



Buckingham Business School Newsletter

Buckingham best University in the UK for the third year running **BUCKINGHAM BUSINESS SCHOOL COMES TOP**

Buckingham students have voted their University the best in the United Kingdom for student satisfaction for the third year in succession - placing it above its illustrious neighbours, Oxford and Cambridge.

Each year the Higher Education Funding Council commissions IpsosMORI to undertake the National Student Survey. Students comment on such topics as teaching, assessment and feedback, learning resources and personal development, as well as saying whether they are satisfied with the overall quality of their course. An impressive 96% of Buckingham students are satisfied with their course.

Dr Terence Kealey, Vice-Chancellor of Buckingham, said: 'For the third year running we have come top of the National Student Survey. This means that our students have judged us to be the best university in Britain for teaching and support.'

The University of Buckingham was created to be Britain's only independent university because we believed that only by being independent of government could we put the student first, second and third. Our repeated success in the National Student Survey confirms that vision.'

The Open University, based in Milton Keynes, was ranked third with an overall satisfaction of 93.6%. Satisfaction ratings in other local universities were Bedfordshire 78%, Bucks New (High Wycombe) 67.9%, Cambridge 92.5%, Northampton 80.2%, Oxford 92.2% and Oxford Brookes 85.5%

Buckingham Business School was also the highest ranked Business School in the UK with a score of 94.1% (see table opposite). Dr Jane Tapsell, Dean of the Business School, said: 'This is a wonderful reflection on the close-knit community which we engender here.'

www.buckingham.ac.uk/business/

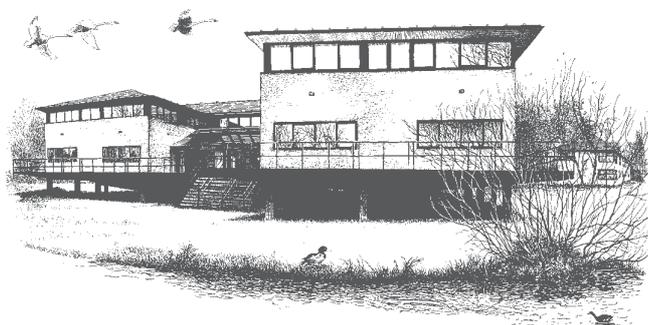
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Business Schools

	Sunday Times score*
1 UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM	94.1%
2 UNIVERSITY OF EXETER	90.9%
3 UNIVERSITY OF WALES, NEWPORT	86.5%
4 THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER	86.1%
5 UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER	85.8%
6 UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS	85.0%
7 DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY	84.4%
8 ASTON UNIVERSITY	83.4%
9 CITY UNIVERSITY	81.7%
10 UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX	81.4%
Average, all Business (90 universities)	74.1%

* Sunday Times, 21 September 2008



The Business World at Buckingham

New Careers and Work Placement Advisor

Andrew Lightbown has been appointed the new careers and work placement advisor in the Business School. His main role will be helping students to 'market themselves', so they are best equipped to enter the work place. Working with the University Careers Service, Andrew aims to ensure that students understand how to identify the types of career for which they may be suited. Additionally students will be offered practical assistance in the art of writing cv's, letters of introduction and personal profiles. In due course 'personal marketing' will be taught, and assessed, as a component within a range of academic courses. Andrew says: 'My aim in the Business School is to assist students in developing their self confidence, impact and employability, whilst stressing the importance of personal responsibility'.

Sarah Deaves talk

Sarah Deaves (Chief Executive of Coutts & Co) gave a talk to the Business School on 10th September entitled 'Private Banking and being a CEO'. Sarah joined Coutts from Retail Direct (Royal Bank of Scotland Group), where she was Managing Director, Own Brand Businesses, looking after Lombard Direct and DirectLine Financial Services. Prior to that, she was Head of Commercial Cards, NatWest Card Services. Sarah has an MA in Geography from St John's College Oxford. She also has an MBA from Warwick Business School. Sarah talked about how she has got to where she has, while describing her present role at Coutts. We are delighted that Sarah has agreed to Chair the Business School Advisory Group for the University. The group will bring together leading practitioners from education and business and will make a crucial contribution to defining the distinctive role of the Business School. It will enable us to get the best from the existing and potential resources while exploiting real opportunities for development.

On 19 November 2008, the University of Buckingham Business School held Buckingham Enterprise Day in liaison with the Make Your Mark and Young Enterprise organisations and the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Hub. The University's BSc in Business Enterprise (BBE) students promoted their businesses and met and talked with the visitors to give them an idea of what it is like to start and run a business whilst also studying for a degree.

Guest speakers from the business world, including alumni (Chris Smith) gave lively presentations on their experiences of starting-up and running businesses. The directors of the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Hub and owners of companies operating from the Hub presented details of their business activities and answered questions from potential students.

The 'high profile' event of the day was the final of the SEGRO Business Enterprise Scholarship competition. This was a competition to find the Business Enterprise student with the best business idea, with students presenting to the 'Buckingham Angels', an all women venture capital panel.

The winner of this competition was awarded a two year scholarship (worth over £16,000) to study for a BSc Business Enterprise honours degree at the University.



HRH THE DUKE OF KENT VISITS THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent visited the University of Buckingham on Friday, 17 October.

Accompanied by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Terence Kealey, the Duke toured the campus and met senior members of the academic staff and the Student Union Committee. The SU President, Duane Orridge, introduced The Duke to some of the students, many of whom were members of the Committee.

Dr Kealey said: 'We are delighted to welcome HRH The Duke of Kent to Buckingham and show him why we have been voted top of the National Student Survey for the third year in a row.'

Christopher Doe (pictured with the Duke of Kent) said: 'The Duke of Kent took a real interest in the views of Buckingham's students, spending some time talking to us about how our studies are progressing, and what we think of life at the University.'



INDIA VISIT SPARKS MBA OPPORTUNITY

Congratulations to Jim Rafferty (pictured with Dr Chowdhury) on his appointment to the IMI-D.K.Chowdhury Chair. This new Chair involves the holder in collaboration and research supervision of Doctoral candidates from the International Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) in India. The International Management Institute (IMI) in Brussels is the European division of IIPM and helps facilitate closer ties and cooperation between the University and IIPM's Business School network in India

Professor Rafferty recently visited IIPM's Delhi campuses where he met members of the teaching faculty who hope to obtain their Doctorates by research from the University of Buckingham. As a consequence of his visit, two current MBA students were invited to take part in an international gathering of Business School students organised and sponsored by IIPM-Delhi. We hope that this will become an annual event on the Buckingham MBA calendar.

The two MBA students chosen were Brian Marinoff and Jonathan Squire. In the next issue we will report on their visit, but before they went Jonny said: 'I am really looking forward to the Delhi trip. I am especially interested in whether India really is as polychromic and low context as all the lectures and textbooks suggest, and how different life will be from life in the UK. I am also interested to see the extent to which a developing country like India really has developed. I read many articles in newspapers and magazines discussing the rapid growth of these areas, so it will be interesting to see for myself the extent of the development in such a country.'



GUEST SPEAKERS ON THE MBA PROGRAMME

This term (Autumn) one of the features of the MBA programme has been the Marketing in the 21st Century course. A series of speakers has visited the Business School to address the MBA students on various current or emerging issues in the field of marketing, including:

Dr Judith Jeffcoate, (former lecturer in E-commerce)

Mr Stephen Milne (Aylesbury Enterprise Hub)

Mr Andrew Reeve (Centre for Automotive Management)

Mr Bob Taverner (CEO Twinings)

Mr Geoff Hawkins (Christian Alliance Housing)

Mr Grant Leboff (The Intelligent Sales Club)

Ms Sophia Bergqvist (Quinta de La Rosa, Portugal)



NEW FACES AND PROMOTIONS

Katie Balaam is no stranger to Buckingham having completed a BSc Business Studies with Finance in the Business School in February 2004. After gaining her first class degree Katie joined the Mercedes-Benz graduate programme and undertook a variety of roles including Retail Financial Accountant. Whilst working she qualified as an ACCA accountant through BPP.

Katie teaches Introduction to Financial Accounting on the undergraduate programmes and Financial Reporting to the MSc students.

In her spare time Katie enjoys attending Jazzercise classes, watching Watford play football and catching up with friends.

Professor James Rafferty has been appointed the IMI-D.K.Chowdhury Professor of Management in the Business School. Jim, as his colleagues know him, joined the University in 1987. Before coming to Buckingham, he held senior management positions in industry. Between 1987 and 2004, Jim had two spells as Head of Management and was also the Founding Director of Buckingham's MBA Programme.

Jim teaches strategy and economics and is also the Research Officer for the Business School. His most recent publication is:

'Exploring Strategic Groups', (Europrime Publishing, 2008), ISBN 978-0-9558278-0-8, pp228

Andrew Lightbown teaches Introduction to Management and Business Ethics. He is also the Careers and Work Placement Advisor for the Business School. Andrew, who gained an MBA from Buckingham (with distinction) in 2007, holds the Institute of Directors Diploma in Company Direction (2006), the Securities and Futures Association Registered Representatives qualification (1994) and the Chartered Institute of Insurance Financial Planning Certificate (1990). He is currently studying for a PhD in socio-economic transformation. Prior to studying for the MBA Andrew worked for seventeen years in the financial services industry, latterly as Managing Director, Retail, for Old Mutual Asset Managers. Away from the University Andrew manages his own business (Andover House Consulting Ltd), which specialises in assisting charities with their strategic positioning and branding. Married with two daughters, Andrew attempts to relax by attending most of Northampton Saints' rugby matches, home and away.

