New Academic Year, New Students!

While the PGR calendar never really stops, October is our busiest time with the biggest intake of new doctoral candidates arriving at the University. A big ‘Hello’ goes to those of you who have just joined us here at Salford, and a ‘welcome back’ to those who have been away. The University Induction for new starters takes place in Clifford Whitworth Library at 1.30pm on Monday 2nd November: please tell your Research Support Officer if you plan to attend. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Saudi Day Fun

On Monday 28th September the University saw its first Saudi Arabia Day celebrations. Students from the School of Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work & Social Sciences - headed by Noura Almadani and assisted by recent graduate (and new staff member!) Dr Cristina Vasilica - organised a day of food and festivities to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the formation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As many celebrations at UK universities are kept within their Saudi communities, our students wanted to do things differently and open their day to all; sharing their culture and traditions.

The day kicked off with a welcome from Prof Tony Warne and presentations on the progress the country has made in the areas of education and healthcare in the relatively short time since its birth. Then it was outside to the gazebos set up at the front of Mary Seacole Building where special guests Basim Muhandis (Saudi Embassy UK) and Gill Colgan (Associate Dean Recruitment and Internationalisation) cut the ribbon to officially open the exhibition. Traditional dress and lots of delicious treats were available for all students and staff to try, while Arabic music blasted out and beautiful henna tattoos were drawn on the hands of many of the visitors to the stall.

The University is keen to support initiatives like this one: that bring together its PGRs and enable us to build on our sense of a PGR community. If you have an idea for an event we would love to hear from you! It could be a National Day of another country, a competition or a social event...
Check out http://www.pg.salford.ac.uk/page/activity-funding for information on how we can help.

For more pictures from the day visit Cristina’s page at: https://stonfy.com/careatsalford/celebrating-with-our-saudi-phd-researchers/
Recent graduate Dr Claire Mercer tells us about her path through the alternative route of the PhD by Published Works. It's very different to the traditional PhD, but that in no way means it's an easier option, as she explains...

Following completion of my MSc and encouraged by the outcomes of my thesis I became hooked on breast research and was eager to continue to develop my research portfolio. Encouragement to continue came from Prof Peter Hogg and, over a 'chat and a cup of tea', I seemed to have unwittingly signed up for a PhD by Published Works! During these early stages I had little concept of what lay ahead and the many challenges I would have to face along the way. I began my journey in September 2010; initial regular supervision meetings were extremely valuable and incorporated me and my supervisor bouncing ideas off each other and developing what appeared to be a rather tangled web of cross connected research ideas. Following this, supervision meetings became very structured and resulted in a very clear development path.

The intensity of the work I was undertaking was masked in the first few years by my excitement of the research I was undertaking and the constant support from my supervisors. At the same time as completing my PhD I was working in a full time managerial position within the NHS; this role itself was challenging and this meant that all my research work was undertaken at the weekends. I luckily realised very early on that I had to plan my time extremely effectively. The only way I managed to do this, without completely burning out, was to centre my energies on my research during one, very long, day at the weekends. These days usually commenced about 6am and I often worked until nearly midnight. I then gave myself a valuable rest day each week. During the latter year of my research 'bum out' was most definitely apparent and was beginning to take a toll on my health and well-being. I continued to drive forwards, though there were some very challenging times. The research publications were coming in strong and these continued to drive me forwards. The support and never-ending encouragement from my supervisor Professor Peter Hogg was key to my success.

My PhD research outcomes were strong, being published in a range of journals including; Radiography, Medical Physics, Radiologic Technology, Imaging and Oncology and the British Journal of Radiology. The research outcomes partly instigated production of a mammography academic book which has recently been published. This book was the first of its kind to mould research outcomes with a holistic approach. I was one of three editors for this book and also co-authored a chapter with colleagues in the department. The outcomes of my PhD have had a direct impact on the present teaching and education of mammography students within the University and have instigated numerous other research strands within the mammography field. My Post-Doctoral Research has now commenced with an international focus forming the basis of a large clinical trial.

I graduated in July 2015, following successful viva examination. The final viva was one of the most challenging experiences of my life, though certainly coupled with a huge sense of pride in showcasing my work and the realisation that I had finally done it! Now all I had to master was what to do at the weekends!


Non-PhD Hobbies... No. 2

Manchester Digital Laboratory a.k.a. Madlab is a non-profit grassroots digital innovation organisation based in Manchester's Northern Quarter. They run loads of events and courses from Taxidermy to Word Press, as well as hosting regular groups such as their Short Story Writing Group, and Sci-Fi Book Group. Plus they are located next to some very nice cafes, bars and tea shops!

Madlab is at 36-40 Edge St, Manchester.
For more information visit http://madlab.org.uk/.
Diary Dates: our pick of upcoming research seminars

As always, listings of all research seminars will be added to the PGR Calendar on the website at http://www.pg.salford.ac.uk/whats-on, but here’s a selection of what to look out for.

Health Sciences
Dr Anna Bjørkfeor (Biomechanics and Motor Control Laboratory, The Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences (GIH))
11th February 2016 6am-3pm
Anna is a physiotherapist and consultant to the Paralympic committee and Paralympic kayak team.

Dr Chris Freeman (University of Southampton)
19th January 2016 5pm-6.30pm
‘Upper Limb Functional Electrical Stimulation Technology to Promote Recovery After Stroke’.

Arts & Media Graduate Programme
4.30pm - 5.45pm 11th November Room 2.19, MediaCity

‘Making Your way in Academia’ - Prof Seamus Simpson
- Deciding whether or not an academic career is for you
- Development of a publication portfolio
- Participation in professional academic communities of interest
- The relationship between teaching and research

‘Punk Prayers: The Feminist Manifesto in Algorithmic Times’ - Prof Felicity Colman (MMU)
Felicity is Professor of Film and Media Arts at Manchester Metropolitan University. Her two current book projects are: “Digital Feminicity” and “Materialist Film”.

Salford Business School
‘Competition Law in the Cultural Industries: the case of merging music firms’ - Eugenia Kanellopoulou
27th January 1pm, Maxwell Building room 8.24.

Innovation Fellowship

Do you have a bright idea for a new invention based on your research?

The University’s Technology Transfer Office is launching a funding competition aimed specifically at PGR students, which could help to see your vision become a working prototype or produce ‘proof of principle’ data.
The application deadline is 6th November, see http://staff.salford.ac.uk/cms/newsitem/4878 for more details.

Recently Awarded: Well Done!

Arts & Media
Daniel Cookney, PhD - ‘Masked: Depictions of Anonymity in Electronic Dance Music’
Supervisor: Dr Michael Goddard

Dilshad Razawa, PhD - ‘Cinematizing genocide: exploring cinematic form and its relationship to the hidden voices of the Kurdish genocide of 1988’
Supervisor: Prof Erik Knudsen

Sheryl Buckley, PhD - ‘Flying the red flag? Communists in the National Union of Mineworkers, 1945-1984’
Supervisor: Prof John Callaghan

Computing, Science & Engineering
Tobias Ackroyd, PhD - ‘Comparisons on the Perceptions of Reproduced Urban Soundscapes and Urban Soundscapes: a Mixed Model Approach’
Supervisor: Prof Yiu Lam

Christopher Bostock, PhD - ‘Spontaneous simple and fractal pattern formation in nonlinear optical cavities’
Supervisor: Dr James Christian

Thomas Curwell, PhD - ‘An investigation into the quantification and Mitigation of Urban diffuse pollution’
Supervisor: Dr Prasad Tumula

Dong Yong, PhD - ‘Genetic design of multivariable control systems’
Supervisor: Dr Anthony Jones

Tara Hughes, PhD - ‘A technique to enable the tracking of people for domestic energy monitoring applications’
Supervisor: Prof Nigel Linge

Mohammed Hussaini, PhD - ‘Transition pathways to sustainable energy infrastructure: the UK experience’
Supervisor: Prof Miklas Scholz

Ahmad Mohamed, PhD - ‘Automated speckle tracking in ultrasound images of tendon movements’
Supervisor: Prof Tim Ritchings

Samar Shilbayeh, PhD - ‘Cost sensitive meta-learning’
Supervisor: Prof Sunil Vadera

Environment & Life Sciences
Oliver Bishop, PhD - ‘A multi-scale exploration into the spatial patterns of a three dimensional Urban Tree Infrastructure (UTI): integrating landscape connectivity, network resilience, and social deprivation’
Supervisor: Prof Philip James

Oliver Gunawan, PhD - ‘Using the urban landscape mosaic to develop and validate methods for assessing the spatial distribution of urban ecosystem service potential’
Supervisor: Dr Richard Armitage
Congratulations to our recently awarded students!

**Environment & Life Sciences**

*Patrick Killoran, PhD* - ‘Development of novel heterocyclic compounds as vascular targeting agents’
Supervisor: Dr John Hadfield

*Holly Matthews, PhD* - ‘Accelerating antimalarial drug discovery’
Supervisor: Dr Niroshini Nirmalan

*Nanda Puspita, PhD* - ‘Isolation and Characterisation of Medicinal Compound from Phyllanthus Niruri L’
Supervisor: Dr David Pye

*Ryan Wilson, PhD* - ‘Quantifying Himalayan glacier change from the 1960s to early 2000s, using corona, glims and aster geospatial data’
Supervisor: Prof David Collins

*Alex Mastin, PhD* - ‘Canine echinococcosis in Kyrgyzstan: Detection, diagnosis, and dynamics’
Supervisor: Prof Philip Craig

**Health Sciences**

*Mary Ossati, PhD* - ‘Design, development and use of a deformable breast phantom to assess the relationship between thickness and lesion visibility in full field digital mammography’
Supervisor: Katy Szczepura

*Christine Smith, PhD* - ‘Usability engineering in the design and evaluation of a functional electrical stimulation system for upper limb rehabilitation.’
Supervisor: Prof Laurence Kenney

**Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work & Social Sciences**

*Mahdi Hussain, PhD* - ‘Acute pain for postoperative patients in Kuwait: a study of how surgical nurses assess postoperative pain’
Supervisor: Prof Tony Warne

*Barry Clift, DProf* - ‘People with dementia in the driving seat: using a participatory approach to research in the development of a driver screening tool’
Supervisor: Dr Jackie Taylor

*Jennifer Templeman, DProf* - ‘An ethnographic study of critical care nurses’ experiences following the decision to withdraw life-sustaining treatment from patients in a UK intensive care unit’
Supervisor: Dr Julie Wray

**Salford Languages**

*Anas Alhuneyet, PhD* - ‘The phonology and morphology of Wadi Mousa Arabic’
Supervisor: Dr Domenyk Eades

**Salford Business School**

*Talal Alazemi, PhD* - ‘Users’ Information Seeking Behaviours, their Interactions and Experience with the Academic Library Web Interface’
Supervisor: Dr Maria Kutar

*Sina Joneidy, PhD* - ‘Making sense of the information systems use field’
Supervisor: Prof Andrew Basden

*Nawras Nusairat, PhD* - ‘The effect of shopping environment on Jordanian mall customers’ behaviour: the mediating role of customers’ emotions and cognition’
Supervisor: Dr Grazyna Rembielak

*Peter Dickinson, PhD* - ‘On the use of Hidden Information as a measure of complexity in Supply Chains’
Supervisor: Dr Yiannis Polychronakis

**School of the Built Environment**

*Yasir Al-Mutairi, PhD* - ‘Development of implementation strategies for offsite construction techniques in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’
Supervisor: Prof Mohammed Arif

*Hamdan Altenelii, PhD* - ‘A strategic approach to emergency preparedness in the UAE’
Supervisor: Prof Vian Ahmed

*Ahmed Hashmi, PhD* - ‘Developing an assessment model for the implementation of market orientation in Saudi construction organisations’
Supervisor: Prof Mohammed Arif

*Mandeep Saini, PhD* - ‘A framework for transferring and sharing tacit knowledge in construction supply chains within lean and agile processes’
Supervisor: Prof Mohammed Arif

*Ahmed Al-Mazroei, PhD* - ‘Factors affecting the implementation of joint ventures: a study of outsourcing in healthcare services in low and middle-income countries’
Supervisor: Prof Mohammed Arif
Post Conference Report by Hussain Ghulam School of Health Sciences

On May 2015 I attended the The International Symposium of Sports Science, Engineering and Technology (ISSSET 2015), at Istanbul Technical University, Turkey, Istanbul, from May 10 to 13, 2015. This conference included more than 30 oral presentations.

The conference was very useful, informative, and beneficial for me as the core of my PhD is using different sport activities and correlating them with hop performance in both healthy and anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstructed patients. The conference showed a good mix of different topics presented in this area, and this was a good forum to share the work that has been done on my PhD project.

It was also a great sharing experience from the poster presentation that I presented from my third study, entitled “The Association Between Hop Performance and Various Tests of Force Production in Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstructed (ACLR) Patients”, on the 12th May for about ten minutes and then have a group discussion for about three extra minutes.

The presentation generated a lot of questions and discussions and it was great to talk to many researchers from different fields and countries who were interested in the results that I have. I also had a chance to attend and discuss some of the theoretical sessions which include very exciting results by some international researchers. In addition to presenting my poster, this conference provided superb networking opportunities with other global researchers in the same area of interest. The plenary sessions on sport sciences were very informative.

Lastly, my poster was chosen as the best poster presentation in the conference and all presentations were published in a supplementary issue of the International Symposium on Sport Science, Engineering and Technology, which is a vehicle for the publication of up-to-date basic and clinical research on all aspects of sports medicine and rehabilitation.

Perspectives of Salford...

Two biomedical engineering students from the University of Twente, Netherlands, talk about their time spent with the Rehabilitation Technologies and Biomedical Engineering group at Salford.

For four months I’ll spend my time on this earth in the UK, Manchester. Manchester is an old industry city, just like my hometown in the Netherlands, Enschede (no, not close to Amsterdam!). I found it easy to settle in this new town, the atmosphere and the people in Manchester all feel a lot like home. Maybe that is not too weird since it is only a one hour flight away and there are also lots of exciting things to do: cheap classical music concerts, a Buddhist centre, free museums and a lot of interesting buildings to visit.

The reason for my stay in Manchester is my internship assignment at the University of Salford. I teamed up with Mingxu Sun and PhD student Abdullah Al Ani, who are working on the Upper Limb Functional Electrical Stimulation project. Together with Dave Howard, Sibylle Thies and my main supervisor Laurence Kenney it is my task to collect a set of ‘perfect’ data collected with motion cameras and inertial sensor data with which to characterize upper limb movements during the performance of functional tasks. A nice challenge and with the enjoyable cooperation of all the people involved I look forward to the final two month of my stay!

Demian Roelofs
For the last three months I’ve been working as an intern at the University of Salford, in the group Rehabilitation Technologies and Biomedical Engineering of Laurence Kenney and Dave Howard, with Sibylle Thies as my main supervisor. I have been busy developing an experiment, and now I even have time left to do the first measurements. With only two weeks left, the time has come to think back about my experience here at the University, and I have to say, I really loved working here. From the first week on, the atmosphere at work was amazingly friendly and welcoming. As is my experience in whole of England, I have to say. A contradiction to this was though, that everyone in my office was really surprised and confused when I introduced myself on my first day. Apparently, in England you do not introduce yourself, whereas in the Netherlands (where I am from) it is a very nice and common thing to do when you are new. So where everyone in England keeps wondering what someone’s name is, we just know it or ask for it. Another thing that amazed me was the supervision I got. The first few weeks I had a meeting every week to make sure I had a nice and easy start, which worked perfectly! In the end the challenge was more to show my supervisors that I actually did think about the next steps that had to be done, before they came up with it during the meetings. For me that was a completely new experience, but a really good one as well. To conclude, I am very happy I came to the University of Salford to do my internship; to improve my English, to learn more about my field of interest, about how to work in an academic world, and about the differences between the English and Dutch culture.

Tineke de Vries

Top Tips

Dr Alex Mastin from Environment & Life Sciences has shared with us some handy tips which helped him to get though his PhD journey. We hope you find them useful too!

**The SCONUL Scheme:** you can borrow or use books and journals at other academic libraries which belong to the scheme. To find out more, ask in The Library or visit [www.sconul.ac.uk/sconul-access](http://www.sconul.ac.uk/sconul-access).

**Eduroam:** if you visit other universities, then Eduroam is incredibly useful. It’s a free wireless internet service that allows you to log on at other participating institutions using Salfords credentials. Contact IT Services or visit [www.its.salford.ac.uk/eduroam](http://www.its.salford.ac.uk/eduroam) for details.

**Mathscope:** if you are getting bogged down in numbers, help is at hand! Mathscope can help you with statistical problems, whatever the level. Based in room 121 Newton Building, they’re open during semesters 1 and 2. More information is available at [http://www.mathscope.salford.ac.uk/](http://www.mathscope.salford.ac.uk/).

**LOLMyThesis:** need a break and want a chuckle? Check out [http://lolmythesis.com](http://lolmythesis.com) - it’s very funny. And a good exercise in presenting your work to a non-specialist audience, obviously. Plus, if you would like to send us your 1 sentence thesis, we’ll happily print it in our next edition...

Your SU Needs You!

Our friends over in the Student Union are busy ensuring that your views will be heard this academic year. Many student rep places have been filled, but a few more are still needed. If you are interested please contact Rhiannon Roberts in University House, who will provide you with all the information you need.

The Union is keen to engage more with our research students: it’s not all just about the undergrads! If you have an idea for an activity or event for them to organise, or if you want to set up a Student Union Group of your own, they would be very glad to hear from you. Contact details can be found at [http://www.salfordstudents.com/contactus](http://www.salfordstudents.com/contactus).
The Brilliant Club: a PhD Tutor Case Study

Mukhtar Lasisi is our very first PhD student to be placed in a school with The Brilliant Club, a charity that exists to open up access for outstanding pupils from non-selective state schools to top universities. So we were obviously keen to catch up with him...

I was introduced to The Brilliant Club by my supervisor around February 2015. I applied for the post of PhD tutor and was invited for an interview at the University of Manchester. A few days after the interview I got a congratulatory email of acceptance to become a tutor. It was not just a congratulatory email but contained detailed feedback on my performance at the assessment centre, including how I could improve in the future. I should state that this feedback has really helped me in my everyday life and especially in my research so far.

I got an autumn placement to teach a group of year 7 and 8 pupils at The Grange School, Runcorn. I will be teaching Philosophy; ‘Does the end justify the means?’. This is a course designed to help students reflect on actions, so that they can connect actions and consequences then take a stand on whether or not the end justifies the means. This I believe could go a long way in helping students shape their sense of judgement and decision making. Until I got this placement I did not know much about The Brilliant Club except their mission statement “To widen access to highly selective Universities for under-represented groups by mobilising researchers to bring academic expertise into state schools”, which I really wanted to be part of.

At the training weekend I got to learn a lot more about the charity. This is a highly reputable charitable organisation with a track record of helping pupils boost their confidence and academic performance. They also help researchers like me develop the required skills to become a successful teacher/tutor. My experience at the training weekend made me realise how accommodating and supportive this organisation is. The training began with a meet and greet which gave the chance to meet others from different parts of the country. Throughout the weekend I learnt how to relate to pupils in an academic environment, how to pass messages in a clear and precise manner, as well as how to engage students in discussions. I also learnt what should be expected of the pupils, and how to handle different situations. The marking of assignments as well as giving constructive feedback was discussed extensively. All these will help not just towards becoming a great teacher but also build my confidence as an academic researcher.

In conclusion, my experience with The Brilliant Club so far has been wonderful. Contrary to their mission statement, they do not just help high school pupils. They also help researchers like me build the necessary skills and confidence to become a teacher/tutor. The Brilliant Club also gave me the opportunity to engage with other researchers across different fields. I am convinced, based on people’s past experiences, that my teaching experience at The Grange School will be wonderful; it will give me the chance to engage with the public, add to my teaching experience and ultimately help young people be who they want to be. I reckon an organisation like this should be given the maximum support needed to cover the whole of the UK. I am glad to be one of the pioneers in the North West of England and I am willing to take this mission beyond this autumn placement alone. I look forward to welcoming others with the right motivation on board!

If Mukhtar’s story has inspired you visit http://www.thebrilliantclub.org/researchers/introduction/ for details.

Salford Research on Social Media

Did you know that many schools and research centres have a presence on various social media platforms? Dr Scott Thurston produces an English Research Bulletin on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EnglishSalfordUniversity/, while all Arts & Media PGRs are welcome to join the SAMPGR FB group.

If you follow @SalfordPGRs on Twitter, you might also want to subscribe to the ‘PhDs at Salford’ list where you can get a feed on all student activity. If you’re new to Twitter and would like to be added to our list, just tweet. We’d also recommend giving @SalfordImpact a follow. Lots of interesting snippets about our research in action gets sent out there!

The PGR Newsletter is edited by Tracy Ireland, to submit an article or make a suggestion please email Tracy at t.j.ireland@salford.ac.uk

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Demiand Roelofs (Health Sciences)