Autumn Psychology Ball

Staff and students gathered in Keele Hall for the first ever Psychology Ball. The ball, organised by Dr Kaz Brandt, with the help of Mrs. Ann Ireson, included a drinks reception, four course meal and disco. A professional photographer was also present on the night, taking both formal and informal photos that can be accessed. Given the event's huge success, the Psychology Ball will now be an annual event and open to all members of the University.

What are these?
The MSc in Psychological Research Methods (General) is an ESRC-accredited course which began in 2005-6. The MSc in Applied Psychological Research, which is also accredited by the ESRC, runs for the first time in 2009-2010. For psychology graduates, these one-year full-time courses provide ESRC-approved research training and taught content in a range of specialist areas of psychology including cognitive psychology and neuroscience, social psychology and social development. The Applied version provides more focused training and research opportunities in one of three streams – Clinical & Health, Social & Community, Child Development. It also offers opportunities to develop research in collaboration with a variety of social and health agencies.

Why do an MSc?
It prepares students for a PhD in Psychology and other psychology-related careers. Doing an MSc can also give you an edge in the jobs market, can help you to maintain momentum by "keeping your hand-in" after gaining a first psychology degree and can provide an opportunity for those considering a career change. For Keele students it may be a way to continue working with a valued undergraduate dissertation supervisor and expanding your research interests and expertise. The Applied programme is particularly oriented to developing opportunities for working in a variety of social and health contexts.

Who can apply?
Anyone with a first Psychology degree (minimum 2ii level).

Where can I find out more?
Look up the "Post-graduate taught courses" link on the school web page, under "For Applicants" (www.keele.ac.uk/depts/ps/applicants/postgrad/index.htm)

Launch of new Peer e-Mentoring Scheme in the School of Psychology

October 2008 saw the launch of a new Peer e-mentoring Scheme in the School of Psychology. The aim is to provide every 1st year Psychology student with informal support and advice from a more experienced 2nd year Psychology student.

If you are a first year student, and would like to be a peer e-mentor next year, then please contact Claire Fox (c.fox@psy.keele.ac.uk). Interested students will be asked to complete an application form in February 2009, will then be called for ‘interview’ in March, with the training taking place in May. Completed application forms need to be submitted to Claire Fox by 2nd March 2009.

Benefits to you:
• Professional mentoring training
• Enhancement of your CV
• Improved leadership and interpersonal skills
• Knowledge of university support systems
• Utilisation of your own experiences
• A sense of ‘giving something back’
• The opportunity to meet other like-minded students
• Being part of a team
• Certificate of participation
New programmes in the School of Psychology

Dual Hons BSc in Applied Psychology Programme
The first intake to the new Applied Psychology will start in September 2009. This four programme will follow the same curriculum currently implemented in our dual honours Psychology programme, the one different being the introduction of an applied psychology placement year between years 2 and the final year (thereby making this a 4 year programme).

For more information, follow the link on WebCT and read the visit day leaflet
http://www.vle.keele.ac.uk/webct/cobaltMainFrame.dowebct

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology
Find out more about our doctorate in clinical psychology programme (shared with Staffordshire University). For more information, follow the link on WebCT:
http://www.vle.keele.ac.uk/webct/cobaltMainFrame.dowebct

Let us know your views on Diversity

This academic year a project has started to investigate how the BSc Psychology incorporates and responds to diversity and what further developments are needed, whereby diversity refers to the individual differences between people that can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, care-work responsibilities, religious or political beliefs. The student perspective is central in this project: we want to hear your experiences and views on diversity in the psychology curriculum.

In the first stage of the project, a survey is conducted amongst all BSc Psychology students. In the next stage, we will conduct focus groups to get a more detailed insight in good practices in psychology as well as areas for development. We would like to invite those of you that are interested, to take part in one of six focus groups to be carried out over the next month on the following dimensions of diversity: Gender, (Dis)ability / health, Ethnicity/ nationality / religion or world view, Age / care-work responsibilities, Sexual orientation, Socio-economic status.

These dimensions apply to everyone, for example everyone has an ethnicity and a gender. So anyone can participate in any (or several) of these focus groups and – also important – free lunch will be provided! Of course all information will be treated confidentially and not shared with others outside of the group. Shortly an email will be sent out with more information but you can already express your interest by sending an email to Gaby Jacobs:
g.c.jacobs@psy.keele.ac.uk.

Hello from the Psychology Society! We hope that everyone had a good Christmas and New Year and that exams went ok for everyone. As a new society we look forward to hearing ideas and comments from students. Our facebook site is: http://www.facebook.com/ posted.php?id=24128656469#/group.php?gid=24128656469 or search for Keele University Psychology Society in groups. Currently we are looking at holding a debate with the Critical Legal Society on mental health and the Law and also organising some events for this semester including: film and curry nights, guest speakers, more debates (with free wine!) and possibly organising a trip to Alton Towers. We hope that you’ll be able to support us and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these events! All the best from the Psychology Society.

The National Student Survey will be available for Keele students from February 9th for 8-10 weeks. Please take the time to complete the survey and remember that all of your responses will be anonymous and confidential.