February 2018

Study Life Sciences

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter for those thinking of studying Life Sciences at Warwick. We hope you enjoy finding out a little more about our School and its students and staff. In this edition find out about our student ambassadors, our Biology Society (BioSoc) and how the Warwick team won bronze at iGEM.

Full course details are on our web pages (warwick.ac.uk/uglifesci) and if you would like to visit the School then come along to an Open Day (warwick.ac.uk/uglifesci/events/) or why not attend one of our Public Science Evenings (warwick.ac.uk/publicscience). If you have any questions about studying with us then please do get in touch via ug.lifesciences@warwick.ac.uk.

Student Ambassadors

The 40 ambassadors representing our School are given training, support and bright blue polo shirts. Their duties include taking tours of the School on Open Days to give prospective students and their parents the student perspective on study here. We are incredibly proud of our ambassadors and hope you get the chance to chat with one of them if you visit us.

“I chose to study Biochemistry simply because I loved both biology and chemistry when completing my A levels. I would describe my time here as unique, partly because the School has its own campus, a 5 minute walk away from central campus, so you are always surrounded by like minded science loving people. The lecturers are very passionate and supportive of their students and you form quite a close knit bond with your year group and the academics.

The role of a student ambassador involves giving tours of the School and answering any questions parents or students may have about a course or just university life in general. Sharing your experiences as a current student at Warwick gives you the opportunity to inspire students who are unsure whether university is right for them, and to help students pinpoint which course is right for them. For me, being a student ambassador has been one of my most rewarding jobs as it allows me to help prospective students make one of the biggest decisions of their career.

My advice to any prospective students would be to be confident in your abilities and just apply!”

Mehalah Spencer
2nd year Biochemistry Student
Warwick’s iGEM students take on E.coli and win bronze

The International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) is the worlds’ largest undergraduate bioengineering competition. The aim is to produce a new biological system using synthetic biology. The Warwick team this year included four students from Life Sciences - Jack Lawrence, Elsita Jungkurth, Amy Moore and Wendy Wei.

Their project, “Blueprint 361” uses E.coli to produce a biopolymer, which can be used as the bio-ink for their 3D printer. They will be using this system for the creation of surface coatings to help heal broken bones. They are hoping that their technique will increase both the strength and versatility of artificial joints and dental implants.

In November 2017, the Warwick team travelled to the iGEM Jamboree in Massachusetts to present their research alongside over 300 other teams from across the world. There was stiff competition, not least from the Oxford University team who had developed a low-cost diagnostic for Chagas disease using blood clotting. Well done to the Warwick team and the Life Sciences students for winning bronze!

Gregory is back from his year’s study abroad at Monash University, Australia

“I knew I wanted to study abroad as soon as I was accepted onto the course. It was as simple as walking into the Study Abroad Office to find out about my destination options. It was amazing and going to Monash University was one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life. Being able to enjoy Australian sunshine and take modules that did not relate to my degree. It made me a happier, more positive and open minded person. I have always enjoyed acting so I actually enrolled into their drama school where I studied acting for a year.

If you can do it - do it. The university experience is so short and this will change your life for the better.”

Our Research has impact!

As our teaching is research-led, our students are exposed to ideas and results at the cutting edge of Biology. To listen to three of our academics talk about their research go to https://youtu.be/r0VHNL68ZZU

Good luck Philippa

Biomedical Science student Philippa Harris will climb Kilimanjaro in the summer of 2018 to raise money for Meningitis Research.