

John Henry Brookes International Scholars 2006

In September 2006 around £30,000 was awarded to new international taught postgraduate students through the John Henry Brookes International Scholarship Scheme. The awards of £1,000 to £3,200 were granted to applicants based on academic excellence. The University received around 190 applications from candidates in over 40 countries worldwide. Schools nominated their top five candidates and the Graduate School Panel judged those candidates against a set of criteria.

The Graduate School would like to congratulate the following candidates for their success in receiving an award:

- Akshay Ghatol, MSc in Computer Science
- Patricia Gilmore, MSc in Primate Conservation
- Sudha Kunhappa, MA in Educational Studies with Publishing
- Prabhat Lamichanne, MSc in Public Health
- Jennifer Miller, MSc in Primate Conservation
- Ian Mung'Omba, MSc in Business and Enterprise
- Fiona Muthui, MSc in Public Health
- Hardik Pandit, MSc in Spatial Planning
- Ashwin Panicker, MSc in Computer Science
- Kathleen Peddle, MA in Publishing
- Pranjali Pradhan, MSc in Cognitive Neuropsychology
- Dinesh Viren Ranawana, MSc in Applied Human Nutrition
- Lucy Strickland, MA in Humanitarian and Development Practice
- Jennifer Volonnino, MSc in Child Development and Learning

Having enrolled on their courses, the scholarship recipients have spoken to the Graduate School about what receiving the award means to them and how they are settling into life at Brookes.



"I have over 14 years of work experience in India in the areas of teaching and editing in newspapers and I was keen on taking up

textbook publishing but did not have adequate experience or knowledge in the area. I discovered that Oxford Brookes University offered a course that seemed tailor-made for me – an MA in Educational Studies with Publishing.

Studying in the UK is an expensive proposition for a citizen of a developing country. I was looking for means to get a scholarship and I came across the John Henry Brookes Scholarship. I applied for it immediately and consider myself lucky to have made it.

The Oxford Brookes University is the most cosmopolitan place I've ever come across in my life. You can find citizens of the world here. And the best thing about Brookes is that you feel very welcome here from day one."
Sudha Kunhappa, India

"I was working in North East Cambodia, until very recently, on a community-based education program with CARE International. The expatriate community who work in this small, remote region amounts to a mere handful. And yet, 3 people from this core group had, in various ways, prior experience with Oxford Brookes University. Upon my colleagues' recommendations, I turned to the Oxford Brookes website and read about their Centre for Emergency Development Practice (CENDEP).

As a recipient of a John Henry Brookes International Scholarship, I acknowledge the Graduate School Panel for including me in its selection. The scholarship is of great value and significance to me, as it represents and exciting opportunity for both personal and professional growth, as well as the intellectual space to learn and question.

From the outset of applying to Brookes, the experience has been nothing less than positive. The MA in Humanitarian Development and Practice represents an extraordinary collective resume of experienced, passionate, very individual and defined personalities. The cohort with whom I am studying are also a vibrant mix of cultural background, age and experiences and I anticipate learning as much from them, as I

will from my lectures. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the life of this university for the duration of my postgraduate study”.

Lucy Strickland, Australia

“I think the course content, the faculties, the library infrastructure, fast feedback from the university, Oxford and then a scholarship at the end helped me choose Oxford Brookes University... I am not only looking at Brookes for the completion of my course, but also to push my talent to the other level of intellectual contribution possibly doing my research.

...I am quite amazed by the help and support of all the staff members and the exhaustive library department. Also people are just nice here, always happy to say hi and cheers, up to now a very nice experience”.

Hardik Pandit, UAE

“The MA in Publishing at Oxford Brookes is revered both locally and internationally, both academically and throughout the industry, as the best qualification in this field. Couple this fact with the sheer appeal and charm of the university’s locality and you are bound to emerge from this degree academically, socially and culturally enriched.

I am very interested in third-world development, particularly literacy and the publishing industry’s role in combating illiteracy. Receiving the scholarship means that I can possibly undertake a trip to Tanzania in June 2007... Travelling to Tanzania to take part in this project will give me a real frame of reference on which to draw when completing my dissertation instead of trying to grasp the real extent of the problem by reading textbooks and journals published in first-world countries.”

Kathleen Peddle, South Africa

“I came across Oxford Brookes University on the internet as I was searching for a reputable school overseas in which to do my postgraduate studies. I was quite amazed that it came up in my searches every time I searched for superior public health schools. What struck me was how user friendly their website was and how fast responses to enquiries I sent were replied. It was quite encouraging because it became quite apparent that the people I was communicating with were very eager to help. I was also impressed by the personalised attention that was given to me from the moment I expressed an interest in joining to the very last day before I left Kenya to come and study here. It made me feel that I had a family waiting for me to arrive in Oxford.

Receiving the John Henry Brookes International Scholarship has given me a chance to further my career in a field that has become very close to my heart but which I thought might be too expensive to study. Coming from a developing country and considering prevailing exchange rates, I would not have imagined doing my masters were it not for this scholarship. Through this scholarship, I can now begin to bring to reality my dreams of becoming a leader in public health research and policy making in Kenya.

My opinion of Oxford Brookes University so far is that it is a unique balance of study and fun, which is a rare thing to find. In most cases it’s either one thing or the other! The atmosphere is very conducive for learning and the staff and students very friendly and helpful. I have also observed that there are more than adequate resources available to help students make the most of their stay here.”

Fiona Muthui, Kenya

“I chose Oxford Brookes for its MSc in Child Development and Learning programme. The duration of this programme was a priority for me as I looked to re-enter the academic scene after working in the World Health Organisation in Geneva. The academic setting of Oxford poses an ideal environment for postgraduate study and provides a desired international environment with opportunities to travel and study cultural influences on child development.

Receiving this scholarship encouraged me to take that vital step to invest this year into further studies. Investing in higher education is always worth it; I look forward to pursuing my interests while opening new career opportunities by completing this degree.

I love the accessibility of the campus and the small-town atmosphere of Oxford as a whole. I enjoy walks through historic streets and parks on my way to Brookes and truly enjoy being a part of student life again. The course tutor in my programme is approachable and proven key to my feeling at ease in re-entering student life. I have met people with a variety of experience and interests, adding to the appeal of Brookes.”

Jennifer Volonnino, USA

For further scholarship student profiles visit <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/graduateschool>

STOP PRESS John Henry Brookes Postgraduate Awards for 2007/8 year are shortly to be released by Schools. Ask for details when you get information on courses!

Graduate School Lecture

The Graduate School Lecture: Postgraduate Training and the knowledge-based society will be given by Professor Mary Ritter on Wednesday 31 January 2007 from 6.00pm – 7.00pm in the Lloyd Lecture Theatre.

Professor Mary Ritter is Pro-Rector for Postgraduate Affairs at Imperial College, London and established the first Graduate School there in 2001. While completing a DPhil in the development of the immune system at Oxford University, Mary gained valuable experience teaching undergraduates in Anthropology at the (then) Oxford Polytechnic. Mary has wide experience in postgraduate teaching and research and developed MSc courses as well as supervising research students. Her first postgraduate academic management role was as Vice Dean (Education) at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, before going on to establish one of the UK's leading Graduate Schools at Imperial, dealing with both taught and research postgraduates. The lecture will deal with key role of postgraduate education in the global economy and the opportunities for development of excellence in postgraduate provision a Graduate School brings.

From 4.00pm – 5.00pm the University's scholarship winners and course leaders will be invited to tea in the Lloyd Common Room. From 5.00pm – 6.00pm there will be a research poster display in the Lloyd Boardroom.

Graduate School Forum

The Graduate School Forum is presenting the 'Bologna update' given by Professor Wendy Davies, Pro-Provost (European Affairs) University College London on Thursday 21 December 2006 at 12.30pm, Room BG10, Buckley Building.

A light lunch will be available at 12.00pm in BG05 followed by the lecture at 12.30pm in BG10. If you would like to attend please email Jill Organ at: jorgan@brookes.ac.uk

New School of Life Science Master's courses in Bioimaging and Biotechnology

Two new technology-oriented MSc courses will be offered by the School of Life Sciences beginning in September 2007. These courses are in areas that are increasingly important in life-sciences research. Oxford is one of the world's centres of excellence in biotechnology and bioimaging research and there are many opportunities for those with skills in these areas.

Biotechnology (BM62) will be a modular course that teaches the skills necessary to work in a biomedical, pharmaceutical, or other bioproduction lab facility. Students will learn about product development, molecular biology, genome science, and will be taught research skills. In addition, the course will provide a module on business in biosciences which will help budding entrepreneurs with ideas and strategies for starting their own biotech businesses.

The second new MSc, Bioimaging with Molecular Technology (BM61) will take advantage of Oxford Brookes' standing as a world-class centre of bioimaging excellence. New advances in cell biology mean that it is possible to study the development and function of living cells and there is a growing demand for scientists that know how to use the associated imaging equipment. These optical techniques will be presented along with an introduction to electron microscopy and the cell-preparation techniques that we use to do this type of research.

Both of these exciting new courses incorporate a research project module. Students will complete a project in an Oxford-area laboratory. Projects can be on any scientific aspect of the courses and we will encourage you to work with course and module leaders to tailor the project to suit your interests.

For further information see: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/lifesci/postgrad_courses.html!

Contact the course coordinator Farida ben-Ghorab at: fben-ghorab@brookes.ac.uk

Wellcome Trust Funding

The Wellcome Trust has awarded £13,600 for a joint project between the Centre for Health, Medicine and Society and the UCL Centre for the History of Medicine. The two Centres are piloting a national PhD training scheme for doctoral students in the History of Medicine. The programme, open to doctoral candidates at all levels, provides training in obtaining grants, getting published, managing the viva, presentation skills, the PhD journey, getting a job and applying for postdoctoral awards. Organised as a series of Saturday workshops, run jointly with Brookes and UCL staff, the opening session took place in October. This will be followed up with a workshop on presentation skills in November 2006.

Postgraduate Day

The Department of Politics and International Relations held its first annual 'Postgraduate Day' on 17 May 2006. Members of staff were joined by PhD researchers and students taking the MA in International Relations. The event was combined with an Open Day for prospective MA students who had the chance to meet and discuss the course with staff and current students. A comprehensive and varied programme was put together, designed to give the postgraduate community within the Department a chance to showcase their work.



We were delighted to welcome Dr. Paul D. Williams from the University of Birmingham, who gave a guest lecture in the morning entitled 'UK Foreign Policy and the Crisis in the Darfur'. Dr. Williams gave an insightful account of the continuing troubles in Darfur and why the UK Government has not adopted a policy of humanitarian intervention despite its historical support for the idea at an abstract level.

After lunch various postgraduate panels took place. First, three research students gave presentations on their research. Vikki Gordon spoke on 'Unilateral Executive Power: Shaping US National Security Policy'; Rico Isaacs gave a talk entitled 'Party change and path dependency: the cases of the successor communist parties in the post-Soviet Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan'; and Abilene Pitt outlined her research on 'New Forms of Governance, The Role of Civil Society and the World Bank in Argentina'. This was followed by a number of panels at which MA students gave short presentations on the dissertation projects that they will be working on during the summer. This proved to be an invaluable chance to get feedback and advice on their projects at an early stage and also enabled students to

discover what their colleagues are working on.

Dr. Stephen Hurt who organised the event would like to thank all those who attended the day and in particular Iris Geens and Nicola Anderton for their help in the organisation. We look forward to holding another similar day in 2007.

Dr. Stephen Hurt

Student Success

On completing the taught element of their course, six students from the MSc programme in Mobile and High Speed Telecommunication Networks joined Aircom International to undertake extended projects with the company.

The students are travelling around the UK to undertake quality and call measurements on the 2G mobile networks provided by all four network operators. The measurements are subsequently analysed by the students and details of their findings will be available to the general public via a web site. The aim is to provide a benchmark for the quality of the mobile networks.

All the students have commented on how the taught element of our programme provided ideal background training for the work they are undertaking with Aircom.

Geoff Childs

Postgraduate common room- Gipsy Lane

The new postgraduate common room and seminar room in the Sinclair Building is now open for use. Equipped with a snacks and drinks machine and with a wireless network, it is the perfect place to meet to discuss work or just to spend time with your colleagues. Students from other campuses are welcome to use it and all the other facilities on the Gipsy Lane Campus.

Research Student Training

The year got off to a good start with an Induction event for new research students and a networking reception. The full programme of events coordinated by Dr Susan Brooks is available on the web at <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/research/Graduate/Studenttraining.html> Some of the events are supported by Roberts Review funds from the Research Councils.

For further information about the Graduate School or about postgraduate study at Oxford Brookes University, with items for this news sheet, or for large print or alternative formats, contact deevans@brookes.ac.uk or Catherine Hutchinson (chutchinson@brookes.ac.uk)