

Taught MSc Newsletter

MAY 2021

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Dear Offer Holder

Congratulations on your offer to study on one of our MSc programmes.

We hope you enjoy finding out a little more about our School, its staff and students in this newsletter.

Find out about two of our current students' projects and how they are looking to make a difference. Also the various seminar series that you can attend.

There are still [scholarships open](#) for you to apply for and [Live Chats](#) running to get all your queries answered.

Do you have a question? Contact us via email (msc.lifesciences@warwick.ac.uk) or contact your [regional agent](#).

The PGT Team
School of Life Sciences

Celebrating alumni success

Throughout February and March we welcomed seven MSc graduates back to our Life Sciences community through virtual alumni events.

This was a wonderful opportunity for both students and staff to find out about their career journeys so far and to explore the wide range of activities our alumni go on to experience. Be it entering the corporate world in the UK or internationally, supporting the work of a charity, promoting a sustainable future for our environment, advancing clinical research through drug development, working as part of a start-up team or completing professional qualifications - we covered it all! Whatever your interests or aspirations for the future, there was something in the MSc alumni series for everyone.

All of the alumni who spared the time to talk to the students dazzled them with their cool stories. Nalini Pinto (pictured below right) graduated in 2015 from our Biotechnology Bioprocessing & Business Management course and spoke about her trip to the Galápagos Islands as part of her healthcare management work. Their team looked at the hospital infrastructure and designed strategic solutions for improving provision. Elliott Olsen (pictured below left) graduated from Medical Biotechnology & Business Management in 2018 and talked about the fast-paced pharmaceutical industry and all the steps that he was involved in to safely deliver a variety of drugs to market.

Not only did these sessions celebrate our alumni's successes (of which there were many), but perhaps as importantly touched upon setbacks, changing paths and coping with what can seem like a lack of direction. Hearing about these very normal hurdles from those who were in their shoes not so long ago provided a level of reassurance amidst the current uncertainty of the pandemic. Recognising the hard work and drive that will be required, whichever avenue you follow, and the fact that you can never start preparing too early was a key theme to come from the events.

Seeing our students ask questions and start creating their professional networks is always a pleasure and we look forward to showcasing our current students to future MSc cohorts.





Seminar Series

Our School runs various seminar programmes which Masters students are encouraged to attend.

These include:

SLS Seminars: These take place every Friday afternoon and include external lecturers covering a wide range of biology related topics.

Plant and Crop Themed (PACTS) Seminars: These take place on Wednesday afternoons and provide a regular platform for both external and internal plant research based talks.

Meet the Academics: A series of talks with our academics covering their research and their path into science.

Field Trip

Our Sustainable Crop Production students recently visited Home Farm in Hatton, one of the farms used to teach field agronomy on the module *Introduction to BASIS Crop Protection*.

Field-based teaching greatly reinforces classroom learning on identifying the major pests and diseases of arable crops.

The image below shows **Oliver Baker, Holly Belcher, Adam Green, Elsa Webb, Liz Johnson, Mollie Burns and Ricky Wheeler** with **Jon Bellamy** from NIAB.



Projects/Dissertations

'An in-depth analysis into the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to determine an effective development strategy for future health emergencies' by **Daniela Garcia Arellano**, MSc Medical Biotechnology & Business Management.

"During the last decade the world has witnessed great damage to human health, societies, and economies caused by pandemics. The current one has caused over 3 million deaths worldwide, so far. The size of the negative outcome depends on our ability to respond. It usually takes up to 15 years to develop a vaccine, but recent history has proven that it is possible to reduce these timelines. My project will analyse the five different stages of AstraZeneca vaccine development and identify crucial strategies and lessons learnt that should be applied to the next pandemic."



Frances Ireland, MSc Environmental Bioscience in a Changing Climate.

'Developing a plan to improve biodiversity on the Wellesbourne Campus.'

"The main objective of my thesis is to develop a plan to improve the biodiversity on the Wellesbourne Campus. I will be assessing the site, which will involve practical field surveys of plants, trees, birds and insects. This information will be used to create a plan, with recommendations to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area. Choosing this project was easy for me, as I feel that understanding biodiversity is so important in tackling many current environmental, agricultural and ecological issues. I also hope to develop my own ecological survey skills during this project, which will help me pursue a career in environmental conservation."



Meet our graduates

by **Ashna Vadher**
Biotechnology, Bioprocessing & Business Management
2020 graduate.

"Studying at the University of Warwick has been nothing short of marvellous. Having pursued my undergrad in biotechnology while having a natural acuity for business management, this course provided the perfect balance I was looking for. I was intrigued by the modules as well as the environment that the university offered. I was also awarded with the SLS Excellence Scholarship, which was an achievement in itself.

My first day at Warwick was during the fresher's week and is still my most fond memory. The energy around campus is so heart-warming and welcoming. The modules and curriculum were what made me choose this course, but the professors and their interactive method of teaching were what made this journey fun. Class discussions, group activities, field trips and presentations promoted teamwork and helped polish my leadership skills. Constant support and guidance provided by the lecturers,

as well as my dissertation supervisor, have made me realise and fuel my passion.

The student life at Warwick is also quite unmatched. From cafes on campus like Canopy serving some of the best food, to dog petting sessions held by the library and frequent events held by different societies, the University has countless ways of uplifting your mood and keeping your mental health in check. Even during tougher times like that of Covid, the University made sure to pay attention to our well-being through several online sessions. The last few months of my course were challenging with online modules and a tougher dissertation route, but all things considered, I wouldn't have had it any other way. Warwick has prepared me for upcoming ventures and has made me feel more confident, not just for job interviews but also in general life."