



WARWICK

SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES

May 2020

# Taught MSc Newsletter

## Dear Offer Holder

Welcome to our May Newsletter. Like the rest of the world, and no doubt yourself, we are currently adapting to a different way of life under restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our main focus in this difficult time is supporting current and prospective students until restrictions are lifted and we can all return to normal.

Many of you will soon be taking final year exams; good luck and don't forget to let PG Admissions know your result so that offers can be made unconditional. Over the coming months keep an eye on our [offer holders web page](#) where we'll be posting useful information including pre-reading lists, course programmes and the induction week schedule.

## Clyde Higgs Scholars Workshop

A small number of Clyde Higgs Scholarships are available to British nationals for two of our Masters courses - MSc Sustainable Crop Production: Agronomy for the 21st Century and MSc Food Security. These are funded by the Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust. Apart from those at Warwick, the Trust supports postgraduate students at several other institutions which have an agricultural/horticultural focus and active steps have been taken by the Trust to ensure that Clyde Higgs Scholars become part of a wider community of post-graduate students and alumni.

In November 2019, the Trust invited current Clyde Higgs Scholars and alumni to a 24-hour workshop at the Chesford Grange Hotel in Kenilworth. Fifty current and past scholars attended the event together with the Trustees and academics from each participating institution. Delegates arrived late on a Friday afternoon in time for drinks and dinner, followed by a very inspirational after-dinner speech by Alison Capper, NFU Horticulture & Potatoes Board Chair. The following day was action-packed with a variety of group activities to allow the delegates to get to know one another, punctuated by forward-looking talks given by invited speakers and focusing on the future of the agriculture sector.



## Scholarships & Funding

### [Clyde Higgs Scholarships](#)

Four scholarships worth £6758 for UK students applying for Food Security or Sustainable Crop Production. Deadline 30 June 2020.

### [Life Sciences \(SLS\) Excellence Scholarships](#)

Up to five will be awarded as a 50% reduction of course fees. Students must complete an application and have an offer before the 20 May 2020 deadline.

## A message from Dr Stuart Allen, our Director of Taught Postgraduate Studies

Dear Offer Holders

We aim to start the academic year as planned for all MSc programmes. For our students currently enrolled we have provided a full programme of recorded and live streamed lectures. Teaching, guidance and team working has proceeded as normal with lecturers, tutors, mentors and fellow students via various VoIP systems.

We will continue to provide a mixed mode of delivery for our new cohorts, including face-to-face sessions, although these may be in small groups, and live-stream lectures. All students will have a tutor and they are able to meet and support students via online technology. Group work and student-led seminars will be conducted both at the University and remotely, and these will be blended with access to staff where required.

We look forward to welcoming all students, either in person (adhering to any social distancing restrictions) or remotely. The excellent support that we provide for all students continues; through staff at Life Sciences to staff from across the University.

The University is open for business, with the library and student wellbeing support being accessible in person or online. We look forwards to welcoming you in late September to our virtual and in-person welcome week.

For regular updates please visit our [Coronavirus Guidance](#) page.



Dr Stuart Allen

## Health, Wellbeing & Personal Safety

In these unprecedented times we all have extra concerns about our own and our family's physical health, which can for many of us impact on our general wellbeing and mental health. It is therefore natural for you as an offer holder to wonder how Warwick will help support you during your study with us. With this in mind we would like to tell you just a little about the support we can offer to nurture your health and wellbeing.

Within Life Sciences, you will have a **personal tutor**, there to help with any issues, be they academic or personal. You will also have access to our **senior tutor** (Dr Graham Teakle) as a second level of support should it be needed. Both will provide a wealth of guidance and suggest sources of extra support should they be necessary. Life Sciences and Warwick Medical School also have a **Health and Wellbeing Group** with events and opportunities to get involved.

At a University level, you will have access to our **Wellbeing Support Services** ([warwick.ac.uk/services/wss](http://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss)) which include the Wellbeing Support Team, the Disability Team and the Counselling and Psychology Interventions team. Wellbeing Support Services can help you to develop the personal resources and skills you need to navigate the challenges and opportunities of student life.

What about your personal safety? **Health & Safety Services** ([warwick.ac.uk/services/healthsafetywellbeing](http://warwick.ac.uk/services/healthsafetywellbeing)) are there to support you in all aspects of safety including Coronavirus guidance ([warwick.ac.uk/insite/coronavirus/future-students](http://warwick.ac.uk/insite/coronavirus/future-students)).

The health, safety and wellbeing of our students is extremely important to us and we will work with you to enable you to thrive here at Warwick.

## Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC) by Daniella Afelumo

During your time here it is important to that you have the best experience possible. An amazing way we try to ensure this is the SSLC, a student-led system of course representatives and members of staff. The students on this committee are elected and act as the student voice.

Course representatives can be anyone willing to be involved and champion the concerns and needs of their peers to make beneficial changes at departmental and course level. The university administrators pay attention to the points we raise, and it is a system that works, when you arrive you will enjoy the achievements of the SSLCs that came before you.

The committee has made many beneficial changes impacting the experience and learning of students, such as mentoring and buddy schemes, improvement in IT and digital resources and applied careers events. Committee resolutions are made to provide solutions for student issues whenever possible. It is a democracy, for the students by the students and backed by staff.

**So why should you get involved?** As a course representative, you will be able to develop your skills and practice communicating with senior members of staff and administration, which is valuable experience. You will benefit from, and establish, time-management, leadership and negotiation skills that you can take with you. Being a course rep is a great way to enhance your CV and differentiate yourself from the competition. The role is not a huge time commitment, there is training and a termly meeting (which has free lunch!). Outside of this, obtaining feedback from students is all that remains. It is a great way to make connections and communicate with your course mates, other reps, the Student Union, staff and so many people across Warwick!

Make your mark!



Daniella Afelumo, SSLC Student Chair

### Useful Links

[Immigration Service](#) for advice on visas and UK living.

[Applied Linguistics](#) for support in developing English language and academic literacy.

[Postgraduate Admissions](#) for guidance on all aspects of the postgraduate admissions process.

[Warwick Accommodation](#) to help you find somewhere to live, either on campus or close to the University.

## Meet our graduates - Dina Bahrami

Dina graduated with an MSc in Medical Biotechnology & Business Management in 2019. She is now developing "NutriBeauties", her own startup company.



Dina with Dr Stuart Allen at her graduation.

"I really liked my course because it allowed me to see the different perspectives, both science and business, of each product or service. My favourite module was Entrepreneurship and Commercialisation because we developed a business plan related to the biotechnology sector. Now this plan is my start-up business and I am working full time on it.

As an international student, who was not aware of the way she should run a business, I needed support from several mentors and my lecturers and I joined Warwick Enterprise and Warwick Incubator. I had many panels to go through but the benefits I received were £5,720 to work on new product development, an office and many mentors. I was allowed to switch my visa from Tier4 to a Start-up visa and can stay in the UK and work on my business for two more years. I can say the most important lesson I have learned is building a better and bigger networking circle."

Dina Bahrami

