Welcome and Notices

Welcome to our packed second edition! We would like to mention a few opportunities:

• **Virtual Student Internship** (paid) – we are pleased to offer an opportunity to work with our school this summer – see the [Opportunity hub](#) for details and to apply.

• A programme of **Summer events** including the [Opportunities with Chemistry event](#) (7pm on 8 July) and the talk ‘Pandemics, vaccines and Covid-19 mythbusters’ (7pm on 22 July).

• **Project module update** – let us know your thoughts! Watch out for our next Student Consultative Forum on this topic.

• **Choosing your next module** – please visit the [Module choice forums](#) for information, including videos from the module teams about what to expect.

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LHCS 2021 Online Summer School – register [here](#) by 16 July

LHCS invite you to participate in the free 2021 Online Summer School (OSS). Five experimental techniques commonly used in chemistry and/or biology laboratories will be used to answer investigative questions on a range of topics:

• Using HPLC to detect pharmaceuticals in wastewater
• Identification of counterfeit medicines by FTIR spectroscopy
• Evaluating the degree of organic pollution in effluent through biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)
• Quantifying microorganisms in effluent and UV-vis spectroscopy
• Characterising the microorganisms in the effluent via PCR

The investigations will run from 26th July until 22nd August and should take you approximately 6 hours each week to complete. A weekly Adobe Connect session will introduce each investigation and include a presentation on related research being conducted at the OU by PhD students and other OU researchers. There will have an opportunity to present (oral or poster) at a student conference on a topic of your choosing. There will be mentoring available to help you decide on a topic and prepare your presentation. A digital badge for the 2021 OSS can be collected upon competition of at least 3 of the 4 end of investigation quizzes. Please register for the 2021 OSS by 16th July [here](#).

A huge thank you to all our Student Buddies and Guides of 20/21!
I started studying with the OU in 2014, initially on the Open Degree, as I was drawn to the flexibility that it provided. However, it quickly became apparent that my interest was in biology, and I later switched onto R58 Biology. I am currently studying my final modules, and will hopefully graduate in the summer.

Most of my degree has been studied alongside my career as a professional footballer, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity that the OU has given me to further my education on a part-time basis. Overall, the experience has been challenging and rewarding in equal measure!

One aspect of OU life that I have particularly enjoyed is the Online Journal Club (OJC). It allows students to deliver a short presentation on an article they have found interesting. I have been an OJC ‘regular’, and it has been great to practice my presenting skills. I would highly recommend the OJC to any students who have yet to participate.

Recently, I have also been acting as a Student Guide – using the experience I have gained over the years to provide advice to students who are new to the university. I am incredibly proud of what I have achieved so far at the OU, and I am very excited about applying what I have learned throughout my studies in my career beyond football.

-Tom Adeyemi
(current student on S317 Biological science: from genes to species)
Making an early start on S294 Cell Biology

If you have registered for S294 in October 2021, you'll be given access to the website from early July through your StudentHome page. We have a lovely group of experienced S294 tutors available to support you through the summer, with online tutorials and forums.

The emphasis is on consolidating understanding of core concepts from Level 1 study, but you will also have access to the online versions of S294 books, activities and quizzes, and the opportunity to take part in an online journal club. Students in previous presentations have found the S294 Early Start very useful; so, if you have time, please do take advantage of this entirely optional opportunity.

Not studying S294, but want to start preparing for your next module? Have a look on the Science Study site where you can find preparatory resources for all our undergraduate modules.

Introducing our Board of Studies (BoS)

The BoS oversee the development and performance of the modules and qualifications across the School. Membership of the Board includes our qualification leads and managers, module team chairs and representatives from the Student Support Team, Careers and Employability Services, the Library and elected representatives from the Associate Lecturer (AL) and student communities. External oversight is provided by our External Advisor, Professor Nicola Woodroofe (Sheffield Hallam). Please read on for thoughts from Ray, one of our three AL reps, and Kelly, one of our three student reps on the important role that they play. You can contact the representatives or the BoS via our email: STEM-LHCS-BoS@open.ac.uk. Please include ‘newsletter’ in the email subject header.

Ray Jones: “It is our remit to consider the AL perspective in connection with the modules taught by the School, and to input the views of the group of OU staff primarily concerned ‘at the coal face’ with delivery of the teaching and learning and with consideration of the student experience. We input to proposals for new modules, to the development of those modules in terms of structures, content and assessment, and to their delivery. We contribute AL opinion into reviews and proposed modifications of ongoing modules, and to the School Strategy for the future. All BoS business can and should benefit from the views and wide experiences of ALs. It is our job to solicit views from AL colleagues prior to Board meetings, and to report back to those colleagues after the meetings.”

Kelly Britton: “Starting an undergraduate degree with The Open University was a dream come true, so to give back, I applied to be a BoS rep for LHCS. I was keen to contribute a student voice to the various aspects of how qualifications and modules were designed and managed, and it also gave me a lot of insight behind the scenes. I have met so many amazing LHCS OU staff, and fellow students, who strive to make the student experience as best as it can be. Being on the BoS has helped me develop my communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills and has been a truly invaluable experience.”

Do you have something to share or would like to get involved in the Newsletter? We’d love to hear from you at STEM-LHCS-Teaching@open.ac.uk. Please include ‘newsletter’ in the email subject header.