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# Launch pad

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AUTUMN 2015



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conduct ground breaking  
Chernobyl research

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Work with US

University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

# Salford successes

A round-up of our achievements throughout the past semester.

## University lecturers conduct ground breaking Chernobyl research

Ground breaking research on wildlife in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone is being led by academics in the School of Environment & Life Sciences (ELS) at Salford.

Dr Mike Wood, who was awarded funding from the Natural Environment Research Council earlier this year, has been working on engaging the public in his studies on wildlife within the Chernobyl

Exclusion Zone and has received widespread international interest.

Mike, along with his collaborators, fellow ELS academics Professor Andy Miah and Professor Nick Beresford, are developing a series of activities that bring the sights and sounds of the Exclusion Zone to UK audiences.

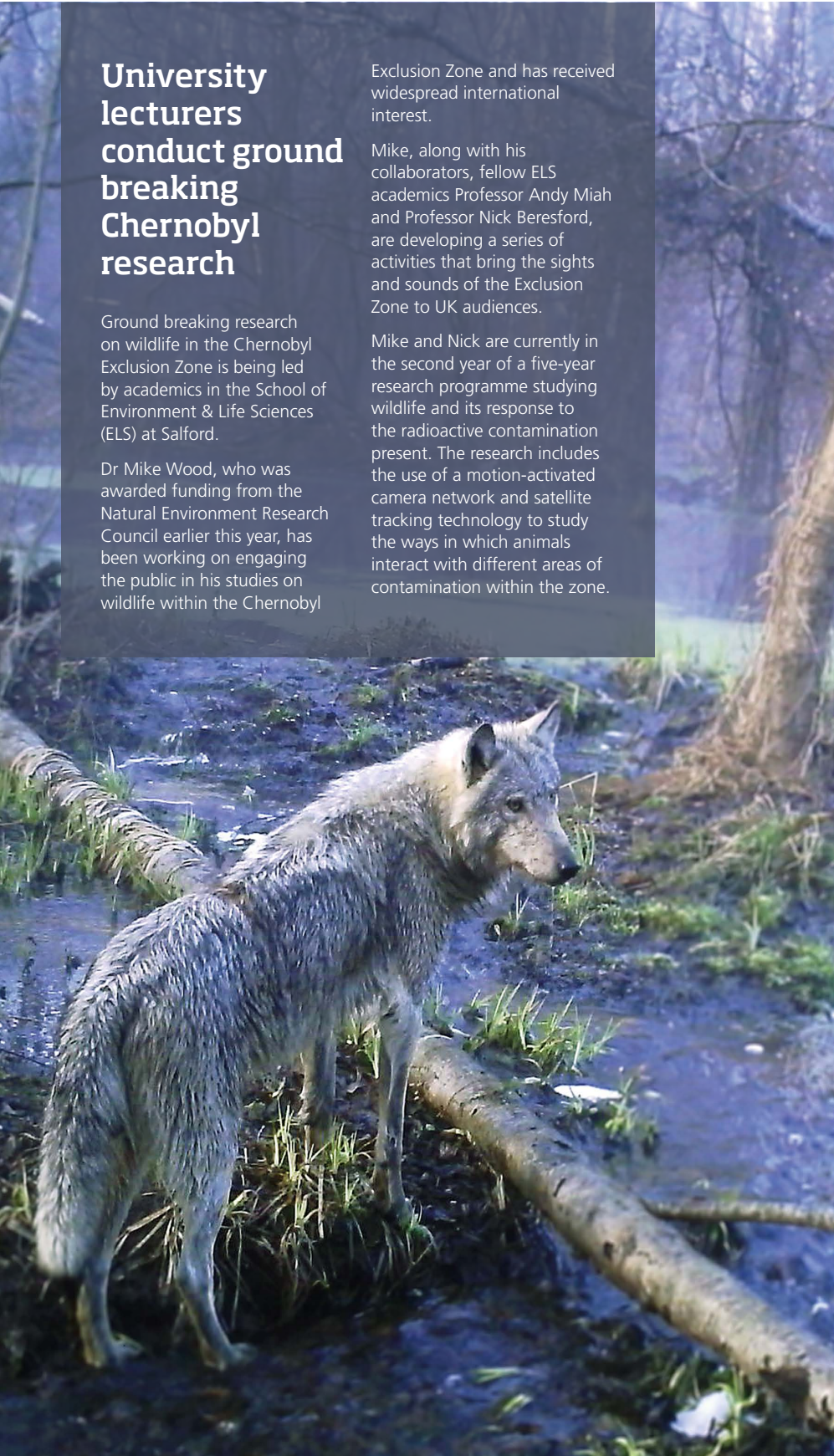
Mike and Nick are currently in the second year of a five-year research programme studying wildlife and its response to the radioactive contamination present. The research includes the use of a motion-activated camera network and satellite tracking technology to study the ways in which animals interact with different areas of contamination within the zone.

## Aspiring female engineers receive a taste of future careers

More than 100 teenagers took part in the renowned Insight and Dragonfly programmes on campus in July. Designed to encourage females interested in science and engineering, the University, in partnership with **Headstart** for the **Royal Academy of Engineering**, hosted the courses for girls from local, national and international schools.

The residential 'Insight School' featured talks by female engineers, practical workshops and site visits to local industries. All of the students stayed on the Salford campus to get a taste of university life.

The courses were organised by Professor Haifa Takruri who was made MBE in 2009 for her services encouraging women into engineering and science. Haifa said: "The participants really enjoyed the week, and we hope it helps them make the right decision about their future studies and careers in engineering and science. Visiting the University and industries to see engineering in action makes a huge difference in understanding what a career in engineering and science would entail."

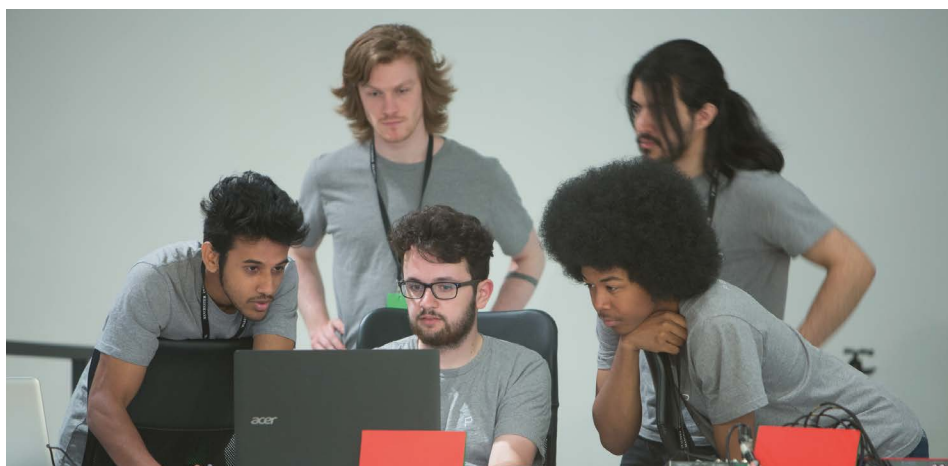


## Salford students and alumni work at Manchester International Festival

A large number of students and graduates from the University of Salford were selected to work alongside one of the UK's leading animation agencies, Studio Distract, supporting their highest profile motion capture project to date for Ed Atkins, at the Manchester International Festival 2015 (MIF). Taking place at the Manchester Art Gallery, **Performance Capture**, was a Live Motion capture exhibition, which offered audiences a rare chance to go behind the scenes of the production of a computer-generated moving image work.

Three of Salford's BA (Hons) Animation graduates, Jake Love, Tom Priest and Patrick Bucknall, were hired on full-time contracts with the studio, and 12 current students have been supporting the project, working closely with MIF and Studio Distract on various motion capture tasks.

Director of Conversion for the School of Arts and Media, Beth Hewitt, said: "We're incredibly excited to be working with Manchester International Festival on this special project. It's a unique opportunity, [...] we see this very much as a long term partnership which will enable us to develop creative student engagement projects, equipping them with real life skills and experience to increase their employability."



## Young journalists celebrate remarkable BBC hat-trick



Three Salford students have scooped coveted places on the BBC's flagship Journalism Trainee Scheme.

Amber Haque, Rebekah Dewhurst and Emilia Mincheva, beat off stiff competition to each secure one of only 14 places being offered this year on the broadcaster's prestigious programme. Rebekah, 22, from Widnes, will be based on Tyneside during her traineeship. She said "The University of Salford gave me the opportunity to be taught by real journalists and to learn the skills and attitudes the industry really wants."

Paul Broster, the University's Associate Director of Journalism, said: "For our students to win almost a quarter of the places available on the BBC training scheme this year is remarkable. It underlines how the University of Salford is providing the sort of training that media businesses like the BBC really value."

Emilia, Rebekah and Amber were among thousands of people to apply for the BBC Journalism Training Scheme. They underwent a series of tests and interviews before being chosen and will now spend 11 months working in different departments with a view to securing a permanent job with the broadcaster.

## Directorate of Midwifery retains key UNICEF accreditation

The Directorate of Midwifery was recently reassessed for the UNICEF Baby Friendly Re-Accreditation and passed with flying colours. The Directorate received outstanding marks and it was noted that Salford is the only university in the UK to achieve the revised standards at its first attempt. Final year midwifery students achieved an overall grade of 93% in their assessment and examiners complimented them on their knowledge, skill and passion in promoting breastfeeding as a public health requirement for all mothers and babies.

The infant feeding team, led by Lecturer in Midwifery, Anne Leyland, were praised for generating a strong culture of engaging with students that confirms the University's and midwifery's mission 'to deliver excellence in teaching and learning'.

The UK Baby Friendly Initiative is based on a global accreditation programme of UNICEF and the World Health Organisation. It is designed to support breastfeeding and parent-infant relationships by working with public services to improve standards of care.



## Salford 'Enterprise Student of the Year' scoops international prize

Salford Enterprise Student of the Year, Samuel Otigba, has now added an international award for community development to his mantelpiece. Samuel, an MBA student, won the award for his work on a Jordanian Social Enterprise Project which was announced at The Global Youth Forum (GYF) in Dubai. Samuel formed a project group with two others and competed against teams from across the world, going on to win the \$10,000 prize. The group were praised for showing a high level of passion and determination to give underprivileged children a better chance for a better future.

Their project "Hemitna" aims to target children aged 9-14 years old in some of the most deprived areas of the southern region of Jordan, by giving them creative educational opportunities to develop their skills in sport, art and music. Samuel said: "We were really pleased to win

this award and put a lot of hard work into the project. I'm happy because I am finally giving back to the community and helping to enable change within the region one step at a time."

Winning the community development prize will give the team the opportunity to launch their social enterprise. The University, along with Al Ahli Holding Group, will support the project by providing qualified instructors and trainers to educate and train the children in specialised areas such as art, technology, music, sports, and design.



## Structural Engineers win prestigious teaching prize - for second time



Jonathan Haynes and Neil Currie, from the School of Computing, Science & Engineering, have again scooped a prestigious award for teaching quality. They were presented with the accolade at the Institution of Structural Engineers People and Papers Awards 2015, which recognised 'outstanding contributions to structural engineering education, research, and the profession in general'.

Lecturers Jonathan and Neil received the award for a joint paper and their work at the University. The prize also recognised their commitment to providing 'the highest standards of teaching in structural engineering and a drive to develop exciting and innovative philosophies and techniques to improve student learning'.

This is the second time that Salford's structural engineers have received this IStructE Education Award, which recognises those university teams delivering the best structural engineering courses. Salford was, in fact, the first university to be presented with the award and is the only University to have won it twice.

## Built Environment student crowned 'UK Student Employee of the Year'



Salford student Marina Machado has been named the 'UK Student Employee of the Year', ahead of more than 600 nominees! Marina is an associate of the University's thriving Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) scheme and won the award as a result of her two and a half year project with local company, Links Project Management. For this project, Marina has ensured that the company has been able to make Building Information Modelling (BIM) an integral part of their production line. Marina is supported by Professor Jason Underwood and Andrew Fleming from the School of the Built Environment, who are supervising her project as academic lead and supervisor, respectively.

Professor Underwood said: "Marina has worked to a level far above and beyond that which is normally expected. Her work has had a profound impact on the business demonstrated by the number of business improvements to date and its overall transformation. Ian Roberts, Director and the KTP industry supervisor at Links added: "Part of Marina's work with us introduced a methodical and practical approach to implementing new software within the business. Without the work Marina is developing with KTP and the BIM Project our organisation could have potentially spent tens of thousands of pounds on software that was not in line with the strategy and our business requirements."

## Top TV, Radio and Entertainment figures praise the award winning work of our students

High profile figures from the BBC, ITV and the world of entertainment praised the calibre of our Media students at two glitzy awards ceremonies this summer.

The University of Salford Student Journalism Awards, hosted by the BBC, and the BAFTARS (BA Film and Television Awards), recognised the outstanding work of our Television, Radio and Journalism students.

Entertainment legend Terry Christian brought his unique brand of charm and wit as host of the BAFTARS, which saw members of staff, students and industry figures celebrate the best of Salford's students.

Judge and Coronation Street's double BAFTA winning story editor, Kate Brooks, praised the creativity of our students, saying "All of the nominations are of a very high standard. I was so impressed by what you've all done. You are all so creative. It just blew me away."

Multi Sony award-winning BBC Radio Editor (North), Susan Roberts, added: "It's fantastic; it's like staring into the future... I was genuinely

impressed and you can knock on my door anytime."

The University also recognised the work of Journalism students in the heart of the BBC's Northern HQ. With over 300 students eligible for the Student Journalism Awards, industry judges had a tough job picking the winning entries in categories covering TV, radio, print and online journalism.

ITV Granada Reports Editor, Lucy West, said: "The entries for the TV journalism awards showcased a range of stories and styles of reporting. The top three showed great creativity and ambition using a variety of treatments."

Emilia Mincheva, speaking after she won The Eddie Lowey Award for Outstanding Student of the Year, said: "This award is a great honour and I would like to say a big thank you to my tutors who have always been there for me. It is an unexpected but flattering end to my three-year journalistic journey at The University of Salford."



## Courteeners' star awarded Honorary Doctorate by University of Salford

Courteeners' frontman and songwriter Liam Fray donned his graduation gown as the University of Salford awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Arts this July.

11 years ago Liam, from Middleton in north Manchester, studied Economics and then Creative Writing at the University of Salford. However, as global musical success beckoned he left university to pursue his dream career before graduating. Since then Liam and the Courteeners have exploded on to the music scene, both in the UK and internationally. In June the Courteeners played to 25,000 fans in Manchester's Heaton Park, a show which sold out in just 40 minutes, before going on to play a number of major global festivals including Glastonbury and V Festival. Liam said: "It's so very humbling, and somewhat

surreal, to be thought of and awarded a Doctorate of Arts by Salford University. When I left my Creative Writing course to dedicate more time to writing music, I never imagined I'd be coming back for something like this so soon. I feel like I'm accepting on behalf of all our fans, so massive love to all of them. And, of course, kudos to Salford for recognising such talent."



"I have had an amazing time studying Physiotherapy here. It comes with its challenges, but as an international student it was important for me to be in a place that felt like home. That is exactly what Salford has now become - my second home."

Onyinye Lydia Mgbemena,  
Final year BSc (Hons)  
Physiotherapy student

# Spotlight On... Physiotherapy

## Academic and Student become Team GB Physios at Championships in China

Lecturer, Duncan Mason, and MSc student Alex O'Gorman, headed to China earlier this year to work as Event Physiotherapists for Team GB at the World Cross Country Championships. Alex had previously worked with Team GB at a holding camp, but this was his first trip with the British Athletics team to a Championships. He said "I'm delighted to have been asked to join the Team GB staff at the Championships in China; it really is a privilege. It's a great reflection on the University and our Physiotherapy department that not one, but two of the three medical staff on this trip are coming from the University of Salford." Duncan, who has been with the University for 12

years and is studying for his PhD, has previously travelled to Kenya four times with the British Athletics team to work with them at their training camps. Speaking ahead of the trip Duncan said: "Like the rest of the team and staff I'm really looking forward to China. To be able to swap the classroom for these Championships is a great honour but I'll always have one eye on what I can learn and bring back for my students in Salford." This year's team included a number of cross country champions, and also saw the pair working with the next generation of British sports stars. Together Duncan and Alex were tasked with ensuring some of the UK's top athletes were fighting fit and ready to bring home medals from the world championships. After returning from the trip, Duncan added "I was responsible for the athletes being in peak condition physically as well as mentally prior to competing. We had to assist the athletes with getting over the travel, and then ensure that they finished safely without any collapses etc., as they

were competing at altitude and were pushing themselves to the extreme. In terms of bringing the experience back to my classroom, a couple of the athletes got into respiratory difficulty during and after races; this emphasised the need for physios working in sport to have emergency/pitchside first aid skills."



## 3 good reasons to study Physiotherapy at Salford:

- Enthusiastic and knowledgeable tutors including clinical specialists, key textbook authors, researchers and private practitioners
- Learn theory and practical skills in state-of-the-art facilities
- 100% of students go on to work or further study within 6 months of graduation (KIS, 2015)

'I hold the Programme delivered at Salford and the team who deliver it in high regard. Their students are able to problem solve and rationalise treatment to a high level. These characteristics together with good treatment skills and an ability to be flexible workers particularly describe Salford Physiotherapy Students. I have employed many graduates from Salford as a result.'

Linda Atherton (Physiotherapy Manager, Ashton, Leigh & Wigan PCT)

## Physiotherapist works with CrossFit athletes

Physiotherapy Lecturer, Dale Walker, worked with CrossFit athletes at the European Region finals in Denmark earlier this year, as CrossFit Physiotherapist with the official medical team. CrossFit is a relatively new physical training methodology, which incorporates "constantly varied, high intensity, functional movement". The regional final saw the top CrossFit athletes in Europe competing in events including rope climbing, Olympic lifting, running – even a 250ft handstand walk that has to be completed in under three minutes.



## Salford Academic to guest lecture at Cambridge University

Congratulations to Dr Stuart Porter, who spent the summer at Cambridge University as Director of Medical Studies and Lecturer for International Medical Students. The month-long post was based at Corpus Christi College.

Stuart who has been teaching at Salford for nearly 20 years, said "this is something I've dreamed of since becoming a teacher, lecturing in a university that dates back to 1352. I'll be working alongside Cambridge fellows and postgraduate medical students to deliver the month-long programme before returning to look after the new first years at Salford."

This year, Stuart was nominated by his students for two University Teaching Awards – Best Teacher and Best Postgraduate Supervisor. Before joining the University, Stuart was a Chartered Physiotherapist in the NHS for 11 years. He has written eight books, which have been translated into ten languages, and completed his PhD in Rheumatology in 2009.



## Salford Business School:

# Why take a Placement Year?

At Salford Business School all undergraduate students can opt to take a one year Professional Placement between their second and final years.

We recognise the importance of placement years in today's competitive job market. Placements substantially help with securing graduate positions, and for this reason we actively encourage our students out into the world of work. Unlike some universities, placement years at Salford are completely free.

Students are provided with extensive support throughout the application process, including workshops, practice interview sessions and peer-to-peer mentoring and the quality of our placement programme is externally recognised by the City and Guilds, whose higher award is available to all our students completing a placement. We currently have over 40 students in companies across the UK and have, in the past, had students go as far as Australia for their placement year!

It's not just employability that sees a positive effect, over the last 5 years, 90% of students who have taken a placement have achieved higher marks than average.

### Alexandra Traista

#### BSc (Hons) Finance and Accounting; graduated in 2013 with First Class Honours

"I undertook a 12-month placement with Fujitsu UK & Ireland, within the Service Delivery Management department. Before I started, I was worried that I would only gain experience of a narrow range of activities, but I was proven wrong as the placement scheme was very well structured. It gave me exposure to numerous areas of the business and allowed me to shadow my senior colleagues and ask many questions. In the beginning, I wanted to learn what a 9am-5pm routine would feel like, and how to cope with various situations, such as participating in meetings and stepping up to the plate with my own ideas. I actually learned so much more than I expected and I was able to attend regular training sessions, which I found extremely useful.

I can honestly say that my placement helped me very much in my final year; as I went through various topics and modules, I could correlate the theory with what I had actually seen and learned at Fujitsu. This made things much easier to understand, leading to me achieving top marks. I managed to get a job within 3 weeks of finishing my last exam as my employers were impressed with the broad range of tasks that I had undertaken on my placement and my subsequent high grades.

For me, placement years are fun and a great way to create a professional network. When you return to university in your final year, you appreciate what you learn so much more and you do work harder. After graduation, you enter the job market with a higher chance of securing a good role compared to those with no professional experience. It's definitely worth it!"





## Asad Naeem

### Distribution Business Manager, Intel

Asad studied Business Information Systems and took a placement with Intel as part of his degree. He says:

"I was the first student from Salford to gain a placement at Intel, where I worked in a customer facing role.

I felt that the live projects that I worked on at university really helped prepare me for entering the world of work, as teamwork is key at Intel. It was a very real job, my colleagues and clients did not know I was an intern, to them I was a full time employee and their account manager. The year really helped make my mind up on what

career I wanted to go in to after graduation. When I returned to university for my final year, I applied the discipline I'd acquired of working 9-6, Monday-Friday. I managed to finish my dissertation early and had an offer of a graduate position at Intel by Christmas, which really took the pressure off me in my final months.

I've now been at Intel for 9 years, and am based in Dubai, having travelled the world with them and received sponsorship to complete my MBA. I feel like I'm constantly learning from my colleagues, I've had the opportunity to work across many departments and truly love the company and all it stands for."

**"Gaining practical experience is quite different to the theoretical knowledge. Students start to learn things they would, and importantly, wouldn't, like to do in the future whilst they are on placement."**

Chris Proctor, Placement Coordinator, Salford Business School

## Sundeep Singh

### BSc (Hons) Finance and Accounting; graduated in 2015 with First Class Honours

I completed my 12 month placement at the Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, as a Finance Assistant. As my role developed throughout my year within Financial Management, I took the opportunity to take extra responsibilities on top of my usual workload; allowing me to experience other areas within the finance department.

Through increasing my responsibilities and having a busier schedule it ensured that I was improving my ability to prioritise workloads and work efficiently under time-pressured situations. I was also able to develop personally by creating good working relationships with colleagues.

Without a doubt completing my placement year had a significantly positive influence on my final year; methods and practices learnt were more easily understood and after having gained practical experience my understanding of the subject areas made completing work more relatable. After working full time for a year, I also appreciated my time spent at University more.

I would certainly say that completing a year placement in industry enhanced my professional and employability skills. By networking with colleagues throughout my time there it provided me further opportunities once I had left. This resulted in me securing a full time position within a few months after leaving, the stress of looking for jobs was therefore relieved whilst sitting exams; giving me the opportunity to fully concentration on my revision and studies.



## New course:

# BSc (Hons) Architecture

Salford has been ranked as one of the top universities in the world for the subject of Architecture, according to the prestigious QS World Rankings, which ranked the School of the Built Environment (SoBE) 39th in the World and 4th in the UK.

Launched in 2014, the BSc (Hons) in Architecture provides the first stage in the seven-year education of an Architect. Our course is designed to meet the requirements of the Architects Registration Board Prescription of qualifications: ARB criteria for Part 1 and the QAA benchmark statement. The course encompasses planning and pre-design, design, construction, operation and re-construction; offering an opportunity for students from different domains to study together through multi-disciplinary projects. The course promotes an action learning approach, with a focus on the workplace and current practice-based developments.

## Applicant Profile

We are looking for applicants with 280-320 UCAS Points, and a mixture of science/ maths and humanities/arts subjects at A-Level is preferred. In addition to our academic entry requirements, we also look for certain characteristics in each student; not only to help them to fulfil their potential at university, but also as an essential requirement for a successful career in the built environment. All our courses are management focused; therefore leadership skills and a hard-working approach are important. The built environment caters for many different skills from creativity and original thinking to efficiency and technical ability, so applicants should be willing to develop in new areas.

For more information on the course, and the School of the Built Environment, please visit:

[www.salford.ac.uk/built-environment](http://www.salford.ac.uk/built-environment)

# Salford Stories

**SALFORD  
STORIES**

## Mohit Kochar, BSc (Hons) Aviation Technology with Pilot Studies Delhi, India

I chose Salford for many reasons, firstly because it offered the exact course that I wanted, to the location and services like student life, career opportunities and sports clubs.

My first two weeks on campus were spent in a state of mild culture shock and jetlag, but I could tell straight away that I was in a friendly environment.

For my first year, I stayed in University accommodation; I felt safe there and it gave me time to settle without worry. This enabled me to meet people from around the world and make more friends while exploring and experiencing different cultures with them. My first winter was really hard, but overall I found it easy to adjust to life in Salford!

I ended up working as a Student Ambassador for the University, an opportunity that I never expected, which

turned out to be a great experience. I would recommend that all new students get involved in as many activities on campus as they can – the harder you work, the luckier you get!



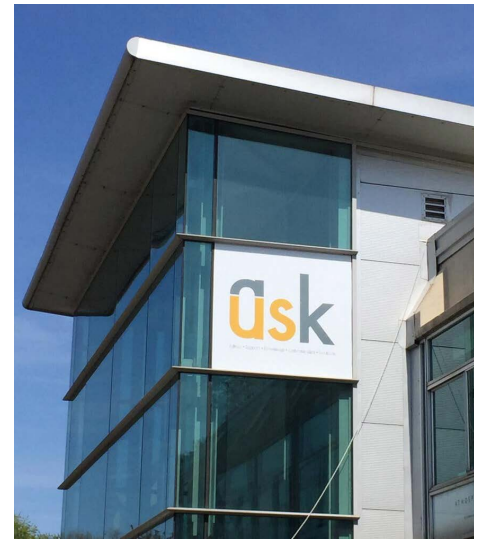
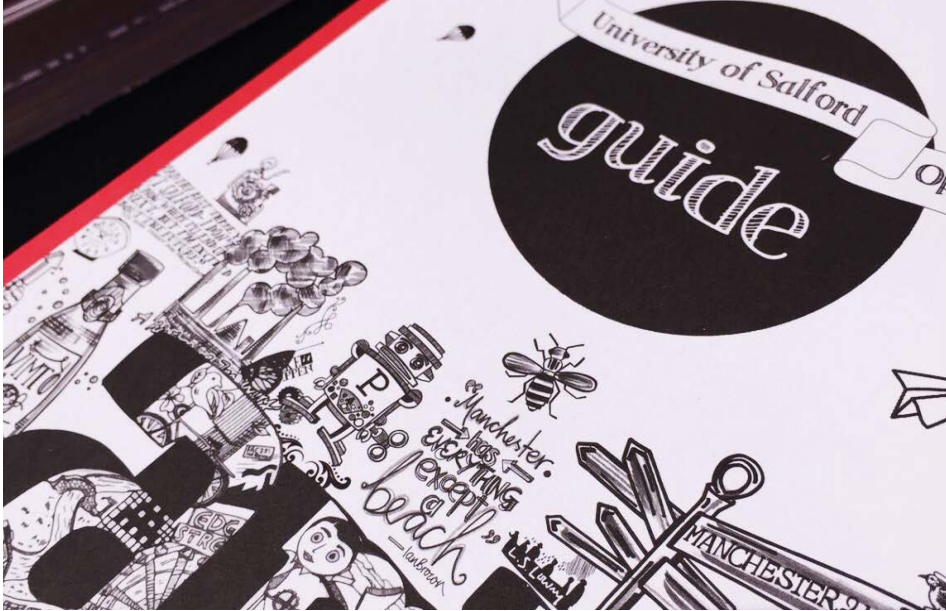
## Jane McElroy (BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography

My journey to Salford started at an Undergraduate Open Day over 5 years ago. I remember watching presentations about the university and the course and having a tour

of the Radiography skills labs. After enrolling on, and subsequently completing, an Access to HE course in Applied Science, I started at Salford the following September. The Radiography course offered a mix between theoretical teaching, simulated practical skills sessions, and practical placement within a local NHS teaching hospital. My three years at university were both the most enjoyable and the most challenging of my life, with my classmates and tutors offering a constant source of support throughout – I couldn't have done it without them.

The opportunity to undertake the role of Student Ambassador and help at Open Days allowed me to share my experiences with other potential students. It enabled me to demonstrate how the course and University have both contributed to my development personally and professionally over the last three years.

I have just graduated with a First Class Honours Degree and will be undertaking employment within the NHS as a Diagnostic Radiographer. I look forward to returning to Salford further on in my future career to undertake postgraduate study.



# Work with US



The Recruitment and Outreach team work in partnership with schools, colleges and careers advisers, raising awareness of higher education and the University of Salford. Our focus is to ensure that students and their key influencers are aware of the range of choice that is available and that students are recruited onto the right courses for them.

## Campus Visits

We are happy to welcome school and college groups onto the University campus to provide an insight in to student life. We aim to make these visits bespoke events to fit the requirements of your students and can arrange subject specific taster sessions as part of the day.

A typical programme would take approximately 2-3 hours and include:

- Campus tour
- Talk from current students about their experiences at university
- What can Salford offer you – a talk around what we offer at the University

## Open Days

We are happy to accommodate groups of prospective students and their teachers at our Open Days. Taking place throughout the year they give prospective students the chance to find out more about studying with us. Your students will get the opportunity to learn about the courses we have on offer, view our specialist facilities and meet staff and students from their subject area of interest. We also offer tours of the campus, accommodation sites and our facilities at MediaCityUK.

Our next Open Days are on Saturday 10th October and Saturday 31st October.

## Visiting your School or College

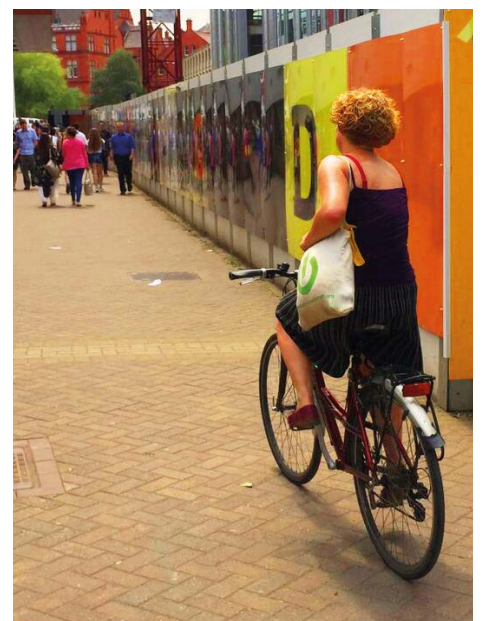
Alongside attending higher education fairs, we are happy to organise a visit to your school or college and offer a range of HE related presentations.

Providing timely information and advice can be hugely beneficial to Year 12 and Year 13 students as they make important decisions about their future. We have created our range of talks to inform and encourage students, aiding the transition to university.

Popular topics include:

- Choosing courses and universities
- The UCAS Process
- Personal Statements
- Student Finance and Budgeting
- What can Salford offer you?

We can also offer student-led sessions and are happy to deliver talks to staff and parents.



For further information on any of the above opportunities, please contact us on: [workwithus@salford.ac.uk](mailto:workwithus@salford.ac.uk)

