Scotland USA Graduate Scholarships

Six new scholarships, providing postgraduate opportunities for students from the US, have been created at the University of Glasgow.

The scholarships are some of 50 new awards created by Education UK Scotland (part of the British Council) for the 2008–9 session, which have been spread across the higher education sector in Scotland and match-funded by the host institutions. Due to the high volume of applications to Glasgow, the University has received double the original quota of three scholarships per institution, creating a total of six scholarships worth £2,000 each. They are open to students interested in Taught Masters programmes or research programmes and are for one year.

In previous years, Education UK Scotland, in conjunction with the Scottish higher education institutions, had subsidised an annual inward mission of high school counsellors, with the goal of increasing the number of American students coming to study at undergraduate level in Scotland. However it recent years, individual universities, including Glasgow, have been doing this anyway, either on their own or in collaboration with other universities, so it was felt the money that had been invested in these missions could be diverted and reinvested in new initiatives.

In light of the cancellation of the US awards through the Scottish International Scholarship Programme in the Spring of 2008, Ian Thomson, Senior International Officer at the University of Glasgow, proposed that a number of new US-focused scholarships be established, the favourable response resulted in the creation of these new opportunities.

Successful candidates cover a wide range of subject areas including English literature, political communication and exercise science. Awards have been made to both Masters and PhD students.

It is expected that these scholarships will be repeated in 2009–10 and beyond, and during the coming year they will be marketed extensively through British Council America and by the University itself.

Applications can be made once a student has received an unconditional offer from the University and enquiries regarding the scholarship can be made to Amy Dickens, the International & Postgraduate Service at: a.dickens@admin.gla.ac.uk.

To know that there are those who support my research is critical.

Read what our scholars have to say on page 2.
Farewell to Glasgow

Joanna Storrar, who has been the University’s Vice-President for North American Development since 2005, is departing for pastures new. Although we are sad to see her go, we wish her every success in the future.

It is hard to believe that it has been three years since I began working as Glasgow University’s Vice President for North American Development, based in New York. It has been an extraordinarily happy and productive time for me personally. It has been a privilege sharing with people in the US and Canada their love and goodwill for the University. It has been a privilege to be part of a University which has always been a great institution, but in the past few years, especially under the leadership of Sir Muir Russell, has grown ever stronger.

I am proud and grateful to have been part of this community, helping others to re-establish their own relationships with Glasgow, and witnessing their joy in helping those who have come after them.

No doubt there are even better things to come. I look forward to hearing about Glasgow’s continuing strength and contribution to scientific and intellectual advances.

Thank you.
Joanna KC Storrar
15 August 2008

Recruitment news from North America

Scott Mazuzan, International Officer (USA): s.mazuzan@admin.gla.ac.uk

It has been a year since I joined the International Office as an in-country representative for the University. Based in the North East, I have been collaborating with Ian Thomson (Senior International Officer) and we have enjoyed an increasing sense of progress in our recruitment activities in North America. As my appointment to the University has recently been made full-time, I anticipate further new grounds being explored in the coming months. We also aim to collaborate with our distinguished alumni in North America and put our prospective students in touch with those who know the University best.

Keep in touch as we might soon be in your part of the world! To view a copy of our travel schedule, visit the International Office website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/international/inyourregion/internationalofficetravelschedule.

Meet our new scholars

Kat Hughes,
studying in the Department of Theatre, Film & Television Studies
‘Experience and education in an international context will help put me in touch with the larger international film community. I also think that I will benefit from the high standard of education in the UK.’

Joshua Darwin,
studying Medieval and Renaissance Literature
‘It is amazing to study the Renaissance in a school that was built during the Renaissance. Having a scholarship like this means a lot to my wife and me. It means that we will have a little more money available to travel and see all the history and culture in Europe.’

Susan Miller,
studying Shelley and the Fine Arts
‘To know that there are those who support my research is critical. I look forward to a complete commitment to my studies, to making a contribution to the field, and to being of service to others in the best way that I possibly can.’

Ben Rothrauff,
studying Exercise Physiology
‘The scholarship demonstrates the University’s promotion of international outreach and the willingness to embrace diversity as a means of enhancing scholastic advancement.’

Jamie Dunn,
studying Political Communication
‘International experience is crucial in my field. By earning my degree from a Scottish university, I will gain insight into the British media and political system. I am also hopeful that I will be able to take advantage of Scotland’s Fresh Talent programme, and find employment here after I graduate.’
People in profile

Dr Jacqueline Charlotte Hill (MBChB 1990)

Dr Jacqueline Charlotte Hill is returning to her native country of Scotland after years of work away from her childhood home. Jacqueline is returning from Afghanistan, where she has lived and worked to reduce the war-torn country’s tragically high maternal and infant mortality rates at the CURE International hospital in Kabul.

Jacqueline is committed to advocating for the quality health care of women and their babies. She believes maternal health and the reduction of maternal mortality should be made a worldwide priority.

Born and brought up in Glasgow, Jacqueline entered the University in 1985, aged just 17. As a young, under-confident and somewhat awkward teenager, the wide variety of friends she made there helped her to gain a broader view of life in general. Her involvement with the Glasgow University Christian Union was a hugely stabilising and very inspirational part of her time in school. Jacqueline recognises how easy it was to take for granted the fantastic education she received at Glasgow, and only now, after working in Afghanistan, is she able to fully appreciate the grounding and the privilege she had then.

Jacqueline specialises in obstetrics and gynecology (OBGYN), which she first discovered her passion for during her medical elective courses in Bangladesh and Nazareth, Israel. There she got a real sense of the genuine need for quality obstetric care and the high maternal mortality rates in countries lacking it. Jacqueline was also intrigued by the versatility of skills required in this medical practice, such as combined specialised medical, surgical and neonatal skills. She also liked the practicality of the work, being a part of the process of delivering a baby and the fact that one has to make decisions quickly. Everything about her work – from the drama of the delivery unit, the emotions, the fact that an OBGYN has to worry about two lives and working with women who are often already abused – has captured Hill's heart.

Her education and career has allowed her to travel much of the world, with her first experience ever abroad to a mission hospital in the middle of the Congo at just age 18. It was there that she delivered her first baby and she vividly remembers being shocked that the mother didn’t want to hold the baby until it was later explained to her that because the neonatal death rate was so high, mothers avoided emotional bonding with their newborns as much as possible. Jacqueline’s career also took her to South Sudan when she worked for Medair, training traditional birth attendants. What struck her most about this region was the lack of medical services in the country, and the fear the people lived under due to the war which was tearing the country apart.

When she joined Texas-based medical charity CURE International, Jacqueline continued her work in Afghanistan, where she eventually moved. During her time in the country, she experienced first-hand the staggering maternal and infant mortality rate, and determined to decrease it. In Badakhshan province in the north of the country where she first worked, the highest maternal mortality ever was recorded. She began working in a very rural setting, developing an emergency obstetric service in various clinics where she performed c-sections on women who would otherwise have died.

Eventually Jacqueline decided to do something which would create more sustainability for Afghan women and moved down to Kabul to take the position as head of obstetrics and gynecology in the CURE hospital where the main aim was to train Afghan doctors. After one year, Jacqueline was named medical director of the hospital, where she stayed busy heading up the OBGYN department, training national doctors and midwives.

For other people aspiring to follow their dreams and aspirations, even if it means leaving family and friends and travelling across the world, Hill says ‘go for it! The frustrations and hardships make it immensely challenging, but therefore, deeply rewarding,’ she says. ‘As much as you feel you are giving, you are also keenly aware of all you are being given in return. It is really quite amazing and not easy to explain. I think people just have to discover it for themselves.’
Events

Dates for your diaries


Toronto Alumni Dinner & Ceilidh – Sunday, 19 October 2008 at the University of Toronto.

Invitations for both these events have been mailed to those in the surrounding areas. If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend the see our webpages to download a copy of the invitation and to book online: www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/events.

Burns Supper celebrations!

As part of the Homecoming 2009 celebrations, the University will host a three-day conference, lead by the newly established Centre for Robert Burns Studies, to commemorate the birth of Scotland’s most famous bard.

Taking place in the prestigious surroundings of the University of Glasgow from Thursday, 15 to Saturday, 17 January 2009, the programme features plenary papers delivered by distinguished academics over the three days. Titles include ‘Transatlantic Burns’, and ‘Why the English had to invent Robert Burns’.

Other highlights include a special partnership between CRBS and Itchy Coo Education, the award-winning promoters and publishers in Scots. Organisers are making sure that as well as prompting provocative discussion there will be space to browse publisher’s stalls, time to make new colleagues and friends and view an exclusive exhibition of Burnsiana artifacts from Glasgow collector Colin Hunter McQueen.

The evenings are busy too, with Burns rightfully stealing the limelight, with a special commission of the ‘Lament for Mary Queen of Scots’ by James MacMillan and a performance of the ‘Merry Muses’ and ‘Jolly Beggars’ and a finale non-traditional Burns Supper!

Registration is open to all Robert Burns devotees, it is possible to attend for one day or three, or join us for one of the specially arranged evening events.

Full details are available on the conference website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/robertburnsstudies.

Weddings

Alumni in Boston may recognise the happy brides below.

Elizabeth Bailey (MA 1994) married Joe Byron on July 14 2007 at the Union Chapel in Rye. The reception was held at the Wentworth by the Sea Hotel in New Hampshire.

Julie Carmann (JYA 1999) married John Herickhoff on Thursday 22 May 2008 at House for an Art Lover in Glasgow.

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