



International Office student advice times are:

- Monday to Friday 10am – 12noon and 2.00pm – 4.00pm
- On Thursday 9.15 – 12.15 Student Advice Room at the St Luke's Campus

Welcome!

Where has the year gone so far? I seem to have been caught in a whirl of second semester orientation, immigration advice and cultural activities. I attended lots of the activities that were held during Diversity Week and had a great time at the Chinese New Year celebrations; more of that later in the newsletter.

Although this term has been busy with events we are also looking to the future. In the summer we will be hosting a farewell party before you go home and we are already looking towards next September and organising our Welcome Week. Thanks to those international students who applied to be part of the International Welcome Team. I'm really excited about working with the 30 students we chose – it will be hard work but very rewarding. To those who weren't offered a place, we will soon be looking for volunteers for our International Buddy Scheme. More information on that will be coming soon.

Remember this is YOUR newsletter. Do e-mail me (isa@exeter.ac.uk) if you would like specific issues covered or have any questions you want answering.

Sue Lawrie
International Student Support Officer

Message from the Deputy President



Hello everyone...this term has gone even quicker than the last, we are already in the last few weeks and the summer term is drawing ever closer. This means that many of you will only have one term left and so it is more important than ever to experience something new, if you haven't already. It would also be a good time for me to mention to you that in the summer we will be running our elections for our Representative positions within the Guild. This may be something that some of you would be interested in, particularly the International Students Association, as this is a body that is looking to really expand on the representation and support it offers International Students in the future. There will be more information on this in the coming months, so keep your eyes open.

You could also come and see myself or Bjorn Friden, or email me at [Dep pres@guild.exeter.ac.uk](mailto:Dep_pres@guild.exeter.ac.uk) with any queries. I hope you are all finding life at Exeter as interesting as when you first arrived here.

Bye for now,
Barney

Forthcoming Festivals

MARCH	29	Varsha-Pratipada – Hindu New Year
	30	Summer begins
APRIL	14	Rama Navami (Hindu)
	19-27	Passover (Jewish)
	23	St Georges Day (Christian)
MAY	1	May Day (Secular)
	2	Yom HaShoah (Hewish)
	4	Birthday of Buddha (Buddhist)
	20	Vesakha Puja (Buddhists)
	22-23	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)

Clocks 'Spring' Forwards

Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour to allow for British Summer Time on Sunday 30 March.

Alumni Events in South East Asia



The Alumni Relations Office organised two Alumni Reunions in South East Asia recently, one in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and one in Bangkok, Thailand. The Vice Chancellor attended both events together with colleagues from International Office, School of Business and Economics and also the Alumni Relations Office.



Alumni Events in South East Asia (cont.)



Mandarin Oriental Hotel and attended by 50 guests, including graduates from both the University of Exeter and Camborne School of Mines, agents, school contacts and also potential students. The alumni present talked about the good old days and also had the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. The Camborne School of Mines alumni were very pleased to be included in the event and happy to receive updated information on the School and the University as a whole.

In Bangkok, the event was held at the Oriental Hotel Bangkok on 16 January 2008 and attended by 75 guests including graduates, agents and potential students. The alumni in Thailand are mainly from the School of Business and Economics and they had a nice evening meeting up with friends and catching up. In Thailand, the alumni network is just at its infant stages and the University is hoping it will pick up within the year with a follow up event.

The next international alumni event will be in Sharjah, UAE on 27 March 2008. For more information please contact Stephanie Ganeson, International Alumni Relations Officer at stephanie.ganeson@exeter.ac.uk

You tell us what you think in the International Student Barometer

"I have found the Exeter community to be very supportive and welcoming, and I have made many friends from a range of different disciplines."

Thanks to all who participated in the Autumn International Student Barometer. I know that students are bombarded with surveys throughout the year, but the International Student Barometer asks questions specific to international students and really allows us to understand your experience at Exeter. From that data and your comments we can match ourselves against other universities and look at ways to improve what we offer at Exeter. Here are some top results from the survey:

94.2%	thought the Lecturers were expert
92.3%	happy with the safety at Exeter
89.2%	thought Exeter was a good place to be
83.6%	were happy with the support services
76.5%	were happy with arrival services, activities and support

But we don't just care about the statistics. When you tell us you are unhappy with certain aspects we listen to your suggestions. You previously told us that you were unhappy with the catering facilities on campus and wanted more international provision. We have definitely seen an improvement in the past year with the introduction of more international food in Refresh, the Queen's Café and the International Mini-market in Cornwall House and this has been reflected in your responses in the survey. We have made many refurbishment changes in the Library following your comments and we are concentrating now on the data network. We know that you aren't happy with the quality of accommodation and other buildings on campus. We are planning a £450 million investment in facilities by the end of the next decade. This will include a new Business School, state of the art facilities for Biosciences and a redevelopment of the heart of our Streatham campus. The next International Student Barometer will be held in April. There will be great prizes on offer again. Please do take 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire so that we can be the best university possible!

ESTATE PATROL: HERE TO HELP



Security, Information and advice 24/7

Tel: (01392) 263999

E.Patrol@exeter.ac.uk

SUMMER PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT

Keep Thursday 5 June free in your diaries for the International Students Summer Party. More information to follow soon...

**INTO
NEWS**

Coming up this term on the Social Programme

INTO students this term will again have the chance to go to places of interest and participate in activities thanks to Suzanne who is arranging the social programme. Some of the highlights of this term will include:

26 April – Glastonbury and Clarks Village trip

Glastonbury is well known for its performing arts festival which is held every year in the nearby village of Pilton.

In the afternoon we will go to the nearby Clarks Village outlet store shopping centre. Here you will find over 90 different outlet stores selling everything from clothes to kitchen equipment. Outlet shopping means that most things here are at a lower price to the normal high street prices, so you can usually find yourself a real bargain!

10 May – Stonehenge trip

Set in the beautiful Wiltshire countryside, Stonehenge is one of the most impressive historical sights within the region. It is estimated that Stonehenge was built around 3100 BC and that it took more than thirty million hours of labour to build.

22 May – Song & Story Night

Another fun filled evening with INTO teacher David Heathfield.

David's evenings are always a huge success – you will also have the chance to share songs or stories from your own country.

7 June – St Ives trip

St Ives is famous for its art galleries, studios and craft shops and has attracted artists since the 19th century. A stones throw from the harbour area is a host of narrow streets and passageways comprising the old part of the town, all interconnecting and offering opportunities to explore. St Ives also offers beautiful, clean beaches and scenic coastal walks.

For further details on any of these events please visit our website <http://www.centres.exeter.ac.uk/into/index.php?page=51>

If you have any questions regarding the social programme or you would like more information about any of the activities then you can email Suzanne at s.aburagheb@exeter.ac.uk

Award for research on religious and science education in Islamic counties

Nasser Mansour, a research fellow who recently completed his PhD from the School of Education and Lifelong Learning at the University of Exeter has been awarded the European Educational and Research Association (EERA) Best Paper Award for Postgraduate and Young Researchers.

This prestigious award is for his thesis 'Religious beliefs: A hidden variable in the performance of science teachers in the classroom'.

Nasser is Egyptian and lectured in Science Education at Tanta University in Egypt prior to moving to England for post graduate study. His winning paper focused on the challenges for Islamic cultures to manage the relationship between providing a religious and science education that may be at odds with each other. Controversial issues like evolution, cloning and abortion can pose problems for teaching science. The paper also highlights the need to understand teachers' personal religious beliefs and practices around some of these issues and the way their beliefs influence their performance in the classroom.

Nasser said of his achievement, "I'm really excited and honoured to receive the Best Paper Award, especially at the beginning of my professional career. This encourages me to do much research on this area of religion and science education. I had invaluable support from my thesis supervisors who were able to listen carefully and probe into areas of my research with patience and understanding. The research environment at the University was a great bonus and I feel that this award makes me more confident to present at international conferences."





DIVERSITY WEEK

4TH-10TH FEBRUARY 2008

Thank you to everyone who took part in the activities and parties – whether it was organising an event, attending and having fun or eating some of the international food that was on offer. The Kick-it-Out five-a-side football competition was particularly popular, with over 10 teams taking part. And who can forget the Chinese New Year Celebrations at the end of the week with those fabulous lion and dragon dancers followed by a magnificent firework display?

If you have any ideas of events you would like to see on campus please let me know (s.lawrie@exeter.ac.uk) .





Language Societies' Masquerade Ball

BY KATE MCKECHNIE



The 23 February 2008, was the very special night of the first ever Language Societies' Ball in the Great Hall. The amazing event was organised and hosted by all the language societies of the University, which have all put in so much time and effort into planning and setting-up the event.

The ball itself was a huge success with the Uni's very own Jazz orchestra playing, as guests arrived in ball gowns and black-tie with sparkling masks. A delicious buffet was served with an oriental twist and a full bar was available all night. After some great jazz, the guests hit the dance floor to an entirely different tune. The Worldbeats DJ from the one-and-only Timepiece, worked his magic, playing Latino, Salsa and much, much more, into the early hours. Several lucky guests even won some fantastic prizes in the charity raffle, including vouchers for a meal at EXESHED, the kind sponsor of the evening.

All the language society committees should be proud of themselves, as the ball ran smoothly with everyone having a great time. Fingers crossed this will now set a precedent for years to come as it has made quite the mark on the Uni calendar.

Study Skills for International Students

Are you worried about your performance during exams or your essay writing techniques? Don't worry, you aren't alone. Don't wait until the last minute to ask for help – there are a whole team of people at the University to help you. Check out the Education Enhancement web resources at

<http://www.as.exeter.ac.uk/eeu/studentskills/>

There may also be events in your School to help. Look at your noticeboards in School for more information.



Funding available for you to stay with a family in another part of the UK

Most people who come here to pursue their studies are hoping for something more. Many students sign up for HOST (Hosting for Overseas Students) visits, staying with a UK family for a weekend or longer. We want many more students to take up this opportunity. Why don't you give it a try?

We are pleased to say that through the generosity of the Exeter University Foundation Annual Fund the visit is free to you and we will give you up to £20 towards your travel expenses. For more information visit the HOST website at www.hostuk.org.uk or visit the International Support Office, Room 250 Northcote House.



NEWS FROM

Cornwall Campus

International Students visit the Eden Project

Students from the Netherlands, Spain, Poland, Germany and Finland enjoyed a visit to the Eden Project on Saturday 9 February 2008 with several students taking the opportunity to hit the ice!



Diversity in Cornwall International Students interviewed by BBC Radio Cornwall

Ofonime Udoudo (left), Nadia Tay (second from right) and Manmohan Dev Sharma (right) being interviewed by Chris Young (second from left) from BBC Radio Cornwall.

Three international students from the Cornwall Campus were interviewed by BBC Radio Cornwall. The radio station is currently producing a series of programmes celebrating the diversity of people living in Cornwall. Ofonime Udoudo from Nigeria (PhD Earth Resources), Nadia Tay from Singapore (LLB Law) and Manmohan Dev Sharma from India (PhD Biological Science) were interviewed by Chris Young about their experiences of living in Cornwall and the interview was aired on Saturday 23 February 2008.

International Students' Society celebrates Chinese New Year

Over 70 students from the University of Exeter and University College Falmouth celebrated the Chinese New Year with a Chinese dinner and film organised by the International Students' Society (Cornwall - FXU) on Thursday 7 February 2008.





SOCIETY NEWS



Will you be in Exeter next year? If so you might be interested in taking on a role in the new IntSoc committee for the next academic year. Organising events and managing a society of this size is great experience and an opportunity to meet loads of new people. If you think you might want to take part, then contact Maha on mk235@exeter.ac.uk and include your telephone number in the email. Elections will be held in the first week of summer term.

For all the latest information on socials join our Facebook group The International Society!

Hi All! The most important thing that we're planning will be our **BELFAST TRIP**, to go on Saturday 3 May - Monday 5 May (May Bank Holiday Weekend).

This second and third term we have started the **"Friday Fiesta"**, a party in Amber Rooms on Fridays. Also a

"Tandem Event" such a "Tandem Pizza Night", "Long Lounge Tandem". All students are more than welcome as usual to join us.

JOIN THE "ERASMUS SOC 2007 "FACEBOOK GROUP" to receive all the information.



Arabic Society

Contact Khalid Alharbi, ka209@exeter.ac.uk

Catholic Society

We hold meetings every Wednesday evening after mass during term time which is at 7.30pm in the Catholic Chaplaincy. We hold other events during the term open to all students – international students are particularly welcome.

See our website for more details www.exetercathsoc.org.uk.

Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA)

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Chinese New Year celebrations – especially those who carried the dragon! The Chinese Society have a football team that play every Friday afternoon during term at 13.30. Meeting point is in front of Sport Hall, Streatham Campus. Come and join in!

Christina Bao, President <http://exeter.cssauk.org/bbs/>

Dancesport

Come and join in the Salsa classes. It's more fun working off those Easter chocolates to a salsa beat than sweating in the gym!

www.eudancesport.co.uk

Egyptian Society

Contact Hany Ibrahim, H.Ibrahim-Mussa@exeter.ac.uk for further information

Evangelical Christian Union (ECU)

www.exeterguild.org/ecu

French Society

Conversation Classes: Beginners: 7.15pm- 8pm
Intermediate: 8pm-8.45pm Advanced: 8.45pm-9.30pm
In either the Lemmy or the Ram. Look out for locations!

French Film Screenings: Wednesdays 7.30 in LTI.

Friends of Palestine www.exeterguild.org/fop

Gandhi Society

Join in the events to promote Indian culture and multi-culturalism.

Bollywood/Bhangra <http://societies.ex.ac.uk/~gandhisoc/home.html>

German Society

Weekly German language sessions held in the Junior Common Room (JCR), Devonshire House Fridays 13.00-14.00

Globe Café

Every Thursday evening, JCR, Devonshire House

Hispanic Society www.exeterguild.org/hispanosoc

Islamic Society

www.exeterguild.org/islamsoc

Italian Society

Italian Conversation Classes held in Coffee Express, Monday night 19.00-20.30

Jewish Society www.exeterguild.org/jewishsoc

Meditation and Buddhist Society

Meditation Classes every Wednesday
19.30-21.30, Junior Common Room, Devonshire House £1.00 (member), £2.00 (non member) societies.exeter.ac.uk/~buddhistsoc/

Meth/Ang Society

Meeting each Monday 20.00 in the Chaplaincy Rooms

www.exeterguild.org/methang

Post Graduate Society (PGS)

www.exeterguild.org/pgs