

Teaching and learning





New approaches to teaching and better use of online resources were among the projects pursued by University staff in 2006/07.

New degree means more EPs

The School of Applied and Community Health Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law has launched a new degree that aims to provide more strategic, research-based training for educational psychologists (EPs).

The Doctor of Educational Psychology (DEdPsy) programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society and serves as the entry qualification for professional practice and employment in educational psychology. It is designed to prepare EPs for the demands of their profession, to equip them with advanced research skills and to enable them to contribute to policy formulation.

There is currently a nationwide shortage of EPs. A 2006 Government review on their role highlighted the value of their contribution to children's well-being in school and in the community. The report acknowledged that EPs' academic background and training in psychology are important factors.

The programme has been welcomed by the region's eight local authorities, which have all offered their support in terms of fieldwork supervision, professional tutoring and placements.

Sign Language dictionary goes mobile

The world's first sign language dictionary available from a mobile phone was launched in March by the Centre for Deaf Studies.

Mobilesign.org is a free video dictionary with over 5,000 British Sign Language signs. There is also help for parents, with signs included that are specific to children like 'Father Christmas', 'potty' and 'naughty'. The simple interface is especially designed for mobile phone displays. Users either type in the word they want translated to sign or choose from an A-Z list. The service can be accessed on all networks via any mobile phone with a video player, or via a 3G phone. On most mobile phones, downloading a sign should cost less than 1p.

Linda Day, Sign Language Lecturer at the Centre, said: 'Apart from the obvious use to access signs when you need to meet a Deaf person, it will be of great value to students of sign language and to parents – who just need that sign at that moment in time.'

Undergraduate applications to study modern languages at Bristol rose by 21%

Bristol bucks the trend for learning modern languages

Undergraduate applications to study modern languages at Bristol in 2007-08 rose by 21% on 2006-07, with over 2,000 home applications for 213 undergraduate places.

Since languages became optional for pupils over 14 in 2002, the proportion taking a GCSE in a modern language has fallen sharply from 80% to 50%. But languages are still in great demand at Bristol, with applications to the School of Modern Languages outstripping available places by a ratio of almost 10 to 1. Applications for Russian and Czech were up 29% on the previous year.

At the University's Language Centre, there has been a marked increase in the number of students studying Japanese (particularly engineers, who account for 50% of the students). Mandarin Chinese has also grown rapidly since it was introduced three years ago, leading to the introduction of a new course – Chinese for Medics – last year.

The Language Centre also offers night classes in modern languages as part of the University's programme for lifelong learning. Since 2004, the number of people taking one of over 125 classes a week has more than doubled from 1,500 to 3,600.

ILRT researcher wins e-learning award

Innovative e-learning software written by **Simon Price** from the Institute for Learning and Research Technology (ILRT) won the 2006 eLearning Award for excellence in the production of learning content, finishing ahead of entries from the BBC and Virgin Atlantic Airways. The programme, called NetWorks For You, was produced in collaboration with ST Microelectronics and Relay Consultants. It uses 'blended learning' to combine interactive online exercises and video with traditional face-to-face teaching.

Learning and Teaching Awards

Every year the University recognises the efforts of a number of individuals who advance and support education at Bristol. The 2006 awards were presented at the University's Learning and Teaching Exhibition in January 2007, to the following people:

Teaching Prizes

Dr Tamar Hodos
School of Arts

Dr Mike Barton
Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Dr Phil Langton
Department of Physiology

Professor Yoav Ben-Shlomo
Department of Social Medicine

Dr Simon Kohn
Department of Earth Sciences

Dr Dendy Platt
School for Policy Studies

Engagement Awards

Recognising staff whose efforts in public engagement have been exceptional and/or innovative

Professor Robert Bickers
School of Humanities

Dr Wendy Daniell
Department of Civil Engineering

Dr Alice Roberts
Department of Anatomy

Andrew Boyd
Department of Social Medicine

Professor Dudley Shallcross
Mr Tim Harrison
School of Chemistry

Dr Michael Naughton
School of Law and Department of Sociology

Rising Star Awards

For staff who have been teaching in higher education for less than five years and who show excellent potential

Dr Matthew Brown
School of Modern Languages

Dr Richard Helyer
Department of Physiology

Dr Ainsley Newson
Centre for Ethics in Medicine

Dr Frederick Manby
School of Chemistry

Dr Esther Dermott
Department of Sociology

Awards Recognising Support for Education

Recognising staff who support learning.

Mr Mark Cox
Arts and Social Sciences and Law Faculties' Computer Team

Mrs Diana Coles
Faculty Computer Officer

Miss Rachel Tucker
Department of Biochemistry

Ms Liz Anderson
Department of Community-Based Medicine

Mr Tom Kennedy
Department of Physics

Miss Jo Purdie
Department of Experimental Psychology

Dr Dudley Thompson
School of Chemistry

Mrs Jackie Bee
Department of Sociology

Ms Zoe Pither
Widening Participation and Undergraduate Recruitment Office



Strong first year for Intute

Since its launch in July 2006, Intute – a free online service enabling lecturers, researchers and students to find quality internet resources – has made its mark in academia.

Intute, co-developed by the Institute for Learning and Research Technology (ILRT), guides academics to ‘the best and most relevant resources on the internet,’ said Caroline Williams, Executive Director of Intute. ‘You can explore and discover trusted information, assured that it has been evaluated by subject specialists.’

Intute is hosted by the University of Manchester and run jointly by seven universities, including Bristol, with funding from the Joint Information Systems Committee, the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council. Staff at ILRT maintain Intute’s social sciences section.

New tutorials in all subjects are posted regularly. These and other services prompted an article on Intute in *The Guardian*, which described it as ‘Higher education’s answer to Google’.

CETLs get into their stride

The University’s two Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs) both had a strong first year.

Around 1,000 students benefited during 2006/07 from the innovative approaches to teaching developed in the **Applied and Integrated Medical Sciences (AIMS) CETL**. Patient simulators and a ‘virtual’ microscope were incorporated into physiology/pharmacology and histology teaching; a state-of-the-art Clinical Anatomy Suite is now used regularly for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching; and AIMS has hosted a number of visits, including one from the US Ambassador.

Bristol ChemLabS aims to transform the teaching of practical chemistry. Undergraduate facilities have been refurbished to produce world-class teaching laboratories equipped to research-grade standards, for use by undergraduates as well as school and college students from across the region. Integral to the project is an online interactive Dynamic Laboratory Manual, which allows students to prepare for their practical classes via video clips, virtual instruments, tests and background material.

‘Clinical academy’ brings new approach to clinical education

America’s leading medical education journal, *Academic Medicine*, featured a paper on the School of Medicine’s innovative approach to delivering clinical education. The paper, by Dr David Mumford, Director of Medical Education and Reader in Cross-Cultural Psychiatry at Bristol, describes the establishment and refinement of the new model.

A radical rethinking of the pattern of student placements and the structure of clinical teaching produced the new model, which offers the full range of clinical training in an integrated local organisation that shares learning facilities with medical postgraduates and other health professionals.

There are seven clinical academies: two in acute-care teaching hospitals in Bristol and five in the surrounding counties. The same curriculum is delivered in each by hospital specialists and general practitioners. Students rotate between clinical academies, learning clinical medicine and developing competence as apprentice members of a multiprofessional learning community.

‘The Bristol clinical academies have some unique features,’ said Dr Mumford, ‘and Bristol’s model may provide a useful model for other medical schools to consider.’



Above, left to right: Bristol undergraduates using the ChemLabS facilities; ‘Internet Detective’, one of the tutorials offered by Intute; pupils from Moss Hall Junior School in Finchley, London, during an outreach visit by ChemLabS School Teaching Fellow Tim Harrison and three postgraduate students.

Outreach and engagement





The University has been involved in the life of the city and local communities through lifelong learning, schools and volunteering events, among others.

Widening participation

The Widening Participation Office continues to encourage applicants from backgrounds that are under-represented at Bristol. It is involved in a range of initiatives to raise awareness of opportunities in higher education; regular annual events include summer schools, visit days, subject enrichment events and master classes. More than 350 students act as ambassadors on projects such as e-mentoring for young people interested in medicine and tutoring on attainment-raising activities. The 'Access to Bristol' scheme, in which year-12 students from local state schools attend academic sessions at the University with support from student mentors, continues to expand. Former student Roger Holmes has donated £100,000 to the scheme, which will provide 14 bursaries for participating students who gain an offer from the University.

University backs Academy

The University continued to be actively engaged in the project to create an Academy serving the whole of the Withywood area in south Bristol. Merchants' Academy, sponsored jointly by the Society of Merchant Venturers and the University, will open in September 2008. It is designed to provide free education of outstanding quality to more than 1,100 pupils of all abilities.

Lifelong learning

The Department of English extended its programme of lifelong learning activities from September, with the launch of an expanded reading groups programme supported by the University's Annual Fund. It runs three groups within the University – for first-year medical students, for trainee counsellors and for local alumni – and three external groups.

Chemists transform wasteland

Staff and students from the School of Chemistry volunteered their time to transform an area of wasteland into a garden retreat for Stockwood Community Centre. The weekend challenge was organised by the Graduate Chemistry Association in liaison with Business in the Community, and was supported by Vcashpoint, Astra Zeneca, the Alumni Foundation, the Centre for Public Engagement and Gardens and Grounds Services.

Foundation degree first

The University joined forces with City of Bristol College to launch a foundation degree in counselling. Supported by the Lifelong Learning Network, the course offers innovative learning opportunities to local students wishing to develop professional skills through work-based learning, community-based learning and continuing professional development.



Chem@rt

'Frog Chorus' by Simon Hall (above) was one of the images issued from research at the School of Chemistry and used as the basis for the 2006 Chem@rt competition. The pictures were sent to schools to act as stimuli for creative writing, poetry and artwork. The project was supported by the Alumni Foundation, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

Heart of the matter

Primary school pupils from Portishead were some of the first children in the country to experience the University's new mobile laboratory, which hit the streets in May. The Mobile Teaching Unit is a joint initiative funded by the University's two Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, AIMS and Bristol ChemLabS. It provides an opportunity for pupils to engage in hands-on anatomy, physiology and chemistry demonstrations.

Left: Pupils participating in the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth Summer School help paint a collage of the Clifton Suspension Bridge, which was displayed in Badock Hall at the end of the two-week course. The summer school aims to help further pupils' educational potential and development.