Grants

The University attracted a total of £118 million in grants during 2009/10. This included the following:

- **£4.3 million** from the Economic and Social Research Council for a major study of poverty in the UK to be led by Professor Dave Gordon from the Centre for the Study of Poverty and Social Justice.
- **£1.7 million** from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (through the RCUK Digital Economy programme) for a project that aims to revolutionise the design of wearable technologies for supporting research.
- **£1.3 million** from the Welcome Trust for trials of a device, developed by Professor Chris Probert in the School of Clinical Sciences and Norman Ratcliffe at the University of the West of England, that can ‘sniff out’ the presence of disease.
- **£1.2 million** from the Tubney Charitable Trust for a project led by the Department of Clinical Veterinary Science (together with the RSPCA and the Soil Association) to improve the welfare of farm animals in the UK.
- **£1.1 million** from the Economic and Social Research Council for a study of verse forms in Middle English romances, in collaboration with the University of California Los Angeles and the Chaucer Studio at Brigham Young University.
- **£1.7 million** from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to Professor Ad Putter in the Department of English for a study of verse forms in Middle English romances, in collaboration with the University of California Los Angeles and the Chaucer Studio at Brigham Young University.

The University’s priorities in this area are to:

- ensure a fair and transparent system of student representation that provides students with the opportunity to shape their educational and extra-curricular experience;
- support a vibrant, active and democratic Students’ Union;
- ensure the provision of learning and skills opportunities that enhance students’ future employability;
- provide advice and support for students’ personal welfare and ensure effective integration into the University and local community.

Bristol student team triumphs at MIT

An interdisciplinary team of students from the Bristol Centre for Complexity Sciences (BCCS) won a gold medal and a prize for Best Model after going head-to-head with 111 other teams at a prestigious international competition in the field of synthetic biology.

The team (comprising postgraduate and undergraduate students and staff from the BCCS, the School of Biological Sciences and the Departments of Biochemistry and Engineering Mathematics) travelled to the US to compete in the 2009 iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine) Jamboree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Having won a bronze medal and the Best Model prize at the 2008 iGEM Jamboree, this year they retained the Best Model prize and upgraded their medal to gold.

Enterprising students inspire school kids

Students at Bristol have a long history of community work and fundraising: the first raising and giving (RAG) event was held in 1965. The Students’ Union emphasises to its members the importance of escaping the ‘student bubble’ and engaging with the local community in a positive way – as well as developing and sharpening a range of skills to complement their academic work and enhance their CV.

Enterprising students inspire school kids

Among the dozens of societies run through the Students’ Union are two student enterprise societies – the Social Enterprise Project and Bristol Entrepreneurs. During the spring term, members of these societies visited Brunel University College to talk to pupils about entrepreneurial career options, and set them a challenge to design and market a new ethical food product. It is hoped that the scheme will develop into a city-wide, student-run annual programme.

Good works: Bristol students in the charitable and voluntary sector

Students at Bristol have a long history of community work and fundraising: the first raising and giving (RAG) event was held in 1965. The Students’ Union emphasises to its members the importance of escaping the ‘student bubble’ and engaging with the local community in a positive way – as well as developing and sharpening a range of skills to complement their academic work and enhance their CV.

Research continued

Bristol Enterprise Competition

The winners of the 2010 New Enterprise Competition were Rupert Baker and Alex Ross, recent graduates from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, for Teamup, a free-to-access sports web application. Teamup allows users to join, create and share micro-events (informal gatherings to participate in sports and activities such as football, cycling, swimming, tennis, yoga, pilates, climbing, etc) in their local community. Teamup also allows providers of commercial services to manage and market their resources more effectively. The prize included £20,000 plus six months managed office space at the Bristol SETsquared Business Acceleration Centre.

The runners-up were:

- Lee Aromma, an undergraduate in the Department of Computer Science, for Acrotomatrix – software that allows a musician or band to create, manipulate and loop music in a live setting via simple hand or body movements;
- James Curnford, an undergraduate in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, for Sundio – a social enterprise using sustainable solar refrigeration technology to improve the efficiency and profitability of farming in rural India.

The entries were judged by a panel of experts from the sponsoring organisations including Bristol City Council, Business Link, Deloitte, EADS, IP Group, Motorola, Osborne Clarke, Santander, Bristol SETsquared Business Acceleration Centre (Bristol), Withers & Rogers and Wyvem Seed Fund.
Students continued

RAG
In the year 2009/10, RAG activities raised a total of £252,446 through a varied programme that included street collections, sponsored activities such as skydiving, trekking and ‘jailbreaking’ and the annual RAG procession. Of this, £8,684 went to local charities.

A sponsored RAG climb of Mount Kilimanjaro raised £9,000 towards the Dorothy Hodgkin Scholarship – offered jointly by the University and the Windle Trust – which enables students from war-affected parts of Africa to undertake a postgraduate course at Bristol. The University waived the student’s tuition fees, and the Windle Trust pays the travel expenses; students raise money for the living expenses and accommodation of a scholar, and the sum is match-funded by the Alumni Foundation. The most recent recipient of the Dorothy Hodgkin Scholarship is Severo Sebit, a student from Sudan who fled the country’s civil war when he was 12 years old and is now studying for an MSc in Economics, Finance and Management.

Bristol medic heads BMA student committee
Nicholas Deakin, a third-year Bristol medical student, has been elected co-chairman of the British Medical Association (BMA) Medical Students Committee, which represents more than 22,000 BMA student members from UK medical schools on a wide range of issues affecting medical students. Members of the committee also sit on subcommittees that deal with issues relating to the finance, education and welfare of medical students across the UK.

SCA
Student Community Action (SCA) is a volunteering organisation founded in 1970 to complement RAG, co-ordinate and train student volunteers and develop links with the Bristol community. During 2009/10, SCA ran 24 projects involving over 1,400 volunteers, and held 16 volunteer training programmes.

One of the SCA projects, Pitstop, received a Children in Need grant to support its programme of day trips and activities for teenagers with learning and physical disabilities. Pitstop helps provide a supportive community in which the teenagers can develop social skills and form friendships with others that they can relate to, and encourages them to build key skills in independent living.

Complexity student wins poster prize
Chris Musselle, a postgraduate student in the Bristol Centre for Complexity Sciences, won the Best Student Poster prize at the 2009 European Conference on Complex Systems. The poster, entitled ‘Malware defence using artificial immune systems’, suggests a new method of detecting malicious computer programs, such as viruses, that mirrors the workings of the human immune system.

Boeing recognises Engineering students
Six students in the Faculty of Engineering – Rafic Ajaj, William Costin, Richard Vigars, Corin Rathbone, Ross Turner and Alexey Lukhodov – won awards from Boeing for the exceptional quality of their project work. Four of the students won prizes for the best final-year or MSc projects; the other two won a highly prestigious Boeing scholarship worth £3,000. The awards mark the beginning of a new relationship with Boeing, after the company chose the University of the Bristol as one of a select cohort of universities that will support the development of its intellectual capital and provide continuing education for its employees.

Excellence in engineering
Robert Matthews, a PhD student on the Aquatrust Research Programme at the University’s Water and Health Research Centre, received an award from the Worshipful Company of Engineers. He won the 2010 Fiona and Nicholas Hawley Excellence in Environmental Engineering Award for developing a low-cost, portable incubator that maintains the temperature of water samples without relying on electricity.

Students devise winning low-carbon energy solution
A team of Bristol students were joint winners of the RWE npower ‘Energy Challenge’, a national competition to devise new ways of delivering low-carbon energy for the future. The ‘Bristainable Energy’ team’s entry included proposals to develop more renewable energy and an innovative fixed-price green energy tariff. The Bristol team tied with the University of Birmingham for first place.