

Introducing our Newsletter

Our International Newsletter, published by the International Office for internal circulation, will keep colleagues informed both about how we can support you in telling the world about what you and your department offers and about the 'hot topics' we are working on.

We will publish at least one edition each term, to keep you updated on these issues. In particular, we want to provide timely information on new developments including changes to staffing and contacts, both here on campus and to the University's representatives internationally.

We are very interested to know what you think of this edition and strongly welcome your suggestions for future issues.

In future issues of the Newsletter we will update you on a variety of topics that are significant to the University's international activities. In this issue we focus on the introduction of a new structure for the International Office.

On the next page our PVC (International) outlines how the University's strategic imperatives are leading to less emphasis on student recruitment and more attention to building the reputation of the University internationally. This has guided a restructuring of the International Office over the last few months.

A five-person Directorate has been created. The Director (David Law) and Deputy Director (Caroline Pack) work closely with three colleagues:

- Edward Harcourt (Assistant Director)
- Partnerships and Networks
- Jon Inegbedion (Assistant Director)
- Student Recruitment
- Helen Johnson (Assistant Director)
- Programmes and Student Mobility

Members of the Directorate, working with our Senior Liaison Officers, take responsibility for regions of the world. For each region we are developing a delivery strategy reflecting overall strategic objectives.

Currently there are two Senior Liaison Officers in post (Emily Austin and Stephen Williams), a third colleague is on maternity leave (Sarah Patrick) and a fourth will be appointed to replace Geraldine Raison who now works in the Department of Politics and International Studies.

Dr David Law
Academic Registrar and
Director of International Office

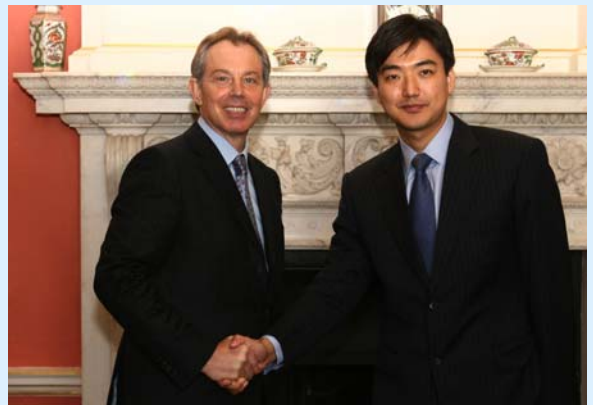
International Student of the Year (Shine awards by British Council)

Bryan Zheng Zhang, a PPE student from Hong Kong, was one of 12 international students in the UK to receive an International Student Award recently at the British Council's International Student (Shine) Awards 2006.

Bryan, the overall West Midlands regional winner, was chosen to meet the Prime Minister.

Shine! International Student Awards, now in its fourth year, is the major award scheme run by the British Council to provide recognition that international students make significant contributions to their communities whilst pursuing their degree programmes. The scheme focuses on broader experiences and achievements and not just academic studies.

Warwick students also received two of the four "highly commended" places for the West Midlands, thus demonstrating the calibre of our students both academically and in terms of their involvement in extra curricular and off-campus activities.



(Bryan Zheng Zhang meeting PM, Tony Blair)

Valuing diversity and supporting students

The International Office endeavours to help all international students gain maximum benefit from their time at Warwick. We support a variety of activities that promote integration, student exchange and support for international students.

Under Caroline Pack's leadership a small team of colleagues provides welfare and visa services. For more information on this aspect of our work please see our website:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/international/>

International Strategy – Professor Lindley

Since Professor Robert Lindley was appointed to be PVC at the start of the academic year he has led the discussion and the development of strategic international objectives for the University. The International Strategy Statement is designed both for internal and external audiences. It complements the more comprehensive statement of institutional mission and strategy, notably in the Corporate Planning Statement.

Warwick aims to command an international reputation for the highest quality education, research and engagement with the wider economy and society.

The University places particular emphasis on:

- *attracting outstanding researchers, teachers and students from across the world;*
- *valuing the international diversity of its staff and students and enabling all to benefit from the rich academic and cultural resource that this represents;*
- *supporting its staff and students in gaining international experience to foster their personal and professional development;*
- *building long-term partnerships with leading foreign academic, scientific and other private and public sector organisations;*
- *participating actively in international academic, scientific and policy communities.*

The statement is intended to offer a short, initial, and fairly matter-of-fact international 'mission statement', followed by five key components that comprise the strategy. The latter are intended to provide a way of looking at the issue of international strategy which is meaningful not just at University level but also at departmental levels.

Departments will no doubt attribute different weights to the different elements of the statement.

The statement has been the basis for a number of meetings with faculties, departments and mixed groups of staff with interests in particular regions. The aim has been to set up an iterative process through which a better shared understanding can evolve and on the basis of which a stronger University-level strategy may develop.

Working with Departments

The International Office can only reach its target audiences with the assistance of academic departments. Accordingly, we have organised a series of consultative meetings at which specialists in the Office (including the University's representatives based abroad) meet colleagues from several departments to learn about the ways in which particular initiatives can be co-ordinated to best effect.

Policy development must reflect what faculties and departments want to achieve. The next step is to continue meetings with departments, and at Faculty Board level, to ensure that the international strategy statement captures fully the academic objectives of the University.

As we reflect on what academic colleagues tell us, we increasingly recognise that the target international audiences for the University's key messages are to be found in research institutes and universities, government agencies and funding bodies, the business community and our own alumni.

Regional responsibility

The IO's delivery plans are developed within a regional framework.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Lead officer</i>
• South Asia	Stephen Williams
• SE Asia	Emily Austin
• East Asia	Jon Inegbedion
• N America and the Caribbean	Edward Harcourt
• Latin America	Emily Austin
• Middle East and North Africa	Jon Inegbedion*
• Sub-Saharan Africa	Emily Austin*
• Europe	David Law*

(*Designated officers for the last three regions are temporary, pending Sarah Patrick's return.)

We will be developing a set of regional sub-strategies in support of the overall thrust of the International Strategy. Four of the eight regions are being considered at consultative meetings this academic year; the other four regions will be considered as soon as possible.

Our next meeting is being held on 21 June and will consider Latin America. Interested colleagues, particularly those with current academic links in the region, are invited to contact Emily Austin by email. E.Austin@warwick.ac.uk .

Partnerships and International Links

During the first months of 2006 the IO has assisted with many visits by University staff including:

- Maastricht University (by the Law School and WMS/School of Health and Social Studies)
- Singapore – Economic Development Board, NUS, NTU and National Institute of Education
- Hiroshima Shodo University (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- St Petersburg State University (Sociology and Mercia Institute) to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (offering a range of opportunities for all departments)

Amongst the many visitors to the University we have been pleased to welcome several delegations from universities including:

- Universiti Darul Iman from the state of Terengganu, Malaysia
- Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU)



(The Vice-Chancellor and Professor Ma Dexiu, SJTU)

We were delighted to host a group from SJTU, led by Professor Ma Dexiu, the Chairperson of the University Council. SJTU is one of the leading Chinese universities and certainly one of the fastest developing with very strong international links. SJTU is ranked in the top 30 Asian universities by the THES.

SJTU colleagues are very keen to strengthen links with Warwick. Currently CELTE is in negotiations with SJTU to provide specialised language courses to their academic staff. The IO has also had an approach for relatively senior SJTU academic staff to spend time with us. Please email Jon Inegbedion if you are interested.

China representation

The University has established representation in Shanghai and Beijing. Alan Zheng (Beijing) and Shirley Xu (Shanghai) will be working closely with the Hong Kong office led by Nancy Chui.

Colleagues with plans to visit China are encouraged to contact Jon Inegbedion for advice on the assistance that that our representatives in the PRC can provide. (J.C.Inegbedion@warwick.ac.uk)

UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI)

The Prime Minister announced, in September 2005, a five-year initiative worth £10m which aims to improve substantially educational links between India and the UK, ensuring in the longer term mutual 'partner of choice in education' status. Most attention will be given to higher education and c80% of funding will be devoted to promoting research-oriented links between centres of excellence. UKIERI has now become part of the Prime Minister's Initiative to promote UK education internally.

The University sees the UKIERI as a way of raising its profile in India and strengthening its links there.

Professor Bridges attended the two preliminary UKIERI conferences on Research Cooperation and Collaborative Delivery held in New Delhi between 13 – 17 March. His report is available from Stephen Williams – Stephen.M.Williams@warwick.ac.uk .

Bidding guidelines for UKIERI have now been published (www.ukieri.org). First-stage research applications must be made by 14 August and the basic selection criteria focus on:

- the extent to which the research project might create long-term sustainable partnerships between the UK and India;
- the quality of the research, the researchers and the HE institutions.

This initiative has created a great deal of interest in India. The Indian University Grants Commission's (UGC) perception is that it should be linked to science and technology. Specific institutes or centres in universities would like to see an extension to social sciences activities (e.g. the Centre for Law and Governance at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is interested in a research link with Warwick).

AC21 Conference

This summer the University of Warwick will be hosting a major international platform for discussion and debate on some of the most challenging issues facing universities across the world.

Global Education: Universities in the 21st Century will bring together senior managers and leading academics from institutions across the world. The forum, and its accompanying social programme, is an exciting opportunity for networking and sharing best practice with our international peers.

Three conference themes will explore the significant challenges for the Higher Education sector in meeting the opportunities and risks of the age of Global Higher Education:

- the demands placed on leadership and management
- developing enterprising and innovative universities
- the changing relationship between universities and their students

A parallel research festival will give delegates the chance to meet with leading academics in a full programme of seminars focussed on medicine, enterprise and higher education research. Details of the symposium, including Warwick contacts, are on the website.

An impressive line up of speakers from around the globe includes Georges Haddad, Director of the Division of Higher Education for UNESCO; Gina Poole, Vice President, Innovation and University Relations, IBM; Professor Mosa Al-Mosawe, President of Baghdad University; and Professor Judith Cone, Vice-President of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, USA.

This conference will be of particular interest to Warwick colleagues who wish to develop international research links.

Global Education: Universities in the 21st Century is a significant opportunity for the UK Higher Education community to meet and build relationships with our global partners

Further details on the conference, rates and the online registration form are available at:
<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/globaled/>

Hywel Rowles, in the International Office, can provide more information - H.Rowles@warwick.ac.uk .

Warwick in America

The University's broad initiative to raise Warwick's engagement and visibility in the United States, first articulated in 2002, has two main purposes:

- to explore the potential of a range of strategies aimed at growing the University's reputation on the other side of the Atlantic;
- to supplement and advance strategically the contacts that many colleagues already have with peers in North America.

Warwick's initiative was based on the premise that achieving greater visibility in the USA – the world's largest higher education sector, with deep sources of academic excellence, philanthropy and research funding – is an essential strategic aim for the University as it aspires to consolidate its standing within the UK and grow its reputation internationally.

That premise remains unarguable, and in April the IO held a well attended consultative meeting with academic colleagues to relaunch the University's US initiative.

Key actions suggested at this meeting were:

- shift emphasis from full UG recruitment to JYA initiatives;
- re-establish the North America Strategy Fund, assuming the approval of continuing funds during the financial planning round;
- work collaboratively PG recruitment, including the possibility of increasing scholarship awards and post-doc funding.
- with Research Support Services, identify clearly the research funding possibilities in the USA.

A more comprehensive report is available from Edward Harcourt – Edward.Harcourt@warwick.ac.uk .

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