The power of internships
Graduate success is music to our ears
Improving care for patients with osteoporosis
Principal’s Introduction

Life is never quiet at QMU and this summer has been a whirlwind of awards, student showcase events and graduation celebrations.

We were delighted to be a winner at the first Herald Higher Education Awards in July. Our PR team won “Campaign of the Year” for our “Recipe for Success” campaign which promoted our knowledge exchange work in food and drink and helped launch QMU’s Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation in December last year.

We were also pleased that our graduate employment rate rose to 94.4%, which is well above the sector average. This means that 94.4% of graduates find work or go into employment within six months of graduation. On graduation day in July I was heartened to meet so many of our students who had already secured work in their specialist areas, even before reaching their graduation date.

In the run up to graduation my senior team was fortunate to attend several student-led events which showcased the work of our talented student groups. Our Costume Showcase was a spectacle with theatrical and outlandish creations capturing the audience’s imagination. The catwalk style performance has become one of the most talked about events in the academic calendar. Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs joined us at the Edinburgh Filmhouse for QMU’s annual Film and Media Degree Show. This event has grown substantially in prominence and this year, over 200 people enjoyed an impressive variety of short promotional films, drama and documentaries from 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students.

Queen Margaret Children’s University, our ambitious widening access initiative for 5 – 14 year olds, is proving to have a significant appeal for young children, their families and schools. We are delighted that the project has been so successful, in such a short period of time, in harnessing the enthusiasm of children for learning opportunities beyond the classroom. The first graduation ceremony for children from Midlothian schools took place at QMU in June and you can read more about it and see the fun photos on page 7.

OMU’s work is focused on improving quality of life. We are, of course, delighted that so many organisations and individuals outside of the University support us in achieving this. You can read more about our important work in osteoporosis and our aim of improving the knowledge and skills of frontline healthcare staff who are involved in the care of patients with the condition. The Lydia Osteoporosis Project builds on our existing knowledge within our nursing specialism and has only been made possible by a substantial donation from anonymous benefactors. Read more on page 16.

As always, we are delighted to share news of our student and graduate successes and we hope that many of our stories in this issue demonstrate the power of our employability initiatives such as our existing internship programmes. We do hope that you will continue to stay connected with the University, eg by monitoring a student, offering an internship, donating to the Student Fund, supporting our research, remembering us in your will or just sharing your news via our alumni team.

Professor Petra Wend, PhD, FRSA, FRSE
Principal and Vice Chancellor
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

Costume Showcase

Performing Arts students model stunning creations developed by undergraduates from QMU’s BA(Hons) Costume Design and Construction.
EMPLOYMENT rate has risen for its ‘Recipe for Success’ campaign at the Herald Higher Education Awards. The award recognises the PR work which helped launch QMU’s Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation in December 2014. It also acknowledges the work of QMU’s PR and knowledge exchange teams in supporting growth and development within Scotland’s small and medium sized food and drink businesses.

The Herald Higher Education Awards recognise the high standard of education that is offered throughout Scotland and the innovative ways in which institutions market themselves and engage with their audiences.

Lynne Russell, Communications Manager at QMU, said: “QMU has a rich history in food and nutrition having been established in 1875 to tackle the dietary issues facing the urban poor. As a result, the original institution focused on educating young women in nutrition and management, equipping them to improve people’s diet and contributing positively to the most pressing needs of society. Our ‘Recipe for Success’ campaign was inspired by this history.”

Today, the University’s expertise in food and drink includes undergraduate and postgraduate courses as well as specialist commercial research that supports the development of food and drink businesses. QMU’s knowledge exchange work ranges from nutritional analysis through to development of functional products which enhance health and offer practical solutions for industry.

Lynne continued: “Our winning PR campaign focused on the launch of our Scottish Centre for Food Development & Innovation, and how the Centre’s facilities and research expertise is helping strengthen Scotland’s position as a leader in food and drink innovation in Europe.”

Louise Elder, Director of Black and Gold Communications team and business manager are passionate about promoting the University’s expertise in food and drink as well as its support of local producers. My business has benefited greatly from my involvement with QMU. Not only did the academics conduct the nutritional analysis of my rapeseed oil, the communications team helped promote the nutritional benefits of my product which went far beyond my expectations. The PR team at the University’s expertise and experience was the key to my success as a higher education leader, but also as an inspirational figure for young people.”

Principal appointed as Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

QMU’s Principal, Professor Petra Wrend has been appointed as Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Spanning the arts, business, and science and technology sectors, Professor Wrend joins the Royal Society of Edinburgh in its work to place the advancement of learning and useful knowledge at the centre of public life in Scotland.

Kerr Bloomer, Chair of the QMU Court, said: “This prestigious accolade not only recognises Professor Wrend’s individual success as a higher education leader, but also as an inspirational figure for young people.”

In joining the RSE, Professor Wrend will work with a team of talented individuals to strengthen the Society’s capacity to support excellence across all areas of academic and public life, both in Scotland and further afield.”

First TEDx event inspires student and professional nurses

NURSING LEADERS AT QMU staged the University’s first TEDx event in a bid to share ideas and inspire the nursing professionals of the future.

The aim of TEDx events – a high profile ideas sharing platform – is to share thoughts and ideas with individuals, communities and organisations. Organised by QMU’s nursing team, the theme of the event was ‘Flourishing People, Spaces and Places’. An eclectic range of speakers took to the stage to engage in topics such as recovering from homelessness, the importance of exercise to health and wellbeing, urban poverty, flourishing in times of economic hardship and flourishing in dying.

Professor McCormack, Head of QMU’s Division of Nursing, described ‘Flourishing’ as being “a core part of our humanity that can become drowned by stress, poor leadership and routinized work. The aim was to remind us all of the need to celebrate the importance of innovation, passion, community and connectedness.

The first TEDx @QMU was so well received that the Division of Nursing is hoping to make it an annual event.

Principal appointed to Commission on Widening Access

PROFESSOR WEND HAS been appointed as a Member of the Commission on Widening Access. The new Commission, which was announced by the First Minister in November 2014, is to identify ways of ensuring equality of access to higher education. Professor Wrend will also be chair of the Widening Access & Innovation, and how the Centre’s facilities and research expertise is helping strengthen Scotland’s position as a leader in food and drink innovation in Europe.”

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Dementia campaigner and children's charity founder receive honorary degrees

GRADUATION IS A wonderful spectacle and provides an incredible platform for us all to celebrate the success of our graduating students.

Aside from the achievements of our 850 students, the 2015 graduation was particularly memorable for several reasons. We had two inspirational honorary graduates - leading dementia campaigner Henry Simmons, and the founder of an art therapy charity for children with chronic illness, Laura Young. However, one person, who has for many years added to the excitement of graduation, is our chancellor Sir Tom Farmer. The much loved Scottish entrepreneur and founder of Kwik Fit was inaugurated as the founding Chancellor of Queen Margaret University when the institution was granted full university title in 2007.

Over the years, Sir Tom’s rousing speeches and deep-felt commitment to QMU’s work has brought the University to the attention of the business community, philanthropists and sporting heroes both in Scotland and overseas. However, it has been his ability to connect with an audience, particularly his entertaining and passionate speeches at the University’s graduation ceremonies, which earned him a place in the hearts of staff, students and graduates. After eight years serving as Chancellor, Sir Tom is stepping down from his position. The July 2015 ceremony was the last graduation he will attend in his role as Chancellor. His presence, energy and humour at future graduations will be missed by everyone who knows him.

The 2015 Honorary Graduates

HENRY SIMMONS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE of Alzheimer Scotland Action on Dementia, was awarded an honorary doctorate in recognition of his work in improving the lives of people living with dementia. Henry has been involved in developing a model which is transforming lives and altering the way we think about people with dementia. This approach has received much international recognition placing Scotland at the forefront of dementia practice.

As a leading light in the field of dementia, he was presented with the Degree of Doctor of the University, Honoris Causa. With a track record in health and rehabilitation, QMU was delighted to recognise his tireless work in campaigning for the rights of people with dementia and their families and in establishing a community-based and person centred approach to dementia.

Earlier this year, Alzheimer Scotland and QMU signed a strategic partnership aimed at improving its healthcare students’ understanding of dementia, ensuring they are more effective as professionals when they move into the workforce. Henry worked closely with the Scottish Government on the development of the National Dementia Strategy, convincing the Deputy First Minister at the time, Nicola Sturgeon, to make a world-first commitment and guarantee that every person with dementia will receive a minimum of one year’s post diagnostic support.

The dementia campaigner was joined by Laura Young, Founder of The Teapot Trust charity which uses art therapy to help children and young people cope with long-term medical conditions.

Laura established the Trust with her husband in 2010 following the death of their eight year old daughter Verity, who suffered from the autoimmune disease Lupus.

From the time Laura’s daughter was three, she was frequently in hospital for treatment for Lupus, and when she was diagnosed with cancer three years later, hospital visits increased. Laura was aware that Verity associated the visits with pain and anxiety, but when Verity began using art, she realised that it was a successful coping mechanism that helped make her daughter’s time in hospital more bearable and provided an outlet for expressing her feelings.

Over the last few years the Teapot Trust has developed significantly and now funds art therapy in clinics, hospital wards, mental health services and hospices for children with chronic illnesses in six centres across Scotland, with a total of 21 funded art therapy projects providing either individual or group art therapy for sick children. There are also plans to expand the work in Inverness and in the Scottish Borders. In the last year alone the Trust, which is the only Scottish charity to provide art therapy in hospitals, has supported over 3,500 children and their families.

Both honorary graduates were acknowledged for the relevance of their work to society, reflecting the University’s own commitment to enhancing lives in the communities it serves.

You can read more about our honorary graduates at www.qmu.ac.uk.
QM150 Strategy – a university of ideas and influence

In the Year 2025, QMU will celebrate its 150th anniversary, a significant milestone in the history of this institution which grew from humble beginnings. This year, this institution launched its new QM150 strategy which sets out the ambitions for the University for the period between now and 2025.

In 1875, when the institution that is now QMU was founded, staff went out with mobile gas and paraffin cooking equipment to give public lectures and demonstrations all over Britain. This effort aimed to address some of the most pressing needs of society at that time – the need to improve public health, particularly of the working class, and to transform opportunities for women by providing better education and improved career prospects.

Since then, this institution has been on a remarkable journey. From the onset, it has consistently responded to society’s needs by facilitating positive change. It continues to hold true to the principles and values on which the institution was founded, which can be clearly seen through its current focus on providing a distinctively supportive approach to students, serving communities and developing meaningful partnerships, all underpinned by a strong commitment to sustainability and to social justice.

Building on this heritage, the QM150 Strategy is designed to ensure that QMU fulfills its potential as a university of ideas and influence. The strategy is ambitious, underpinned by a new emphasis on institutional confidence, in turn inspired by its strong record of achieving ambitious goals throughout its history.

One example of this new ambition is how the new strategy conceptualises community much more broadly than ever before in the University’s thinking. It aims to be a community without borders. Working with partners, it will create the critical mass and cross-pollination required to ensure a vibrant, inspiring environment on and around the campus. It will cultivate a real sense of belonging amongst all those who form part of the QMU community in Scotland and across the world.

The new strategy also capitalises on and reinforces QMU’s distinctive mix of theory and practice. In other words, as well as developing world-class research, the University will focus on how to use this intellectual capital in practical ways. The approach prepares QMU’s students to make a real difference in the world, and ensures that its research enhances quality of life now and in the future.

Professor Petra Wend, QMU’s Principal, said: “We already do great things and through the QM150 strategy, we will do even more, be even better. For example, our research in speech is world renowned and we will continue to build on this excellent work to ensure it benefits even more people. Similarly, our work in international health and development has global reach and is an excellent example of how theory can be applied to improve policy and practice, and consequently make a real difference to people’s lives. More locally, our MSc in Gastronomy is responding to a need from the Scottish Government and our graduates from that course will have the potential to influence thinking and practice at a national and international level.”

Through the QM150 Strategy, we will strengthen our research culture further, focusing on research centres aligned to our flagship areas of expertise. We will develop our existing academic flagships in health and rehabilitation, creativity and culture, and sustainable business and consider where new flagships could be added.

Professor Wend continued: “By taking account of society’s changing needs and by aligning our activities through a focused, flagship-based approach, we aim to excel in research, teaching, knowledge exchange, outreach, internationalism and entrepreneurship.”

Professor Wend concluded: “Our QM150 Strategy will ensure that well before 2025 we will be widely recognised as an ambitious entrepreneurial campus institution that delivers world-leading learning and teaching, research and knowledge exchange, and serves the needs of our communities. It will be clear to all who work with us that we enable students and staff to make a real difference to the world around them, and that we act as a catalyst for economic, social and cultural development. In short, we will be renowned as a university of ideas and influence.”
I N A BID TO SUPPORT skills development within the cultural sector in Scotland, QMU is offering a limited number of bursaries for its Masters programme in Arts, Festival and Cultural Management.

The University has established a bursary scheme to help staff from selected Scottish cultural organisations develop more effective knowledge of cultural management, both in the UK and internationally.

The bursary offers a partial fee waiver of 50% for students undertaking the popular MA Arts, Festival and Cultural Management programme. This fee waiver is available for a limited time only to staff from specific cultural organisations in Scotland.

The scheme was piloted in 2014 and three staff from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society took up the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge that would support them in the development of their career. The partial fee waiver and the support of their employer has allowed them to study the master’s programme on a part-time basis while they continue to work.

David Stevenson, Programme Leader for the MA Arts, Festival and Cultural Management course at QMU, said: “We are establishing this bursary to help support the development of the next generation of senior managers within Scotland’s diverse cultural sector. Given the rapidly changing economic and social landscape in which cultural organisations find themselves, we see this scheme as not only supporting the individuals but contributing towards the sustainability of cultural organisations in Scotland.”

Organisations choosing to take up this opportunity must agree to support staff members by giving them the time they need to attend the course - one day a week throughout each twelve week semester over the two years of the programme.

Lyndsey Jackson, from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, said: “The fee waiver scheme allowed us to offer three members of staff high quality professional development as well as a postgraduate qualification. We have encouraged these staff to apply their learning to their roles and the wider organisation, and the content of the programme reflects the reality of working in a festival organisation such as ours, giving students useful skills and knowledge to perform better in their working lives.”

Feedback from students who started the programme in 2014 has also been very positive. Tigho Ayovuare said: “The support of my employer to undertake postgraduate study has been invaluable to my professional development, and the schedule of delivery allows me to implement my learning in a live working environment, as well as question my organisation - and colleagues! - throughout my learning.”

David continued: “We are delighted that the students who took up this opportunity during last year’s pilot have found the programme so valuable. While cultural organisations can often work on very tight budgets, this should not mean that staff development is overlooked. We think this scheme offers an affordable way for cultural organisations to invest in their team and which will ultimately strengthen their ability to support creative practice in Scotland.

The partial fee waiver entitles permanent full-time or part-time staff members of eligible organisations to a 50% waiver of course fees for the MA Arts, Festival and Cultural Management. The remaining fee of £2000 can be paid by the participating organisation, the staff member or a combination of both. Eligible organisations must be either:

• part of Creative Scotland’s regularly funded portfolio;
• accredited museums (associated with Museums Galleries Scotland); or
• members of the Federation of Scottish Theatre Individuals who are interested to know more about the bursary scheme and the content of the MA programme can visit: http://www.qmu.ac.uk/courses/PGCourse.cfm?c_id=268 or contact David directly at: Stevenson@qmu.ac.uk
Costume Showcase pays homage to the past, present and future

STUDENTS FROM QMU’s Costume Design and Construction degree programme dazzled audiences with their creative talents at this year’s Costume Showcase held in May.

The event featured an array of costumes modelled by Performing Arts Students. The breadth of work reflected the Costume Design and Construction students’ portfolio and the supporting exhibition featured illustrations, mannequins showcasing costumes, impressive masks and millinery.

The main show transported the audience between different worlds – from the 17th century court of Charles II, stopping at Shakespeare’s mystical island, with costumes inspired by birds, fishes and spirits.

After the shows guests had the opportunity to meet the student designers and makers, and to get an insight into the research, creativity and skill that goes into developing their creations.

Some of the students from QMU’s Costume Design and Construction degree have gone on to create costumes for Hollywood blockbusters such as ‘Gravity’ with Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, the new TV series ‘Outlander’ and some TV drama favourites such as ‘Mr Selfridge’. Other graduates have worked with companies such as Scottish Ballet and the Welsh National Opera.

Bumper year for QMU’s Film & Media Degree Show

An audience of over 200 people, including Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, enjoyed a wonderfully varied selection of short promotional films, dramas and documentaries from QMU’s 2nd, 3rd and 4th year Film and Media students.

The ten shorts made by QMU’s students were this year’s cream of the crop, covering a diverse range of subjects and genres. The documentaries profiled an award winning artist, took the audience on a musical journey to the streets of Morocco and showed people how to build an earthship. The dramas featured characters dealing with the effects of grief, poverty, illness and… junk mail.

Film and Media student, Jordan Phillips, won the Bruce Thomson College Access Award (Bruce Thomson Memorial Fund), and fellow student, Linzi Wilson, won the University’s Media, Communication and Performing Arts (MCPA) Photography Prize on the night.

The audience also got their chance to cast their votes for best film, which was won by Graham Wallace. Graham also won the Bruce Thomson Production Dissertation Prize (Bruce Thomson Memorial Fund) for his film - ‘Float’.

The Bruce Thomson prizes were awarded in memory of Bruce Thomson, a lecturer at QMU for many years, who died in 2001. Bruce was passionate in his support of students, especially those from a non-traditional educational background. He also had a great love of the visual arts. The two prizes from his memorial fund reflect these areas.

Graham Drysdale, Lecturer in Screenwriting & Digital Filmmaking at QMU, said: “This event is always a highlight in the QMU calendar as it provides a platform for us to celebrate creativity, as well as allowing students to unveil films they have worked on over the last year. It’s important to our students to see their work on the big screen. There’s nothing like hearing and seeing an audience respond to your film in the way you hoped when you first conceived of the idea.”

The 2015 Queen Margaret University Film & Media Degree Show was organised by Film and Media student, Michelle Kranzlová.
First nursing chair to focus on person centred care and dementia

A specialist in person centred practice has been appointed as the first named chair in nursing at QMU.

Professor Jan Dewing, who has an international reputation for expertise in re-enabling and gerontological practice including dementia care, took up her new position as The Sue Pembrey Chair in Nursing at the beginning of April.

Professor Dewing has spent the last four years working in a specialist partnership role with Canterbury Chirstchurch University and East Sussex Community Health NHS Trust where she was pivotal in developing a person centred approach to nursing. In the last year, she also held a professorship at the Centre for Care Research Bergen University College and Stord-Haugesund University College Norway and at The School of Nursing, Wollongong University, Australia.

As well as a significant clinical practice record, Professor Dewing has held a variety of education and research posts in universities in the UK, Australia and Norway, and with The Royal College of Nursing.

Professor’s Dewing’s research expertise in dementia and person centred practice will help strengthen and expand QMU’s focus on person centredness – an important area of research which was introduced to the University by the appointment of Professor Brendan McCormack as QMU’s Head of Division of Nursing in 2014. The recent investment of specialist staff within the Division is paving the way for a new strategic direction within the university and will see QMU create a new research centre for person centred practice.

The Sue Pembrey Chair was named after the renowned nurse leader, who was not only recognised as a leading innovator in the field of person centred practice, but was one of the key drivers behind the development of university education for nurses. Sue Pembrey was known as a leading light in nursing practice development, having set up the National Institute for Nursing in Oxford, as well as someone who took time to nurture key staff who would go on to contribute significantly to the nursing profession, both in the UK and internationally. To Brendan McCormack, Sue was an inspirational leader, who helped him secure funding for his doctorate and then appointed him as one of two Clinical Lecturers in Nursing at Oxford Brookes University. In the last year, while working as Head of Division of Nursing at Queen Margaret University, Professor McCormack has been heralded as the first European nurse to be honoured in the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame (Sigma Theta Tau International).

Professor McCormack said: "Sue Pembrey was a phenomenal woman who helped shape nursing in the UK and who supported and helped develop the careers of many key professionals from the National Institute for Nursing such as Professor Angie Titchen and Professor Steve Emory. Sue Pembrey was a visionary who understood the importance of expert clinical practice as an academic discipline – something that is still an issue today in nursing.

"In 2013 Sue sadly passed away but we were keen to honour her passing. We, and her family, are delighted that her legacy will continue through Professor Jan Dewing’s work as the Sue Pembrey Chair.

Professor Jan Dewing will play a key role in driving forward specific areas of the University’s new strategic framework for its Division of Nursing. The new strategy, which was launched in April at the University’s first TEDx conference, focuses on four strategic ‘pillars’ of activity across all areas of nursing practice - teaching and learning; research and practice development; commercialisation and internationalisation. Professor Dewing’s work will be pivotal in the strategic pillar of Gerontological Nursing and Dementia Care, but she will also contribute to the other three pillars of Managing Long-term Conditions; Palliative and End of Life Care; and Social and Public Health Across the Lifespan.

Professor McCormack concluded: “Professor Dewing has positively influenced nursing practice in both the UK and abroad and we are delighted that our staff and student teams will benefit from her insight and strategic direction, in particular her significant knowledge in practice development and person centred dementia care.”

Sue Pembrey was a visionary leader in the field of person centred practice

HEALTH ACADEMICS FROM QMU have developed a strategic alliance with Scotland’s leading dementia charity in a bid to improve student understanding of dementia.

The move will ensure that healthcare students at QMU have a robust education in dementia so that they are more effective as healthcare professionals when they move into the workplace. The ultimate aim is to improve the care and well-being of individuals with dementia and families affected by the condition across all service provision – within the NHS, private practice, social work and the voluntary sector.

Dementia is a word used to describe a group of illnesses or conditions for which there is no cure. Symptoms include memory loss, confusion, mood changes and increasing difficulty with day-to-day tasks. There are many types of dementia, with Alzheimer’s being the most common. Currently, 800,000 people in the UK have dementia and that figure is set to rise to over a million by 2021. In 2012, the financial cost of dementia to the UK was more than £25 billion. That cost is set to spiral as the number of people living with the disease and others affected by their illness, continues to grow.

QMU and Alzheimer Scotland have been working together for several years, but the signing of the official agreement signalled the increased level of commitment that both organisations are placing on student education. Students from across the University were invited, but the day was primarily aimed at first year students from the allied health professions, including Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy, as well as Nursing students.

University agreement shows dementia is serious business

QMU should be commended for taking this bold step to embed dementia education into its teaching practice. This strategic alliance offers an innovative way of educating future health professionals about dementia. By working together, with QMU students, we can make a truly meaningful contribution to patient care both in the NHS and the independent healthcare sector."
The project aimed to reduce the potential risk to people with osteoporosis of accidental injury linked to moving and handling, by increasing awareness of the prevalence of the condition and fracture risk. The latter stages of the project have been focussed on improving the knowledge and skills of frontline healthcare staff who, more often than not, will be treating those with the condition for other reasons and may not be aware their patient has osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis is a ‘silent disease’ where there are few outward signs or symptoms until it is well advanced or fractures are sustained. It occurs when bone loss is greater than bone production, causing them to become weak and easily broken. According to the National Osteoporosis Society one in two women, and one in five men, over the age of fifty who will break a bone will do so mainly as a result of poor bone health.

Dr Smith and the research team began by reviewing osteoporosis literature, investigating the in-hospital experiences of patients diagnosed with osteoporosis, and conducting qualitative interviews with healthcare professionals including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, radiographers and nurses. They found there was an opportunity to improve the knowledge and understanding of osteoporosis and fracture risk in frontline staff.

Dr Smith said: “Osteoporosis tends not to be the reason why people are admitted to hospital and a person’s condition may not be known by frontline healthcare staff. Our funders wanted to increase knowledge of the prevalence of osteoporosis in the older population, some of whom could potentially sustain fractures because of sub-optimal handling in acute care.”

The team also scrutinised the manual handling literature to find out if this covered advice on moving patients who may have osteoporosis, and what needs to be done to address any education and training gaps. Although best practice manual handling guidelines are in place with general principles that would cover a range of conditions including severe osteoporosis, health care practitioners can’t tell by looking whether their patient has the condition or not and so may not appreciate the risks.

The final phase of the Lydia Osteoporosis Project, which draws to an end in October this year, involves the research team in working with IT professionals to develop a niche osteoporosis education social network in an interactive format for frontline staff. When it is launched, this initiative will draw on the expertise of osteoporosis, manual handling and falls specialists, and provide links to the National Osteoporosis Society and further reading on the condition.

“Dr Smith continued: “If we can increase awareness of the pervasiveness of osteoporosis, then education and training will follow that assumes the condition is a possibility among patients. This means frontline staff can be better equipped to deliver more specialist, person centred care. X-rays, for example, offer a particular risk. Staff need be aware of the consequences of positioning people for procedures that could involve applying pressure or twisting and turning parts of the body.”

The full findings from the Lydia Osteoporosis Project will be presented later this year to coincide with the launch of the interactive website. (1)
Professor Ager is new director of global health institute

In July, Professor Alastair Ager, a specialist in global health and humanitarian response, left his position at a New York university to take up the post of Director of International Health and Development at QMU. Professor Ager has worked in the field of global health and development for over twenty-five years and has previously held positions in Scotland, England, Malawi and the USA. Until recently, he was Professor of Population and Family Health at the Mailman School of Public Health at the Columbia University in New York, where he ran a doctoral programme on Leadership in Global Health and Humanitarian Systems supporting mid-career professionals in leadership development.

A major focus of his current research is evaluation of humanitarian programming for refugee children (funded by DFID, the Wellcome Trust, UNICEF and World Vision), which has recently involved studies of Somalis displaced to Ethiopia, Congolese displaced to Uganda and Somalis displaced to Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. His current research also addresses health systems resilience in contexts of adversity (studies in the Middle East, West and South Africa) and the engagement of local faith communities in humanitarian response – the latter involving local faith group engagement with refugees in Jordan.

Professor Ager was formerly Head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Malawi, Director of the Centre for International Health Studies at QMU, and Senior Research Manager for the UK Department for International Development, with responsibility for the agency’s global portfolio of health and education research.

He has wide international experience as a lecturer, researcher and consultant cross sub-Saharan Africa, south Asia, Europe and North America, working with a range of inter-governmental, non-governmental and governmental agencies. On re-joining QMU, Professor Ager will continue his academic affiliation with Columbia University with a view to facilitating research collaboration between both institutions.

Dr Fiona Coutts, Dean of Health Sciences at QMU, said: “We are delighted that Professor Ager will be returning to QMU. Over the years he has gained a wealth of experience in global health and development and has an impressive background in the leadership of education programmes and in research. We believe that he will build on the excellent work achieved by the Institute over the last few years, and that the progressive work of the team will continue to have an impact on the lives of thousands of people all over the world – those who have been displaced, are seeking asylum, are affected by disaster or conflict or communities which require improvements to healthcare systems.”

Professor Ager’s appointment underlines QMU’s aim of being a socially relevant university which responds to some of the most pressing needs of society, and its commitment to improving quality of life.

The STARS programme was designed to provide new employment and training opportunities for young people.

QMU students - Lauren Osborne, Katie Logan and Rebecca Neish - served as the first STARS welcome team and commercial advisers for international passengers arriving at Edinburgh Airport. A number of new flights landed at Edinburgh from the US, Canada and the Middle East, as well as many other international destinations this summer.

Lauren Osborne acted as a team supervisor, whilst Katie and Rebecca were the new STARS, welcoming tens of thousands of international passengers to Edinburgh Airport between June and August.

The new STARS team was put through its paces as part of a rigorous selection process led by QMU’s Careers and Employability team, as well as intensive customer service training provided by Edinburgh Airport. The talented team also brought previous tourism experience, having volunteered at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Commenting on the launch of the STARS programme, Professor Joe Goldblatt, Executive Director at the International Centre for the Study of Planned Events at QMU, said:

"QMU is delighted to be working in partnership with Edinburgh Airport to help welcome our international visitors and deliver new employment opportunities for young people in Edinburgh’s tourism sector."

"The STARS programme provided a positive first impression and enthusiastic welcome for international visitors arriving in Edinburgh this summer and offered a unique paid work experience for some of our most talented students.”

Gordon Dewar, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Airport, said: “This is the first time we’ve introduced an initiative like this at Edinburgh Airport and I’m delighted we’re working with QMU to help give students a head start into employment.

“We’re passionate about giving all our passengers a great welcome. Our new STARS team were the perfect friendly faces to provide help and advice to the hundreds of thousands of international travellers we’re expecting this summer.”

The STARS programme was also endorsed by VisitScotland, Scotland’s national tourism organisation. Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland, said: “This is proof that it’s never too early to get started in tourism! It is the lifeblood of the Scottish economy and this exciting initiative is giving young people, eager to work in the industry, an early taste of what it’s all about.”

Organisers hope that the STARS programme will be rolled out to other universities and colleges across Scotland in 2016, and possibly expanded to other airports and rail stations.

Tourism ambassador programme takes off at Edinburgh Airport

Tourism ambassador programme takes off at Edinburgh Airport
Scotland’s leading youth employment schemes make their mark in Europe

Scotland’s leading youth employment initiatives have been highlighted as examples of excellence, as part of a major €2.3m European study.

Led by Queen Margaret University (QMU), Edinburgh, the ‘Academies’ programme for 14-18 year olds, and the ‘Third Sector Internship Scotland’ project for university students, have been singled out as pioneering partnerships which are delivering significant results for Scotland’s young people.

‘The Edinburgh Guarantee’ has also been identified as a shining example in the report. Led by City of Edinburgh Council, The Guarantee encourages partnership across the entire city of Edinburgh to ensure all young people who leave school have a choice of job, training or are offered further educational opportunities.

Commenting on the report, Dr Ellison said: “We’re really pleased that QMU has played a major role in bringing these pioneering Scottish initiatives to the attention of a broader European audience. INSPIRES is about making a difference to the lives of young people across Europe by anticipating the future challenges they face when making the transition between education and employment. This requires close partnership between the public, private and third sectors to creative innovative initiatives which will engage young people and help them secure work opportunities.

“QMU continues to successfully deliver initiatives which help the transition between education and employment for young people across Scotland.”

Dr Marion Ellison, Senior Lecturer in Sociology at QMU, is leading the major European labour study in Scotland. Dr Ellison’s work is part of the INSPIRES (Innovative Social and Employment Policies for Inclusive and Resilient Labour Markets in Europe) project, which includes 12 other leading European universities. Academies across the partner universities are pulling together innovative knowledge, technology and policy approaches that improve the resilience and active inclusion of labour markets for young people and other vulnerable groups across Europe.

For more information on the INSPIRES Project, visit: www.inspires-research.eu

Dr Ellison and her colleagues from QMU presented the latest national employment report, ‘Informing Innovative Employment Policies for Scotland’, at a recent Scottish Parliament event chaired by Chic Brodie MSP.

The INSPIRES Project is aimed at young people under the age of 25 years and includes ethnic minorities and disabled groups. The Scottish researchers are collaborating with various sectors and organisations including the Scottish Government; regional councils; SCDI; local businesses; education sector; employer associations and Scottish Trades Union Congress.

For more information on the INSPIRES Project, visit: www.inspires-research.eu/
Pioneering collaboration creates strong internship legacy

A pioneering internship programme, which has helped improve the career prospects of students whilst making a significant contribution to the third sector, is recognised as one which will create a lasting legacy.

Those who have been involved with the Third Sector Internships Scotland (TSIS) - a programme led by Queen Margaret University, the Open University in Scotland, and Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) - believe it has been a force for good in society. Based on a unique model involving students, universities and third sector organisations, TSIS can be used as a future template for best practice in relation to paid student internships.

TSIS offered students across Scottish universities paid and supported internships within charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations. As well as enhancing students’ knowledge, skills development, confidence and future employability, the programme has had a positive impact on a range of third sector organisations. By bringing fresh ideas and new perspectives, interns were able to enhance and influence the work of organisations working in Scottish communities. The result was a win-win situation with students developing skills, experience and a sense of achievement, and third sector organisations harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of student involvement.

For Kallum, the internship provided professional work experience in an area related to his degree. As he said: “The internship exceeded my expectations. It provided a wealth of other experience in terms of building confidence and insights into how an organisation like Stramash works, which is incredibly valuable.”

While the TSIS programme has now come to an end, it leaves a positive legacy. It captured the attention of thousands of student applicants, and the hundreds of students who successfully secured a TSIS internship have reaped the rewards. The impact on employers has been immense with the ripple effect creating a wave of positivity across communities, improving the lives of so many individuals served by the various voluntary sector organisations. Fiona Boyle confirmed: “Importantly, the project has raised the profile of Scotland’s third sector amongst the student population, within careers services and generally throughout higher education. Students are now better placed to view working in the third sector as a first destination career choice. This is a positive outcome for all – students, graduates, the higher education and third sectors, and society as a whole.”

Students are now better placed to view working in the third sector as a first destination career choice.  

Listen to recent graduate Kallum Corke and Niall Urquhart from Stramash describing the internship. http://www.3rdsectorintern.com/students/resources/media/TSIS reports and evaluation can be found at: http://www.3rdsectorintern.com/research/

TSIS KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Key Stats

- 8,314 applications
- 1,275 interviews & feedback
- 349 internships
- 94% SME hosts

Key facts

- Applications from every higher education institution in Scotland
- Interns are paid the living wage
- Bespoke support for host organisations
- Comprehensive research package
- Students gain enhanced skills and confidence
- ‘Real world’ competitive application process
- Employers appreciate fresh, keen and successful project delivery
- Strong partnerships between universities & the third sector

£4.7 – £7.2 MILLION

Estimated direct monetary benefit to host organisations and interns

RETURN ON INVESTMENT £2.50 – £3.80 for every £1

$22

QMYOU / The Power of Internships

$23

QMYOU / The Power of Internships
The Power of Internships

The continued advice and support I’ve received through QMU’s Employer Mentoring Scheme was extremely beneficial and gave me confidence when it was most needed in my final year of study. The experience encouraged me to explore new career options in public relations and led to some interesting creative opportunities with QMU’s Marketing and Communications Office.

Donna Cochrane who works in QMU’s Development team has helped set up a wide variety of Santander internships for QMU’s students and graduates. She explained: “Internships are becoming increasingly important as employers are also looking for practical experience in addition to academic achievements. The Santander Universities SME Internship Programme is a great way to help equip students and graduates with the skills, knowledge and experience they need to help them build successful careers.”

The internships are part-funded by Santander Universities which provides £1,500 towards the cost of the intern’s salary.

Donna continued: “The internships offer a variety of benefits for both the interns and the SMEs which participate in the programme. It provides our students and graduates with the opportunity to gain the all-important practical experience and valuable industry insight, as well as the chance to build a network of contacts for their future careers. SMEs find the Santander funding hugely rewarding for their future careers. SMEs find the Santander funding hugely rewarding for their future careers. The internships are part-funded by Santander Universities which provides £1,500 towards the cost of the intern’s salary.”

If you are an SME interested in participating in next year’s programme, contact Donna Cochrane in QMU’s Development Office: dcochrane@qmu.ac.uk.

New graduates are being offered incredible opportunities to kick start their careers through the help of the Santander Universities SME Internship Programme, which is run in collaboration with QMU.

As part of the Employer Mentoring Scheme, Cody got the chance to help create a new student recruitment film for QMU, which he also starred in. The film has just been launched on the QMU website and on social media and can be viewed online at: https://goo.gl/o6nYZE.

University research has shown that Scotland’s first ever venison black pudding has the potential to be a serious hit with foodies.

Food scientists from QMU have been running trials of the new food product which will be the first commercially produced black pudding made with venison blood in the UK.

Specialists from the University’s Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation were tasked with identifying if consumers were keen to devote from the traditional black pudding recipe which is usually made from onions, pork fat, oatmeal, flavourings and pigs’ blood. The scientists ran consumer taste panels and focus groups for the Perth based company Seriously Good Venison to gauge consumer reaction to the new product concept and to investigate consumer taste preferences for different flavoured venison black puddings.

The food scientists identified that the venison black pudding was a rich source of iron and vitamin B12. The results of taste panels, which focused on flavour and texture, confirmed that new venison black pudding was a bit hit with the consumer tasters.

Dr Wyness continued: “We were pleased to report that there was a consumer acceptance of the new product and that panellists reported very favourably about the taste and texture of Seriously Good Venison’s black pudding. As the only producer of this venison black pudding, we feel that Seriously Good Venison now has a distinctive commercial advantage. We hope our research work will support the company in bringing this tasty new product to the market place.”

Lucky guests at ‘Dining on the Wild Side’, a unique food event developed by The Edinburgh International Science Festival, were amongst the first to taste the new venison black pudding which was incorporated into a unique dish containing the Scottish superfood sea buckthorn. Held in April, the gastronomic event saw food enthusiasts tuck into a three course meal containing wild meat, fish and foraged fruits and vegetables, and offered guests the opportunity to hear from chef Ben Read and TV presenter and author Alys Fowler.

First venison black pudding’s stag-geringly good
Interview with Jennifer Orr
Deputy Orchestra Manager at the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO)

Jennifer completed her MA in Arts and Cultural Management at QMU in August 2014 and has been working full-time in her role as the Deputy Orchestra Manager at the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) since September 2013. Completing most of the course during the 2012/13 academic year, she then transferred to studying part-time alongside working for the RSNO to complete the final research module.

The RSNO is a professional symphony orchestra and one of Scotland’s National Performing Companies. It has a responsibility to reach, engage and inspire people with classical music throughout Scotland.

Jennifer is part of a small team at the RSNO whose main aim is to ensure the smooth running of tours, educational outreach programmes and recording sessions all run smoothly. This requires the thorough planning and executing of logistics to get the musicians, soloists, conductors and all the musical instruments and equipment to the right place at the right time.

Jennifer’s main responsibility, however, is to recruit and manage the freelance musicians that are required for each project. These musicians might provide cover for vacant positions in the orchestra or for people on leave. Sometimes musicians need to be recruited who play a specialist instrument or more musicians may be needed if a certain piece of music requires it. At times, there could be up to 30 freelance musicians required each week so this is often a complex process which combines a number of different aspects of management. Fortunately, areas including people management, human resources management, project management and financial management were all part of Jennifer’s course at QMU.

Immediately before studying at QMU, Jennifer worked in the cultural sector at the National Museum of Scotland and had experience in high-end customer service and hospitality. However, with an undergraduate degree in music performance, Jennifer was keen to find employment in the performing arts sector and hoped that further study would help make this transition between jobs possible.

What made you choose QMU?

I had been applying for work within the arts management sector but had little success as most jobs required relevant experience of working directly in the sector. The course at QMU offered a work placement module which allowed me to gain invaluable experience working for an arts organisation. The practical element to each of the modules appealed to me as the assignments were based on real, like-life tasks that you would find as part of a job in the arts. For example, completing a real funding application, putting together a marketing plan for a new arts event, and analysing current arts policies or strategic plans.

The course covers such a variety of different topics that it gives you a thorough introduction to each key aspect of managing arts organisations. My main interest was in the classical music industry and the flexible nature of the course allowed me to tailor my individual assignments to this area whilst still gaining a holistic understanding of the arts and cultural sector. I met the course leader and some of the teaching staff at an open evening and found they are all still actively involved in various areas of the arts and cultural sector which meant that the content of the course was current, relevant and forward thinking. During the course there was also valuable contact with arts management practitioners, some who led parts of the course or came in as guest speakers, as well as the personal experience and knowledge shared by QMU staff.

Has the Masters helped you get to where you are today?

Absolutely! First of all, the work placement module was key to me getting my job with the RSNO. Whilst my placement was in a different department at the RSNO, I was able to become familiar with the organisation and its values, which helped during the interview stages. I also had an in-house referee.

The style and thoroughness of the Masters course also appealed to my current employers - they liked the way the course trained me to think critically and question things, which they recognised as a quality I could bring to the job. For the RSNO, having someone with up-to-date teaching on current affairs in the sector was also attractive and the contacts that I had gained during the course could be potentially valuable to them.

Tips for current QMU students?

The QMU teaching staff are very experienced and are extremely knowledgeable about their sectors so make the most of them. Listen to the advice they give, ask for help if you need it and take opportunities to meet with your personal tutor. Some of the most valuable conversations I had were with my personal tutor, who helped me improve my CV and gave me advice on how to get a good work placement. But don’t rely on the staff too much, be proactive, go to them with ideas and questions. The more effort you put in, the more you are likely to get out of the course.

Donation helps Gastronomy students take part in international food festivals

Alumna Elizabeth Salvesen from Edinburgh has made a donation to QMU which will enable students on the MSc Gastronomy course to attend one of the most significant food festivals in the world.

The generous donation of £25,000 will support students to travel to, and take part in, Terra Madre/Salone del Gusto (TM/SdG). The five-day event, held in Milan, is a biennial international gathering of producers, chefs, eaters, politicians, activists and anyone who cares about food and the land it comes from. Attracting over 250,000 people, the unique event is a celebration of the people, environment and culture that creates our food. In alternative years, the fund will enable student participation in ‘Cheese’, the world’s largest cheese festival, which is very similar in philosophy to Terra Madre/Salone del Gusto.

An essential component of the MSc Gastronomy is engaging students in the field. These invaluable field trips expose our students to the realities of farming, factories, hospitality, community initiatives and much more. Within the course, no field trip is more profound and important than that of Terra Madre/Salone del Gusto.

The £25,000 donation will develop ‘The Elizabeth Salvesen and QMU MSc Gastronomy Annual Field Trip’. The fund will run for a total of five years and the yearly donation of £5,000 will enable the QMU MSc Gastronomy team to build the annual field trip to Terra Madre or the Cheese festival into the course’s academic calendar. The funding will be used to cover all event admission, and significant overnight accommodation and flights, thereby making it affordable for students regardless of their financial means.

Professor Alan Gilloran, Deputy Principal of QMU said: “We are passionate about helping students enhance their learning experience by travelling abroad and experiencing important conferences and cultural events. However, often students are unable to take part in international travel due to financial costs.”

He continued: “The opportunity to take part in festivals such as Terra Madre provides an outstanding opportunity for our students to develop their understanding of international food cultures and political perspectives. These experiences have the ability, not only to enhance student learning, but to heavily influence career pathways for our students. The outcome of taking part in such events could indeed be life changing. Students will also be able to share the international knowledge they have gained on their return to Scotland. We are extremely grateful to Elizabeth Salvesen for the positive impact that her donation will have on our students.”
Judy Moss is looking to contact graduates from Institutional Management 1965-1968 to join the 50th anniversary reunion in late September 2015.

Marjorie Tait (nee Andrew) wishes to reconnect with her Diploma of Life Sciences, Nursing who started at QMC in August 1975.

Fiona Davies wishes to contact graduates of Social Work, in 1995, to the reunion in September 2015.

Tina Chapman (nee MacFayden) wants to reunite with people like herself, a recent graduate.

Doreen Tait (nee Croal) is hoping to organise a reunion in September 2016. She is hoping to contact graduates of OTPC who worked in the Home Economics, who graduated in 1976.
QMU’s input the afternoon would not have been such a success. For its assistance and support with this celebration. Without which was planted last year.

Food and drink products. Following the afternoon tea, the event enjoyed a tour of the Scottish Centre for Food Development and maximising opportunities to develop healthy

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The Usher Hall, which was followed by a champagne reception at the Crowne Plaza Hotel where we had lunch.

The Degree of Master of Science in Art Psychotherapy. Elizabeth will be missed for her support to the Committee. Following the meeting, members enjoyed an informative talk on the Health and History of Chocolate by Nadia Elingham. This took place at the Crown Plaza Hotel where we had lunch.

On Friday 3 July 2015, I attended the opening of an exhibition - The Degree of Master of Science in Art Psychotherapy. On Friday 10 July 2015, I attended the graduation ceremonies at The Usher Hall, which was followed by a champagne reception at QMU. This, the Ahtol Crescent Prize was awarded to Grant White who had obtained a BSc(Hons) Second Class Upper Division in Diagnostic Radiography.

On Friday 22 May 2015 the Finale of the Centenary Year - Stepping into the Future - took place in The Piano Bar at QMU. The afternoon began with a glass of fizz and welcome by Professor Alan Giloran, QMU’s Vice-Principal. We then enjoyed a tour of the Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation which was most informative. It supports the food and drink industry and maximising opportunities to develop healthy food and drink products. Following the afternoon tea, the event concluded with a walk to view the progress of the QMUGA tree, which was planted last year.

On behalf of QMUGA we would like to extend our thanks to QMU for its assistance and support with this celebration. Without QMU’s input the afternoon would not have been such a success.

The AGM took place on Saturday, 19 June 2015 at The Edinburgh New Town Cookery School. Several members attended. One nomination for the Committee was received from John stalk, who we are pleased to welcome. Elaine Acaster was elected to the position of Vice-President.

An update of progress of QMU was given by Dr Richard Butt B(A(Hons)) PhD, Dean of The School of Arts, Social Sciences, Enterprise and Management. Many thanks to Richard for his informative report. At the end of the meeting, Elizabeth Comrie, who was retiring after giving long service to the Committee, was presented with a bouquet of flowers. Elizabeth will be missed for her support to the Committee. Following the meeting, members enjoyed an interesting and informative talk on the Health and History of Chocolate by Nadia Elingham. This took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel where we had lunch.

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University student creates new altar cloth for St Margaret’s Chapel

Lucy Deady designed and created the new altar frontal to interchange with the original one that had been damaged by mice. The 24 year old graduate was commissioned to develop a fitting design and construct a new altar frontal by St Margaret’s Chapel Guild, the organisation which cares for the 12th century chapel.

The beautiful new altar frontal is now a key feature in St Margaret Chapel which is known to be the oldest surviving building in Edinburgh.

The Guild has been associated with QMU for several years due to its association with St Margaret. Knowing its specialism in costume design, the Guild was keen to offer the work to a student at QMU who could draw on their creative sewing skills to design and construct the frontal.

It was decided that Lucy Deady, a highly skilled graduate of the QMU course, would be the appropriate person to develop the concepts and sew the cloth.

Lucy Deady said: “I worked very closely with members of the Guild to ensure that I understood their needs and reflected this within the new design of the altar frontal.”

The design includes various elements which reflect key themes. The boat signifies the gift of the ferry which Queen Margaret provided to offer safe passage for pilgrims who were travelling to St Andrews from South Queensferry. The name Margaret comes from a daisy like flower called a Marguerite, so that flower is also represented. The Guild wanted to include a Celtic pattern and cross – these link to Scotland and the Chapel. The waves, which feature in the main design, are also used as a trim for the cloth and are representative of Margaret’s journey from her original home in Hungary to Scotland.

Lucy concluded: “I have a passion for machine embroidery and I thought this project offered me a wonderful opportunity to develop a modern design, different to the current cloth but also in keeping with the historical chapel. It has been a challenging project but one which I am extremely proud of and which I have really enjoyed working on.”

“The new altar frontal was unveiled at a ceremony in St Margaret Chapel in Edinburgh Castle in June.”

10 things you might not know about QMU

• is above the sector average for its employment rate 94.4% of QMU graduates find work or go into employment within six months of graduation.
• runs a Student Mentoring Scheme. Find out how you could help a student develop their knowledge and shape their future career at http://www.qmu.ac.uk/mentoring/
• has an aerial film of the campus produced by QMU’s Kinetic Film Project. View the film at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyR9c3BsbG4
• offers a wide range of attractive rooms and meeting spaces which are prefect for workshops, seminars, business meetings, social gatherings and conferences. E: events@qmu.ac.uk
• has conducted some fascinating research into the changing Scottish accent. Find out more about our world renowned speech research on our website.
• runs a sports facility with an excellent gym, games hall and astro turf pitch. www.qmu.ac.uk/sports
• carries out research into and education on osteoporosis.
• has a strategic partnership with Alzheimer Scotland Action of Dementia aimed at improving healthcare students’ understanding of dementia.
• offers an attractive lunch service. Pop in for morning coffee and a scone or lunch, or use our shop to pick up newspapers and other essentials.
• has a new film ‘Step into QMU’ for potential students who want to know more about student life at QMU. View it at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyR9c3BsbG4
• is above the sector average for its employment rate 94.4% of QMU graduates find work or go into employment within six months of graduation.

Agata and Mike
set up Raw Film

Agata and Michael started Raw Film Productions together immediately after graduating from QMU in 2011 with degrees in Film and Media. Connections made through the University helped them get their first commissions. Since then they have been producing modern, high quality short films and adverts for clients in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Their client list has grown through referrals and word of mouth and has included NHS, East Lothian Council, SEPA and Mental Welfare Commission and many others. They have also had the opportunity to work internationally with two of their largest projects being with the R&A which commissioned them to make a case study about a golf course in Canada and the 500 Miles charity which sent them to make a series of films in Malawi to help raise £500,000 for its work.

You can check out Agata and Michael’s film projects at www.rawfilmproductions.com

DATES for your diary

Event: Undergraduate Open Day
When: 3rd October 2015
Time: 11am – 4pm
Where: QMU

Event: Postgraduate Open Evening
When: 25th November 2015
Time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Where: QMU

Booking for open days and open evenings is not essential but you are advised to register at www.qmu.ac.uk close to the time of the event.