International Relations Office

Global Engagement Report 2020-21









Welcome

I am delighted to share the first Global **Engagement Report from the University** of Bath International Relations Office. We are proud to have forged forward with our aspiration to become an internationally leading university despite the external challenges of a global pandemic and the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. The University, despite the turbulent year, has continued to perform well in the league tables, ranked 6th out of 121 universities in the UK in the Guardian University League Table, and we are delighted to have risen in the QS International rankings to 166th out of 1300 universities worldwide.

This report reflects how the International Relations Office has worked with a wealth of colleagues across the institution to develop international partnerships to allow us to fulfil our vision in education. research, and enterprise. Most significantly working collaboratively with our global partners to achieve what otherwise we could not do without these invaluable international alliances and networks. I am especially proud of our collaborative work with the Town and Gown Network led by Stellenbosch University, learning from others globally about how to develop our civic role in Bath and the region. Given the current uncertainties with overseas travel it was an immense achievement to see the comprehensive academic and student experience offer that the institution provided through the Bath Blend and despite the pandemic. University of Bath was one of the few institutions in the UK that continued to welcome visiting students under our commitment to develop a globally aware and mobile university.

Looking forward, the University of Bath will be hosting our counterparts from across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe for the Annual General Meeting of the Magalhaes Network in 2023. We welcome the UK Governments update to the International Education Strategy which was originally announced in 2019 and in 2021 the policy update has a continued commitment to driving growth for the UK Higher Education sector. It also recognises that the coming years will see national and international priorities focus on recovery and developing future opportunities that have emerged from the pandemic. We are eager to learn about the institution's success in the most recently launched Turing Scheme, the UK Governments global mobility scheme. where we anticipate that the funding will enable hundreds of University of Bath students to access a global work or study opportunity.

The University of Bath is excited to welcome students back onto campus for the 21/22 academic year and are looking forward to the future, while learning from the year behind us. With a new University Strategy, launched in July 2021, the University of Bath will be supporting our community to collaborate, innovate and to drive excellence through education and high-impact research whilst fostering an outstanding and inclusive community. The International Relations Office, will continue to support the institutions commitment to enhancing and strengthening our strategic partnerships and we will endeavour to do this by collaborating both nationally and internationally with others that enable us to achieve what we could not do alone.



d Runsey

Lily Rumsey
Director of
International Relations
Email: lwr22@bath.ac.uk

International Relations Office

Our Mission

Cultivating purposeful international partnerships to enable the University of Bath to maximise global opportunities, reach and reputation.

Our Values

The International Relations Office, through our values, endeavour to create and support an internationally collaborative and mobile university, providing opportunities for our students and staff to be globally aware.

We are committed to raising the international profile and reputation of the University of Bath and increasing our research power to address global challenges.

Read more about our international strategy here



We Are

Collaborative

Working with others to encourage and facilitate purposeful relationships in order to achieve shared goals.

Enabling

Providing opportunities for exploration and learning. Encouraging students to expand their employability, cultural awareness, and civic responsibility.

Open

An open and inclusive office, supporting and developing trusting relationships with our internal colleagues and external partners.

Agile

Ensuring flexibility and responsiveness to respond to the evolving internationalisation agenda and external context.

About the International Relations Office

The office is split into two teams; the Partnership Team and the Mobility Team.

The Partnerships Team

The Partnerships team is responsible for managing our overseas strategic partnerships and academic networks and alliances in research and education. Providing expert advice for international higher education and research collaborations, they oversee agreements, coordinate the IRO Funding Schemes and support capacity-building through transnational education and research training.

The Mobility Team

The Mobility team co-ordinate and support international mobility activities, including the Erasmus+ programme, The Turing Scheme, short term overseas and exchange programmes. They provide information and guidance on applications for incoming and outgoing students and staff.

The Bristol & Bath Brussels Office

The B&BBO work as part of the International Relations team at Bath, and with other partners in the South West, to share insight on European and International activity and developments. It is the role of the office to raise the profile of the partners and region in Brussels, and to foster relationships with key networks and stakeholders.

Over the past year, the Brussels Office has hosted three University of Bath students as EU Affairs Interns who have worked on projects to share and collaborate with institutions and organisations across Europe. Ben Plumer, EU Affairs Intern from November 2020 to April 2021 described his experience in Brussels; This experience has been very varied:

"I have provided support for the Placements Department in researching new placement opportunities in Europe and clarifying the new placement rules after Brexit. We've also helped recruitment, raising awareness of funded PhD opportunities at Bath at European universities and looked at what the future of the European Universities Initiative could look like. I've a great time abroad, particularly during such a pivotal moment in the UK and EU's shared history."

The Brussels office have also recently been working with our Research and Innovation Services team to support research collaborations with European partners and navigate the new funding landscape for UK universities.

You can find more about the work of the Brussels Office at: www.bristolbathbrussels.eu

The Team

The International Relations Office has a diverse expertise and experience. With an excellent track record of relationship building both internally and externally and a focus on excellent customer service, the student experience is at the heart of everything we do.



Amy Riddle
International
Mobility Officer
Email: ar2137@bath.ac.uk



Tina Schilbach
International Partnerships
Manager (Research)
Email: ts994@bath.ac.uk



Tracey Stenson Jukes
International
Partnerships Manager
(Teaching and Learning)
Email: tdsj20@bath.ac.uk



Emma Milk
International
Projects Officer
Email: eld26@bath.ac.uk



Office Enquiries

Tel: +44 (0)1225 386832

International Relations Office

bath.international@bath.ac.uk

Zoe Everson
International Relations
Communications Assistant
Email: ze230@bath.ac.uk



Jessica Carwardine
International
Partnerships Officer
Email: jc3305@bath.ac.uk



Michele Terrett De Coll
International
Mobility Co-ordinator
(Partnerships). Email:
mobilityoffice@bath.ac.uk



Florencia Migone
International Mobility
Coordinator (Incoming)
Email: fmm62@bath.ac.uk



Rockhill Tembi Focho
International Mobility
Co-ordinator (Outgoing)
Email: erasmus@bath



Paul Davies

Head of the Bristol & Bath
Brussels Office. Email:
paul.davies@bristol.gov.uk

Find out more about the team here



We Are Collaborative

Sally Clift

Faculty of Engineering & Design

Focus: Computational Biomechanics, in particular the Finite Element method of understanding the response to load of bone and articular cartilage.

Sally has performed a variety of international admissions & recruitment and student support roles, and held the post of Associate Dean for Graduate Studies for the Faculty of Engineering & Design in 2014-17. Sally was appointed as ADI in 2021 and is responsible for the development and delivery of Faculty's international strategy.

Louise Brown

Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Focus: a child protection specialist focussing upon social innovation, scaling-up and the adaptation and implementation of interventions as they transfer between countries.

Louise works with international collaborators and has research partnerships with Stellenbosch University, Sun Yat-Sen University, University of Sao Paulo, Yonsei and Ohio State. She has also been a consultant for and sat on a number of international groups, boards and networks.





Appointing our Associate Deans International (ADI)

Over the past year, the International Relations Office has continued to work to support internationalisation across the University. The Office has collaborated with the faculties and the school to appoint Associate Deans International, who are responsible for overseeing the global activity within their area.

Stephen Ward

Faculty of Science

Focus: His research spans the field of intracellular signalling in leukocytes and epithelial cells.

Steve aims to use his international reputation and overseas networks to create and deliver the Faculty of Science's international strategy that will establish and grow a fully integrated global network of innovative and diverse research and educational activities that significantly raises the reputation of the Faculty and the University.



Peter Nuttall

School of Management

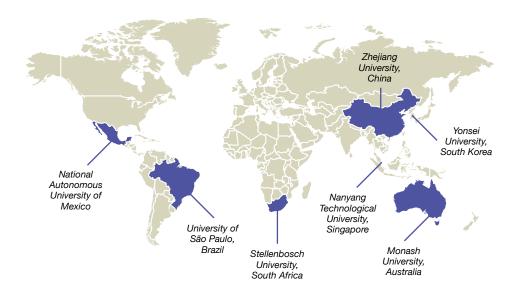
Focus: The practices and behaviour of young consumers and adolescent socialisation.

Pete was appointed Director of International Relations for the School in 2014, which involved the development of the School's international strategy, supporting and promoting collaboration to form partnerships for mobilities, research and student recruitment. This work has continued in his change of role to ADI.



Our Strategic Partners

Over the last year, the University has collaborated with seven strategic partners across the globe. These strategic partnerships allow us to collaborate, share and learn with some of the best academic institutions in the world through research, mobilities, teaching and sharing of best practice.



- National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
- University of Sao Paolo
- · Stellenbosch University
- Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
- · Zhejiang University
- · Yonsei University
- Monash University

Collaborating with our strategic partners

New doctoral training consortium launched with South African partners

Earlier this year, we celebrated the successful launch of a new doctoral training consortium to support doctoral provision for university staff in South Africa. The University Staff Doctoral Programme (USDP) supports ten PhD candidates at Stellenbosch University and the University of Fort Hare to undertake research training in the field of public policy and inclusive development and aims to build capacity for high-quality PhD training as South Africa is reviewing the standards for doctoral provision.



SAMBa (Statistical Applied Mathematics at Bath) partner with Strategic partner, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and the Centro de Investigación en Matemática (CIMAT)

SAMBa delivered the second UK-Mexico Integrative Think Tank with the theme of environmental resilience with UNAM and CIMAT. With external partners presenting challenges including classifying volcanic seismic signal, optimising water distribution and mapping forest fires. The event delivered lots of ideas and potential for future collaboration and the University is excited to see the impact take shape.



Read more about SAMBa



Collaborating with Networks



The Magalhaes Network

The University of Bath is one of 37 Universities to be part of the Magalhães Network which was formed in 2005 to increase academic exchange and collaboration between Europe and Latin American and the Caribbean member universities and faculties/schools of technology, engineering and architecture. The Magalhães Network offers added value to members universities, their students and staff providing effective tools for student exchange, systematic exchange of best practises for internationalization and a platform to build relations that can be used to develop joint projects between member universities.

The network meets for their general assembly annually and the regions (Europe and Latin America/Caribbean) take turns hosting. The University of Bath was due to host the assembly on campus in 2021 but due to the pandemic this will now be hosted virtually. Bath is looking forward to hosting in 2023 and welcoming our colleagues from the network.



The Town and Gown Network

We are proud to be part of Stellenbosch University's Town and Gown Network. The network was established by Stellenbosch University (SU) following an inaugural conference hosted in November 2018 by Professor Wim de Villliers, SU Rector and Vice-Chancellor, in Stellenbosch. It brings together SU's strategic partner institutions across the UK, Europe and North America, as well as in South Africa with the aim of providing an international platform to share experience and best practice in university engagement with local business and community.

The University of Bath and the International Relations Office are excited to be working with its strategic partner, SU, and other universities across the UK and internationally in order to better engage and collaborate with the local community. It is a fantastic opportunity to both share with and learn from universities globally and implement policies and practices based on the work of the network.

In Early 2021, we were delighted that Katrina Kelly, the University of Bath's Head of Community Engagement, presented to the Network on the work that the University had done in our local community.

Find our blog on our work with the Town and Gown network **here.**



We Are Enabling

Student Stories

Donatella Abba, a student from the University of Bath's Department of Chemistry, tells us about her experience of study abroad during a pandemic.

She travelled to Finland to study at the University of Helsinki on an Erasmus+funded placement.

"Moving to Finland on my own initially seemed slightly scary and daunting – add a global pandemic into the mix and I was looking at something slightly more anxiety inducing. All this considered I have to say - it has been the best decision of my life.

It is one thing to go abroad for a week on holiday - it is certainly a different experience to take the leap and know that this new place is what you will call home for the next year, you are forced to jump into the deep end of culture immersion (but in the best possible way). Even if it was difficult at first to imagine leaving my home, the friendships, and memories I have made here so far have made it a most rewarding decision. Whilst strange to meet your fellow peers in masks (and then accidentally walk right past them as you only saw half their face before!) this pandemic has surprisingly added a few positive aspects to my Erasmus+ experience.



Mainly the attitude I had when my exchange started; after being in lockdown for months in our home countries, my new friends and I approached this year with a certain mentality: to appreciate the good moments as much as we could and not take anything for granted.

Going on exchange makes it remarkably easy to meet likeminded individuals, you immediately have in common the interest in travel and experiencing new things. It also means that I not only learnt about Finnish culture but also about the culture of countries all over Europe, you are in the same boat as hundreds of other international students all taking part in this exchange together. I can honestly say I will be leaving Finland a completely different person to the one that arrived here – the confidence, independence, and cultural knowledge I have gained from this opportunity is unmatched by any other."

Our year in numbers

We are proud to have supported

680 outgoing mobilites

both in person and virtually

108
Exchanges

572Placements
(both UG & PGT)

488 in the EU 232 non-EU

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we welcomed

73 incoming students

in the 2020/21 academic year

Semester One Only

Semester Two Only

Full Academic Year

Student Stories

Emma Jensen describes her experience of travelling to Bath for a study abroad experience

Emma, a student from Copenhagen Business School, did a study exchange in our school of Management.

"Being an exchange student during the pandemic will obviously be different from going on exchange during normal circumstances. However, as I had never been on exchange previously, I tried not to focus on what I was missing due to Covid-19, but rather put focus on all of the things I was still able to experience.

Understandably, I would much rather have attended the lectures on campus than online. However, I still managed to spend time on campus due to IPT (in person teaching) and being able to book a study seat at the library. I found studying on campus or at the Virgil Building very beneficial, as it was hard to find motivation to study in my room.

For me, one of the most central elements of exchange was gaining new connections. This was a challenge due to the limited time on campus, the rule of 6 and the lockdown. Therefore, I was so glad to live in accommodation managed by the university, since my flat mates became my "bubble" and we consequently did everything together. We studied and went out and explored the city together. When we went into lockdown, we cooked together, had game nights and booked study rooms at the university to make the most of campus."



"I was so glad to live in accommodation managed by the university"



School of Management Student Wins People of Erasmus+ Award

Chloe Granger, a student on the BSc (hons) International Management and Modern Languages (French) course, has been awarded a **People of Erasmus+2020 award**. Chloe undertook an internship in Paris at luxury fashion and beauty brand Luis Vuitton.

The Erasmus+ programme has helped over 200,000 people in the UK since 2014, and in order to celebrate their community, the People of Erasmus+ competition is run each year. This year, there were 121 applications with a variety of Erasmus+ experiences and 10 stories were chosen as winners. Chloe described her time in Paris at Luis Vuitton as "the most insightful, informative and glamorous (most of the time!) experience" of her life.



Funding Schemes

Our international funding schemes provide University of Bath academics and academics from across the globe the financial support and opportunity to collaborate on research in a number of different fields.

For 2019 / 2020 the IRO made 41 awards as part of the IRO funding schemes:

- Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
- Research & Innovation Services department
- Faculty of Engineering & Design
- 8 Faculty of Science
- Institute for Policy Research

Funding Scheme Stories:

Women on the Verge (WOVNet)

One of the awards was given to Ana Dinerstein from the Department of Social and Policy Sciences. She describes the project she is part of and what the funding has allowed her and her colleagues to do.

Women on the Verge (WOVNet) are an international network of female scholaractivists-artists created in 2015, convened by Dr Ana Dinerstein. The group's aim is to bring to light pioneering women's innovative methods of knowledge sharing. research and theorising in the social sciences, arts, and humanities where there are gaps in previously published critical theory. Led mainly by women, the network focuses on finding alternative, innovative solutions to the problems of urban and rural territories across the world. WOVNet aims to open the channels of communication with leaders of social movements and community organisers, most of which are women, in order to support their development.

The IRO funding has allowed the network to develop and expand and has given opportunity to think about building capacity to work on empirically led theory and epistemologies, as well as exploring the best ways to disseminate knowledge to a wide-ranging audience. The continued funding will provide the opportunity to participate as a collective in the feminist section of the Degrowth Conference (The Hague, August 2021), to convene a two-day workshop to explore application for funding for a project on Women and the Social Sciences in the XXI Century), to plan a book series with alternative publishers and to devise a strategy to consolidate and disseminate our network activities.

Find more about Ana Dinerstein's project.









Research projects funded with The São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP)



foreign policy.



The joint call for São Paulo Researchers in International Collaboration (FAPESP SPRINT) builds on our successful partnerships in Latin America and the research connections that our academics have built with colleagues in Brazil. Through the scheme, researchers at Bath can apply for funding of up to £5000 per year, which is matched by FAPESP, for projects running up to two years. The projects funded in this call started in January 2020.

Read more about the FAPESP Sprint Project here



We Are Open

Global Chair Scheme

The Global Chair scheme funds distinguished, globally renowned scholars to engage in high-profile research activity at the University of Bath. The scheme supports strategic research collaborations, network development and links with international partners. During their time at Bath, Global Chairs are involved in a programme of activities that develops our international research networks or cultivates new practice-led partnerships.

Global Chairs are usually appointed for a period of 1 year. This year, however, due to limitations during Covid19 restrictions, we will continue to work with our 2020-21 Global Chairs into the 2021-22 academic year. Global chairs will also usually spend time on campus at Bath, and though they have not been able to travel to do this this year, we have adapted to host events and meetings online and hope to welcome each of them in the 2021-22 academic year.



Throughout this year, the Global Chairs have worked with their host academic at the University of Bath to put together events, networking opportunities and have planned for the coming year. Some of the activities include John Warner's Sustainability Webinar series, which spanned 6 sessions from October 2020 to April 2021 and Heike Solga's public lecture and panel discussion on the impact of Covid19 and the digital transformation of work on the German Apprenticeship System.

Health and Wellbeing

Our Global Chairs contribute to mental and physical health, including research on addiction and posttraumatic stress, injury rehabilitation and sports performance.

Sustainability

Our Global Chairs contribute to environmental sustainability, climate action and water security, with research on new materials and technologies, biodiversity, governance and policy.



The 2020-21 awards were given to four exceptional scholars from across the globe:

- Professor John Warner Professor of Green Chemistry
 at Monash University and Chief
 Technology Officer of the Warner
 Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry
- Professor Penny Jane Burke Global Innovation Chair of Equity and
 Director of the Centre of Excellence for
 Equity in Higher Education (CEEHE) at
 the University of Newcastle in Australia
- Professor Alberto Minetti -Professor of Physiology in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Milan
- Professor Heike Solga Director of the research unit 'Skill
 Formation and Labour Markets' at
 the prestigious WZB Berlin Social
 Science Center and Professor in
 Sociology at FU Berlin

Read more about all our global chairs



Launch of the Go Abroad Bursary Scheme

In February 2021, The International Relations Office launched the brandnew **Go Abroad Bursary Scheme.**The scheme offers a bursary enabling students who may ordinarily have barriers to studying abroad to attend a summer school at a partner university internationally.

The bursary was available to students who were already in receipt of our Bath Bursary, which supports students from widening participation backgrounds through university. These students were eligible to apply for summer schools from a number of institutions across the world, including but Stellenbosch University, University di Trento, and EM Strasbourg, Grenoble Alpes & INO and ICADE Comillas de Madrid. This allows students a grant of between £600 -£2000 to put towards a Summer School experience. We offered up to 16 bursaries to cover tuition, accommodation, and travel.

Due to Covid-19, many of the students are unable to attend in person in 2021, however some of the opportunities have been supported online and students are being given the opportunity to join virtually. We are looking forward to being able to provide this bursary for students in future years, and to support students from all backgrounds to pursue a study abroad experience.



Global Citizenship at Bath

At the University, we are always looking at how we can support, develop and improve our global community. We have recently been working with colleagues from a number of departments to discuss Global Citizenship as part of our University's employability strategy. This involved mapping current provision, a peer & partner analysis, identifying gaps and current limitations in context of travel.

One of these recommendations was Virtual Exchanges (COIL) to allow more students to benefit from international opportunities. The group organised an event with the Centre for Learning and Teaching with speakers from University of Léon and Stellenbosch University on how they have facilitated this at their institution, plus students who took part in virtual language exchanges last academic year.

University of Bath representatives take part in the Association of University Administrators' (AUA) first Virtual Study Tour

The University of Bath is delighted to have taken part in this year's AUA Study Tour.

This year's tour was focussed on the Sino-British partnerships in Transnational Education (TNE). Members of the AUA, including University of Bath staff Tracey Stenson Jukes and Jessica Carwardine, met with important members of the Chinese higher education system and representatives of UK Universities active in TNE. Tracey and Jessica outlined two key phases of discussions:

- A general discussion on Sino-British Transnational Education as a topic
- The discussion of specific partnerships between British universities and their Chinese counterparts, focusing on the formation of Joint Education Institutes.

These discussions gave the University of Bath members the opportunity to learn the key benefits of these Sino-British partnerships, as well as the challenges they have faced.







Read more about the study tour here



We Are Agile

The UK withdrawal agreement effect on International at Bath

Following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, we continue to collaborate with our European partners and develop strong relationships across Europe. Many of our mobility partners have extended our mutual agreements and we are excited to both welcome students and send our students to these European institutions. As well as this, we have worked closely with our colleagues in the Bristol and Bath Brussels Office and networks and alliances from across Europe to learn from and gain insight on the political and educational climate across the region.

Within the University, we are working hard to ensure that the students can access opportunities to study abroad. The University of Bath Students' Union (SU) are an essential part of the University community, and they have a representative on behalf of the students on the big issues that face them. Our SU, this year, recognised the shift that is about to happen with the end of the Erasmus+Scheme following the Withdrawal Agreement and the implementation of the government's new Turing Scheme.



Annie Willingham, incoming SU President 21/22, spoke about the work that the SU are doing to make the transition between these two schemes smoother:

"Over the last year, the SU identified the loss of Erasmus+ due to Brexit as huge risk factor for our student community. Both inbound and outbound exchange opportunities are a fundamental part of enriching our community. We welcome the upcoming Turing Scheme to allow for the continuation of international mobility for students, however, we believe that it is not a like-for-like replacement for the loss of Erasmus+."

We presented a policy proposal to the National Union of Students National Conference on International Mobility after the loss of Erasmus+ which was selected for priority ballot. The recommendations were for NUS to raise awareness around the deficits of the Turing scheme and highlight to students and the public that it does not equate fully to Erasmus+. On the 13th July 2021, Annie spoke at the Westminster Higher Education Forum on the implementation of the Turing Scheme and the next steps for international student exchange.

Our Response to Covid-19

The COVID-19 pandemic saw us adapt quickly to a new normal. Teams across our community came together to support each other during this challenging time.

A team from the Faculty of Engineering & Design collaborated with the Royal United Hospitals Bath (the RUH), using their expertise to make essential personal protective equipment (PPE), making over 100,000 items including face shields, medical gowns and Perspex shields to protect equipment and medicines.

When COVID19 swept the globe, our academics were quick to share both their knowledge and their resources with the world, helping to boost understanding of the pandemic and give meaningful shape to our fight against the coronavirus. Our experts featured in over 3,500 media stories during the first 90 days of lockdown.

For our students, we quickly moved teaching online and when students were allowed on campus we implemented the Bath Blend. This involved inviting students on campus for in person teaching for 4 hours a week, with the rest of their learning and exams hosted online. We are excited to have students back on campus for the 21/22 academic year, but there are a number of lessons that we have learnt from the Bath Blend that we will be continuing to implement and will shape the future of learning at Bath.

Find out more about our response to **Covid-19 here**

Our Mobility Response

When the pandemic hit and the UK locked down in March 2020, 528 University of Bath students were on study and work placements across the world. With our team suddenly working from home, we reached out to all students to continue supporting them through their travel home or continuation of their placement. We provided information on emergency contact details and signposted students to the University of Bath Hardship fund, which gave help to students who may have been financially affected. We exercised flexibility with deadlines on paperwork for their Erasmus+ documents, and reimbursed students who incurred additional expenses. We monitored, and continue to monitor, guidance from the National Agency, and worked across the University to ensure that students got all the information they needed.

In the summer of 2020, as restrictions in the UK and around the world began to ease, universities and work placements began to welcome exchange and placement students back. Though international travel was still more difficult, our Mobility Team worked hard to ensure that our students still had the opportunity to experience a global study or work placement, whether that be in person or virtually.

Learn more about our PPE production for our local NHS



Stay up to date with the International Relations Office

Our Newsletter

2020 saw the launch of our first International Partnership Newsletter. The newsletter is published quarterly and gives the latest news from the University and updates on the University's international activity.

Find our latest newsletter at: www.bath.ac.uk/services/internationalpartnership-newsletter

If you would like to sign up to receive these newsletters, email:_bath.international@bath.ac.uk



Our Blog

We love sharing the work that we are doing, whether that be international research and funding opportunities, new partnership agreements or student and staff stories! Our blogs give you an insight into what we are working on and any new or exciting updates from the team and the wider university.

To read our recent posts and subscribe to our blogs go to **blogs.bath.ac.uk/iro**





International Relations Office

University of Bath 10 West 4.02 Claverton Down Bath BA2 7AY United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)1225 386832

