

If you have news or information that you want included in the monthly e-newsletter for research staff, for example events you are organising or want promoting, or that your network or group is doing, please contact **Sandy** ([sandy.sparks@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:sandy.sparks@warwick.ac.uk) x74121)

## Opportunities from the Learning & Development Centre

Learning & Development Centre opportunities for training and development are for contracted Warwick Research Staff.

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers>

The LDC Research Staff Development Programme is available on the website: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/development/#rp>

Workshops	Date
Two Day Writing Camp (publications or bid writing)	7 & 8 September
Realise 2 Strengths Taster session (Careers session)*	20 September
Realise 2 Strengths session**	4 October
How to Network - a Strategic and Practical Approach	6 October
Building external relationships to gain research funding - for Social Science Faculty	11 October
Raise your profile - electronically & other alternatives	12 October
Academic Writing Programme - Workshop 1	20 October
Building external relationships to gain research access - for Social Science Faculty	25 October
Practical Project Management for Researchers	27 October
How to sell yourself & your research	1 November
Academic Writing Programme - Workshop 2	3 November
Building external relationships to assist with dissemination and impact - for Social Science Faculty	8 November
Technology for Research: Focus on Funding	9 November
Academic Writing Programme - Workshop 3	17 November
How to write a proposal to influence panel members - for Social Science Faculty	22 November
Project Management 2 for Researchers - the next steps	24 November
Relating your research skills to employer needs	29 November
Academic Writing Programme - Workshop Day 4 - Peer review *new*	1 December
How to write a proposal to influence a reviewer - for Social Science Faculty	6 December

The workshops highlighted above in yellow are not yet live on the website. To register your interest in receiving further information on any of these sessions email Val Bentick [v.bentick@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:v.bentick@warwick.ac.uk)

### \*Realise 2 Strengths Taster Session

This session will introduce you to the Strengths profiling tool. This allows you to assess your current strengths and other unrealised strengths you wish to build on to enhance your future career growth.

Come along and discover more about what's energising you in a day to day context, is it for example, action, drive or communication? Research staff who have completed the profile comment that it's given them more insight into their career choices and goal setting.

### \*\*Realise 2 Strengths Session

Once you have completed your strengths profile you can look at the ways in which you wish to use it to help you develop more versatility in your work based skills.

This session is designed to help you be a good strength spotter in yourself and others, generate career plans that play to your

strengths and are energising and encourage you to positively address your career planning.

### Presenting your Research to Different Audiences

Quotes from delegates that have attended the session

*"I have learnt the importance of other types of presentation other than conference presentations"*

*"Very constructive, useful feedback. I will apply what I have learnt in presenting to funders, business and job interviews"*

The sessions covered presenting your elevator pitch to different audiences, presenting 10 minutes on your current research & practical experience of presenting for; an interview presentation, potential funder, for access to conduct research, to a group for a potential collaboration. To register your interest in a future session: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/development/presres/booking/>

### Academic Writing Programme.

The website has been updated with the upcoming provision of 1-1's, workshops session & writing camp as well as the previous session information.

The programme aims to support Post Doc /Early Career Researchers who wish to develop writing strategies to generate publications from active research.

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/awp>

Booking is available for the following Academic Writing offerings:

#### - One to One sessions

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/acawrite/booking/>

#### - Workshops

Workshop 1 - 20 October 2011

Workshop 2 - 3 November 2011

Workshop 3 - 17 November 2011

\*new\* Workshop 4, Peer Review Day - 1 December 2011

Booking form: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/acawrite/bookingworkshops/>

#### - 2 Day Writing Camp

7 - 8 September 2011

Booking form: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/awp/bookingaway/>

### Research Network Meeting

The Research Network Meeting is a group of people leading networks for research staff in their departments/faculty, it is an opportunity to talk about what they are doing and share their learning and experiences. The meetings are open also to researchers who are keen to organise a network in their faculty or department. The group meets once a term for an hour over lunchtime. The next meeting will be 22 September 2011. Please contact Sandy if you interested to join us.

### Research Staff Networks

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/networks/>

## Opportunities from the Learning & Development Centre - cont'd

### Research Team Leaders' Programme

A pilot leadership programme has been developed for Research Team Leaders. The four half day workshops with coaching support will run in the autumn term. The overall aim of the development programme is to equip Research Team Leaders with the key skills needed to lead and manage their teams. Content is based on four key areas:

- Workshop One – Working with Others
- Workshop Two – Leading your Team
- Workshop Three – Handling Change and Uncertainty
- Workshop Four – Running Effective Meetings

Full programme details including dates and how to nominate are on the LDC website: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/development/rtlp/>

If there are any bespoke workshops for departments or groups of research staff that you are interested in, please contact Sandy to discuss ([sandy.sparks@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:sandy.sparks@warwick.ac.uk) x 74121)

### The LDC General Programme

Other Learning & Development Centre offers that may be valuable to Research Staff are on the general programme <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/calendar/>

### Funding opportunity for researchers:

For further information about individual or departmental funding opportunities, please see <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/funding/researchers/>

**Please note the RCUK have approved the extension of Roberts' funding being used until 31 December 2011. Just 5 months to go!**

The focus of Roberts' funding is on sharing best practice, so in your applications please include how you plan to share best practice. It is essential that you are a research staff employee at the time of application and at the time of the event as well as being able to share best practice after the event.

Priority for Roberts' funding will be given to best practice sharing events. Support for conference attendance can be offered when applications emphasize dissemination of learning and best practice and identify ways of achieving this.

<< From May to Dec 2011 - Funding available = £120k >>

Used £95k

Remaining £25k

**Roberts' funding individual & departmental grants total = £238.5K**

- Arts Faculty - x30 applications = £40K
- Social Science Faculty - x40 applications = £36K
- Science Faculty - x116 applications = £133K
- Medicine - x35 applications = £29.5K

### Roberts' funding applications

A record of previous applications is available at: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/rfapps/>

**43 Individual/Departmental applications approved during July:**  
<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/rfmonthapps/>

### Feedback from Roberts' Funded Events

To read some reports from colleagues who have recently attended Roberts' funded events go to: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/rfeedback/>

Sessions taking place that are Roberts' funded and open to Research Staff include:

- **Autumn term 2011 (weekly from weeks 2-10, except reading week) - Humanities Building** - Contact Dr Sotirios Paraschas/ Dr Fabio Camilletti for further information: [s.paraschas@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:s.paraschas@warwick.ac.uk) / [F.Camilletti@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:F.Camilletti@warwick.ac.uk)
- **10 October 2011. Meeting for RAPS/RAMS and Macrogrouop**, Scarman House. Contact Helen Willcock for further information: [H.Willcock@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:H.Willcock@warwick.ac.uk)
- **16 November 2011 - IAS Seminar Room - Organising a one-day workshop on 'Researching China'** - Dr Nana Zhang: [N.Zhang@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:N.Zhang@warwick.ac.uk)
- **23 November 2011 - IAS - Organising a one-day conference on 'Gender, Subjectivity and Oral History'** - Dr Angela Davis: [Angela.Davis@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Angela.Davis@warwick.ac.uk)
- **1 August - 17 December 2011. Applied Mathematics and Statistics Seminar Series.** For further information contact Kody Law: [K.J.H.Law@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:K.J.H.Law@warwick.ac.uk)
- **Arts Faculty** provision ongoing <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/postdocs/>
- **July/Oct/Dec 2011. Physics Lunchtime Seminars.** For Post-doc researchers to exchange ideas and present work to peers. For further information contact Dr Susan Burrows: [S.E.Burrows@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:S.E.Burrows@warwick.ac.uk)
- **27 April - 17 Dec 2011. Statistics department events. Bi-monthly seminar series - Partial Differential Equations & Geometry, Mathematics Dept.** [http://www.warwick.ac.uk/~masiai/Geom\\_PDE.html](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/~masiai/Geom_PDE.html)
- **WMG Researcher Network/Forum.** Liaise with Vanessa Goodship for further information. <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/withinwarwick/>
- **WMG Researcher Seminars.** International Digital Laboratory. Liaise with Rebecca Cain for further information: [R.Cain.1@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:R.Cain.1@warwick.ac.uk) <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/wmg/research/researchseminars>
- **WMS Early Career Researchers' Network programme.** For further information contact Dr Anca Alba: [Anca.alba@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Anca.alba@warwick.ac.uk)

### EPSRC Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Transferrable Skills Funding

There is £70K of EPSRC Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Transferrable Skills Funding that will be available from 1 September 2011 to 31 March 2012. The criteria, application form & more details will be included in September's e-newsletter & then added onto the LDC website. The funding will not support conference attendance.

## Further opportunities/support/information within Warwick

### Research Support Services

John Burden presented the following information at the recent Research Staff Forum Meeting  
Eligibility Rules regarding Early Career Researchers: [http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/forum/intranet/documents/rsf/eligibility\\_rules\\_regarding\\_early\\_career\\_researchers.pdf](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/forum/intranet/documents/rsf/eligibility_rules_regarding_early_career_researchers.pdf)

### Library Support

Research Exchange is at: <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/researchexchange>  
Warwick's three Repositories: <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/lib-publications>

### IT Services Training Support for Research Staff

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/its/service-support/training/course\\_cat/teaching\\_research](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/its/service-support/training/course_cat/teaching_research)

## Opportunities outside Warwick

### Vitae

Information for Research Staff, see <http://vitae.ac.uk/researchers/1269/Research-staff.html>

Vitae Course / Events <http://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/337551/Courses-and-events.html>

- 12 September, **Advancing in Academia**, Birmingham Thistle Hotel  
<http://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/337551-383031/Advancing-in-Academia---September-.html>

- 12/ 13 September, **Effective Researcher** at Loughborough University  
Workshop for Early Career Research Staff .The cost to external institutes will be £50 per delegate, this does not include travel or accommodation costs. <http://pdwww.lboro.ac.uk/eventdetails.asp?run=10888>

- 25 October, **Focus on....Institutional Approaches to Engaging PI's and Supervisors**, Warwick University -  
<http://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/56271-337181/New-Date-Focus-onInstitutional-Approaches-to-Engaging-PIs-and-Supervisors.html>

\*\*Date Change\*\*

- 12 - 14 December (was 8 -10 August) **Leadership in Action**, Warwick University *\*Apply for Roberts' Funding to cover the £50 fee\**  
<http://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/56271-393481/Leadership-in-Action.html>

RCUK Delivery Plan - <http://www.ukcge.ac.uk/news/latestnews/RCUK+Delivery+Plan>

UK Council for Graduate Education - <http://www.ukcge.ac.uk/events/>

### Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) – Invitation Fellowships

Call for Applications with Fellowships to start between 1 April 2012 to the end of March 2013.  
Closing Date: Friday 2 September, 2011

Invitation Fellowships provide the opportunity for mid-career to professorial level researchers to conduct collaborative research activities with leading research groups at Japanese Universities and Institutions. There are 2 types of Invitation Fellowship. The Short Term Invitation Fellowship is for visits of 14 to 60 days and the Long Term Invitation Fellowship is for visits of 2 to 10 months. Eligible research fields are not limited: computer, engineering, health, biological, life, natural and physical sciences, mathematics, humanities and social sciences etc.

Application guidelines and documents are available here: <http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/index.html>

## Research Staff Profiles

### Dr Jawed Qureshi, Research Fellow, School of Engineering



**Role:** With the aim to seek an academic position at a world's renowned university, I am currently working as a Research Fellow on the EPSRC funded project on "Connections and Joints for Buildings and Bridges of Fibre Reinforced Polymer" in School of Engineering.

### Life before Warwick

I have been in academia for over a decade working at four universities and in different countries like Pakistan, Thailand and the UK. I have come a long way before joining University of Warwick completing my Bachelors in Civil Engineering from Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan, Masters in Structural Engineering from Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand and, more recently, PhD in steel-concrete composite structures from University of Leeds. I am so keen on following my career aspirations and not sure about my new exciting journey to the next destination.

Cont'd...

# Research Staff Profiles

## Best things about working at Warwick

The most inspiring thing for me at the University of Warwick is its focus on research and development, along with exciting training opportunities and research support mechanism. Above all, what is more captivating is the location of University of Warwick in a rural setting making it the most beautiful campus in the UK.

## Worst thing about working for Warwick or If you could change one thing at Warwick, what would it be?

I think all researchers would agree that the worst thing about Warwick is isolation associated with research specific roles. This could well be related to the nature of being a research fellow, which is quite a transitional role between a PhD student and an academic.

## What people are surprised to learn about me....

People are surprised to see my handwriting when I give them Christmas cards written by me; and I often get compliments like, "What beautiful handwriting you have."

## What would your dream job be?

My dream job would be the one which would give me first of all fulfilment, a lot of travelling around the world, job security and sufficient money so that I don't have to worry about maintaining myself. I have a dream to work in the backdrop of eye catching scenery with mountains and beaches with plenty of sunshine; and to give employment to other people, rather than me being employed by someone else.

## Research interest

My research is mainly focussed on steel-concrete composite structures, fibre reinforced polymer shapes and systems for new build structures, deterioration modelling of road pavements, and finite element modelling. Currently, I am working on connections and joints of fibre reinforced polymer (FRP) for buildings and bridges. FRP is an eco-friendly material which would help the UK meet its targets of sustainability and carbon-neutral buildings. I intent to expand my research areas; and I am also interested to work in a multi-disciplinary setting.

## What have been useful training/ development to date

A three day "Team working and Networking" residential course at University of Warwick, which is part of PGCTSS, has been the most useful training for me.



**Ruth Cherrington, Research Assistant, Sustainable Materials Group, WMG**

## Current Research

Since September 2010, I have worked as a research assistant on several short term projects giving me experience in many areas of materials development through processing, modification and testing.

Projects I have been involved with include:

- The Warwick Low Carbon roadshow
- Investigating the incentives for recycling wind turbine blades
- WMG researchers' forum
- SNAPT summer school

I am interested in all aspects of the development sustainable technologies. More recently, my work has focused on the

## Other roles (eg. peer review journals)

I am going to teach a module to postgraduate students starting from October 2011. I also help PhD students in learning finite element modelling, especially using ABAQUS.

## Next bid/ grant

At the moment, I am in consultation with my mentor, colleagues, research support services, academic and industrial partners to apply for EPSRC grant next summer in 2012.

## Latest academic writing publication(journal/ book etc)

- Qureshi J, Lam D and Ye J. Effect of shear connector spacing and layout on the shear connector capacity in composite beams. *Journal of Constructional Steel Research* 2011; 67(4): 706-719. (This is an A\* publication as per ERA\_2010, Australian Research Council for Research Excellence Framework, REF, in the UK)
- Qureshi J, Lam D and Ye J. The influence of profiled sheeting thickness and shear connector's position on strength and ductility of headed shear connector. *Engineering Structures* 2011; 33(5): 1643-1656. (This is an A\* publication as per ERA\_2010, Australian Research Council for Research Excellence Framework, REF, in the UK)

## Looking for?

I am looking for a proactive academic role in higher education. Any opportunities of multi-disciplinary research and networking are particularly welcome. You can contact me at email: [J.Qureshi@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:J.Qureshi@warwick.ac.uk) or Tel: 22332.

## Major achievement to date

I have developed a novel modelling approach for analysing steel-concrete composite beams. As recognition of my research, I was awarded 2nd runner up prize at Institution of Structural Engineers Young researcher's conference, London in 2010. I was also awarded scholarships to pursue my Masters and PhD from Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand and University of Leeds respectively.

## Three top tips / learning

- Always be focussed on skills – if you don't have it, develop it.
- Never be disappointed – bounceback and turn around the disappointment into a drive to do even better.
- If you want to be successful in life and career, cultivate a positive attitude, and keep a work-life balance.

development of new sustainable and biodegradable materials to replace those materials traditionally made.

## Life before Warwick

I graduated from the University of Exeter in 2010 with a 2.1 in Renewable Energy BSc (Hons). This degree has provided me with a solid understanding of the technical and environmental issues covering a broad range of renewable energy technologies.

## Best things about working at Warwick

I am involved with a wide variety of projects enabling me to gain an understanding of a range of new subjects and research areas. I am privileged to work with many experts within their field, who have been kind enough to share their knowledge and experience. The university is a great place for career development and I have taken advantage of many of the courses offered by the Learning and Development Centre. The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) training, in particular, was extremely insightful in understanding the different methods individuals reach decisions. This knowledge has been beneficial for collaborative work within a mixed team.

## Research Staff Profiles - cont'd

### Worst thing about working for Warwick or If you could change one thing at Warwick, what would it be?

I think that communication between researchers working within the University could be improved. Many researchers are working on great projects that we never hear about.

### What would you dream job be?

I enjoy varied work on real projects, investigating solutions to problems that might not have been considered before. I hope to continue to develop my knowledge within the areas of sustainability and renewable technologies.

### Three top tips / learning

- Make the most of every opportunity.
- Don't be scared of a new challenge.
- Diversify.

## Contacts:

### Roberts' funded support staff: Who does what? Until December 2011

**Sandy Sparks** [sandy.sparks@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:sandy.sparks@warwick.ac.uk) ext 74121 (LDC) - 80% FTE to provide enhanced communication and providing information to the research staff through; the monthly e-newsletter, annual researcher learning & development programme, the research staff groups in faculties and departments and the LDC/ Researcher website. One to one coaching. Manages the Roberts' funding for individual researchers & departments.

**Trudy Hillier** [t.j.hillier@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:t.j.hillier@warwick.ac.uk) ext 24670 (LDC) - 30% FTE to develop training initiatives for research staff in relation to Leadership & Management Development and Personal Effectiveness. One to one coaching and tailored workshops.

**Julie Gallimore** [j.a.gallimore@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:j.a.gallimore@warwick.ac.uk) ext 23498 (SCS) - 60% FTE to provide careers advice & support as well as providing training initiatives / workshops in the Researcher programme.

Careers support focuses on all aspects of career decision making and we can help you explore your unique set of skills, values and motivation. We are experienced in supporting researchers as they make applications, create CV's and prepare for interviews. Many researchers who are managing contract working chose to take up this support ahead of changes to their contract to help them manage their transition.

**Dr John Burden** [j.p.burden@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:j.p.burden@warwick.ac.uk) ext 51243 (RSS) - to provide support & advice to research staff on writing successful fellowship bids and grant applications. Advice and guidance about developing an academic track record as part of securing fellowship and grant funding.

**Trevor Robinson** [t.robinson@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:t.robinson@warwick.ac.uk) (Education) - 1 day per week - Business Engagement support through the Business Engagement Pilot Project

**Christine Smith (LDC)** - 50% FTE to provide advice on the production of some online resources for research staff

**Val Bentick (LDC)** - To provide administrative support

**Gareth Wright (LDC)** - Marketing & website support