

Welcome to the April ebulletin with the latest news and items of interest to staff and students across the *Universitas 21* network!

## Headlines

(scroll down to read the full story)

**Water Futures Project secures “water literacy” funding**

---

**Further opportunity for collaboration on “Water”**

---

**U21 URC details online**

---

**Events this month**

---

**U21 Scholarship opportunity at University of Birmingham**

---

**UCD Graduate Scholarships**

---

**U21 Newsletter online**

---

**Edinburgh postgraduate degree in diaspora & migration history**

---

**UVa and Fudan in Semester at Sea Collaboration**

---

**Queensland opens new \$2.5million teaching space**

---

**Water Futures Project secures “water literacy” funding**

U21's *Water Futures for Sustainable Cities* project has secured funding for one of its key research areas, water literacy.

The UK-based project connects secondary schools to their communities through the Sustainable Schools Strategy to examine the potential mechanisms in the delivery of transition education as a tool in achieving sustainability of urban water supplies within the communities of Nottingham, UK. Transition education centres learning on the use of environmental resources during the process of sustainable development (SD). The Strategy's National Framework is an integrated approach to a school's curriculum, its values and ways of working and in its engagement with local people and partners.

The project ties the concepts of water literacy, citizenship and SD via the concept of transition education. It investigates the ways in which schools can support the development of students' water literacy & water literacy within their communities. This is an under-researched area, there has been no significant research undertaken on whether improving school students' water literacy is a feasible method towards achieving sustainable water resource management within their local communities.

The research involves an embedded, single case study of secondary schools in the East Midlands, with data collection and analysis at the local level. The project involves a mixed-methods approach. The initial postal questionnaire survey of all secondary schools in the East Midlands will be used to identify 3 schools for further research. Schools will be selected on the basis of differences in current practice in terms of water literacy & education for sustainable development in conjunction with contrasting socio-economic communities.

<http://www.universitas21.com/water.html>

**Further opportunity for collaboration on “Water”**

BPD Water and Sanitation [www.bpdws.org](http://www.bpdws.org) (London) and the International Development Research Centre [www.idrc.ca](http://www.idrc.ca) (Canada) have developed a 3-year programme of action research, exploring the impact of varied institutional relationships on local natural resource management and the integrated management of water and sanitation in low-income urban and peri-urban areas of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). They plan to undertake 6 action research case studies and local stakeholder workshops drawn from a broad geographic range across the LAC region. The case studies will range from those utilising new and/or innovative approaches to integrated service delivery and environmental management through to those using effective community organisation mechanisms (e.g. local urban management models such as water user groups). The case studies

will generate a better understanding of specific aspects of how water and sanitation services are delivered to marginalised communities at the local level. U21 has been invited to partner them on these case studies.

The 6 case studies will each have 2 researchers allocated to them - a team of 12 in total. BPD would ideally like to pair a more senior, experienced researcher with a more junior (paid) researcher or Masters / PhD student that may be looking for practical case studies to study.

If this is an area of research which you are interested in and might like to become involved in the project, please contact Graham Steed ([gsteed@albury.net.au](mailto:gsteed@albury.net.au)) in the first instance, who is the Project Manager for the U21 *Water Futures for Sustainable Cities* project and who will co-ordinate a U21 response to this opportunity.

A one-page project plan can also be viewed at <http://www.universitas21.com/studentopportunities.html>

### **U21 URC details online**

The 2009 Undergraduate Research Conference, which takes place at the University of Glasgow from 15-21 October now has a website containing all the latest information and details on how to apply.

Each U21 university has its own process for selecting students, so anyone interested in taking part in what promises to be another excellent research conference should contact their International Office (or equivalent) for details.

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/u21conference/>

### **Events this month**

Three U21 events are taking place this month.

On 12 April, graduate students in education are meeting immediately prior to the AERA Conference in San Diego at the third U21 FINE event – the Forum for International Networking in Education. All are welcome to attend FINE – details can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/event/090412FINE.html>

The following day, the U21 Deans of Education will meet, again in conjunction with the AERA Conference. All Deans of Education (or similar) from around the network are welcome – agenda issues for the meeting include a in-depth discussion about the global influence on educational policy and practice, led by colleagues from Auckland, UBC and Glasgow. Contact the Group Convenor, David Clarke ([d.clarke@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:d.clarke@unimelb.edu.au)), or look at the Deans of Education web pages for more information about the group <http://www.universitas21.com/educationgroup.html>

The final event this month is the U21 Heads of Administration meeting, which is hosted by Fudan University from 22 to 24 April. The Heads of Administration group is an informal group which enables colleagues to share and exchange ideas and experiences and to improve practices in university management and administration. Further information can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/HeadsOfAdmin.html>

### **U21 Scholarship opportunities at University of Birmingham**

The University of Birmingham College of Life and Environmental Sciences is offering up to twenty-five £12,000 PhD scholarships exclusively for alumni of *Universitas 21* universities. Scholarships at Doctoral level will commence in October 2009 and will be available for twenty-five overseas students in a wide range of research disciplines in Biosciences; Geography, Earth & Environmental Sciences; Psychology and Sport & Exercise Sciences,

Awards will be paid as a £12,000 maintenance grant (£4,000 per year for 3 years). Applications are open to graduates of U21 universities who are classified as 'international' for UK fee purposes. Students who have already secured full fee and maintenance support from other sources will still be eligible to apply. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit, and are tenable for three years only.

<http://www.postgraduate.bham.ac.uk/scholarships/les/u21.shtml>

In addition, the University of Birmingham is delighted to offer up to two Queen Elizabeth II international scholarships, each worth £7,500 for graduates of the *Universitas 21* network. These scholarships are offered as a symbol of Birmingham's commitment to U21 and the benefits of international educational co-operation.

<http://www.u21.bham.ac.uk/QE%20Leaflet%202009.pdf>

### UCD Graduate Scholarships

The School of Law at University College Dublin is pleased to offer one doctoral scholarship in Law from 2009-2013. The scholarship is available to candidates commencing their doctoral studies in the School of Law for the first time in September 2009 on a full-time basis on either the PhD in Law Programme or the PhD in European Law and Governance Programme provided by the School of Law in conjunction with the School of Politics and International Relations. The scholarship is tenable for a maximum of four years, renewable each year subject to satisfactory progress. The scholarship will provide tuition fees at the EU rate and a yearly stipend of €8,000.

The closing date is Friday 8 May 2009. Further information can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/studentopportunities.html>

### U21 Newsletter online

Issue 13 of the U21 Newsletter is now online at <http://www.universitas21.com/newsletters.html>

As 2008/09 is our Year of Sustainability, for this edition of the newsletter we invited all members of the network to write a short article highlighting an aspect of sustainability that is particularly important to their university. We were struck by the variety of articles which were sent in - everything from research and teaching to policy creation and outreach work has been covered, which is exactly what we were hoping to highlight! It is clear that 'sustainability' means so much more than the 'simply' saving the environment and teams of researchers and practitioners around the network are working in such a broad spectrum of disciplines that the scope for what the network as a collective body could do is enormous. Furthermore we are sure that many of these projects could be complemented by others taking place around the network and if these summaries can, in some small way, help inform and inspire cross-network collaboration, information sharing or joint research, then the importance of U21's collaborative nature will surely be seen...

### Edinburgh postgraduate degree in diaspora & migration history

Diaspora is one of U21's research themes, with two conferences having been held on the topic (<http://www.universitas21.com/pastevent/DiasporaConf08.html>) and the outcomes of the most recent set to become the subject of one of U21's planned series of ebooks.

A new MSc in Diaspora and Migration History at the University of Edinburgh will admit its first cohort of students in September 2009. This postgraduate degree, the only one of its kind offered by a UK university, will train the next generation of migration and diaspora historians in the vibrant interdisciplinary atmosphere of the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies. It is anticipated that the programme will attract a wide range of international students since this is a topic that has global resonances in the contemporary world. Students will pursue advanced study in one of the world's leading research universities with unique resources close to hand at the National Library of Scotland (a copyright library) and the National Archives of Scotland.

Professor Tom Devine, the Director of the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies and Head of the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, welcomed this new programme: "*The study of migration and emigration has become one of the most fascinating areas of research in the humanities in recent years. This exciting new programme is committed to "state of the art" postgraduate training of the highest quality in this rapidly developing sub-discipline and it is set within the collegial ambience of our innovative Scottish Diaspora Studies Centre.*"

This new programme joins the existing provision of nearly 30 taught postgraduate degrees offered by the School of History, Classics and Archaeology. For more information on the programme and to complete an online application, see <http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/diaspora.htm>

## UVa and Fudan in Semester at Sea Collaboration

A new Semester at Sea programme designed to engage and develop the next generation of Chinese and American leaders was unveiled last week in Shanghai by the University of Virginia and the Institute for Shipboard Education. Semester at Sea, administered by the institute, is a global, comparative, study-abroad experience that features three voyages a year aboard its "floating campus," the MV Explorer. UVa became the programme's academic sponsor in December 2005 and has academic oversight of the programmes.

The CY Tung Programme in Sino-US Relations is named after the Chinese shipping magnate who was instrumental in the founding of Semester at Sea. The programme will focus on the socio-cultural, policy and economic interactions between Chinese and Americans to prepare future leaders to better understand each other's cultures and work together for mutual benefit.

A milestone in Semester at Sea's 30-year engagement with China, the spring 2010 inaugural program will be led by distinguished faculty in residence from UVa and Fudan University in Shanghai. The programme will be one of many courses of study woven into the theme of sustainability.

<http://www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/newsRelease.php?id=8168#>

## Queensland opens new \$2.5million teaching space

The University of Queensland's Advanced Concept Teaching Space (UQ ACTS), within the \$54 million General Purpose North 4 building, has opened for classes and combines research, interactive technology and innovative teaching under one roof. Set across three levels, the space accommodates 100 students and maximises classroom communication through high-resolution touch screens for instant feedback, as well as links to students' own portable devices such as iPods, mobile phones and laptops to allow students to share work and actively participate in lectures.

Lecturers will no longer have to login to the room's computer control systems and input their preferences, with wireless identification tags allowing the system to instantly recognise them as they step to the podium and automatically set up the room to reflect their needs. Teachers can use projection screens, interactive whiteboards, tablets and front-of-stage preview monitors as well as innovative lighting systems to direct students' attention – all centrally commanded through an intuitive control system. From the podium, a single touch will be enough to launch an instant poll on the student touch screens or to launch translation software that can render a PowerPoint file in six different languages.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Deborah Terry congratulated staff involved in the planning and design of UQ ACTS, saying their ideas had positioned the University at the forefront of teaching and learning infrastructure. "*The University of Queensland is always looking at new ways to open communication channels during teaching sessions and with UQ ACTS, the opportunities are endless,*" Professor Terry said. "*UQ ACTS helps to enhance one-to-many style of teaching as well as student-to-student discussion.*"

Developing innovative learning spaces is also a key U21 theme, the last workshop having taken place at the University of Hong Kong, with a further one planned in October 2009 in Virginia (<http://www.universitas21.com/pastevent/LDworkshop.html>)