

L-R: DE Edwards, RS Lloyd-Smith, WJ Morgan
Loughborough’s current political experts share their views on this year’s general election on pages 16-17.

For more events and further details see: www.lboro.ac.uk/events

Can they kick it?
The adidas ‘JABULANI’, the official match ball for the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™, has been developed in partnership with academics from Loughborough’s Sports Technology Institute and the Department of Aeronautical and Automotive Engineering.


Team GB coming to town
Team GB are heading to Loughborough after the University was selected by the British Olympic Association (BOA) as The Official Preparation Camp Headquarters for Team GB prior to the London 2012 Olympic Games.


Being green at work is a monster task
The Business School’s Professor John Arnold says our laxity towards recycling and saving energy at work stems from our belief that it’s someone else’s responsibility.

The Guardian

University cash to help good causes
Thirteen community groups received a total of £5,000 from the latest Open Fund, one of four categories that make up the overall Community Donations Fund.

Leicester Mercury, Loughborough Echo

New film by young carers hopes to educate teachers
As a new film tries to help teachers identify, and understand, ‘hidden’ young carers, Dr Jo Aldridge from Loughborough’s Young Carers Research Group says schools have been slow to pick up on Government recommendations that they should develop a policy and designate a member of staff to look after their needs.

The Guardian