

DMU World

Autumn 2014



Joining the Circus! DMU, the Pythons and their final portrait



Building the future Our £136m campus transformation begins



A perfect pair Shoe king Choo praises DMU talent



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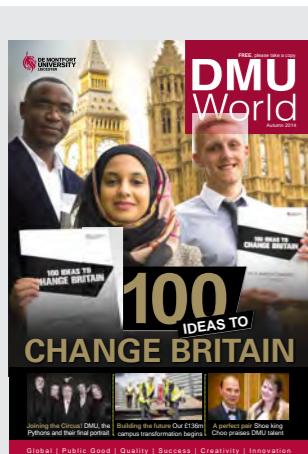
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Download our free app 'View DMU' on your device – compatible with iPad, iPhone and most Android devices via the App Store or Google Play

Our app uses the latest Aurasma technology; still images can now become videos when viewed through your smart phone or tablet.

Look for the trigger graphics throughout this magazine; load the app and point your device at the graphic. Once the video has loaded, tap the screen twice – you'll then be able to move your phone away from the trigger to watch the video. If you don't have a smart phone our videos are also available on the DMU Leicester YouTube channel. Watch through the app and see a new dimension to your magazine!

Richard III's lost realm rebuilt digitally by DMU

DMU's acclaimed Digital Building Heritage Group (DBHG) has digitally reconstructed Richard III's lost tomb and Grey Friars Church, the Franciscan medieval friary where his body lay after defeat at the Battle of Bosworth.

The group created a CGI animation, which is shown on a big screen at the Richard III Visitor Centre, seen below. It includes a digital reconstruction of Grey Friars Church, where Richard was buried

and his remains discovered, and the now-lost original tomb, which marked the grave.

The team is renowned for its work to record, visualise and interpret historic buildings and artefacts. They have worked with a range of organisations on projects around the country and their

research has been recognised as of international importance.

Dr Doug Cawthorne, director of the group, said: "Excavations of Grey Friars have revealed some of the foundations and buried



For details on using our Aurasma app, see page 6.

fragments of masonry, glass, tile and other material. From these and the much more extensive remains of other Franciscan Priories in England it's possible to speculate on what Grey Friars Church in Leicester looked like.

"This was not a small church, it would have towered over the contemporary medieval buildings. There is much more to discover and it's a fascinating architectural piece in the historical mosaic of an important part of English history."

The new King Richard III Visitor Centre is five minutes' walk from

DMU and just 100 steps away from Leicester Cathedral where King Richard III will be reburied in spring 2015.

Steffan Davies, research assistant at the DBHG, said: "It's exciting to be able to tell such an important story for Leicester and British history. It has been one of the most challenging projects we have worked on."

The DMU team has worked closely with Richard Buckley, director of University of Leicester Archaeology Services on the designs.

And now for something completely final

Comedy legends Monty Python were captured on camera by DMU graduate Andy Gotts as they prepared for their last-ever performances together during a 10-date sell-out run at London's O2 Arena.

Andy, who has received an honorary doctorate from DMU and was made an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, took the photos on the eve of the shows. The Pythons said these would be their last ever on stage.

The images capture John Cleese, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin and Terry Gilliam at their most relaxed - and silliest.

Another picture included a fitting tribute to fellow member Graham Chapman, who died in 1989, in the form of a blank contact sheet with

2007 and was made an honorary doctor at DMU in 2013, has taken pictures of some of the world's greatest film stars including Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, the late Lauren Bacall, Gwyneth Paltrow and Nicole Kidman.

He has also captured images of singing superstars such as Jessie J, Michael Blubé, Chris Martin from Coldplay, Dionne Warwick, Sting and Phil Collins and heavy metal legends such as Lemmy from Motorhead and Ozzy Osbourne.





Dr Jonathan Choi (centre)
and his guests at the
ground-breaking event.

Building the future

A friendship formed a decade ago is the foundation of our £136 million transformation

DMU opened a new chapter in its history with a ground-breaking ceremony marking

the start of a massive £136 million campus redevelopment, including an innovative creative and cultural centre which will hugely advance relations between China and the UK.

The ceremony was performed by DMU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard and Sunwah Foundation Chairman Dr Jonathan Choi, who had travelled from Hong Kong to take part in the ceremony.

Dr Choi's foundation, the charitable arm of his global business conglomerate Sunwah Group,

made a donation used to create the Jonathan KS Choi Creative and Cultural Centre within the campus redevelopment.

The new development, to be the centrepiece of the campus, will also house state-of-the-art homes for the world-renowned departments of Fashion and Textiles, Design, Art and Architecture.

The creative and cultural centre will provide a space for students and staff to study and research, and stimulate and nurture creativity. The centre will also contain the DMU Confucius Institute, which will promote Chinese language and culture.

Dr Choi said: "This represents the strengthening of links between my native country and Great Britain, and in particular this great and creative university, with hundreds of students spending time at DMU and in China.

"These links symbolise a trend that I have been advocating for years: that countries should come close together and, in doing so, arrive at a better understanding of their respective strengths and aspirations.

"The key to all of this is education and exchange, which is why I view

this ceremony as being truly groundbreaking in both senses of the term. We are laying the foundations for yet another bridge, yet another plank in the pathway towards the greater understanding between citizens of the world and closer, more comprehensive coexistence."

Professor Shellard said: "When I first came here four years ago, it became clear we needed to invest in our infrastructure.

"We need to be able to offer our students the very finest, cutting-edge facilities so those who come to DMU are ready for the world of work



Dr Choi on site



Dr Choi and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard symbolically begin the £136 million campus transformation.

View our fantastic £136 million campus change video here... [View video](#)

For details on using our Aurasma app, see page 6.



Satisfied students
put us in top rank

£136 million campus transformation now under way, #DMUglobal offering international opportunities and our innovative programmes to help graduates find jobs, we are continuing our relentless focus on improving quality across the board at DMU."

Students were asked to rate their university in 21 areas including social life, community atmosphere, accommodation, security and tuition.

The top scores for DMU were for its centralised facilities and campus, as well as the quality of the library and its opening hours.

DMU is one of just a handful of city centre campuses in the country. All DMU student accommodation is a five-minute walk away and the city centre is on the doorstep too.

The Kimberlin Library is open 24 hours a day to students throughout the exam period and there is a Law Library. There are also dedicated

study spaces in Eric Wood building and The Greenhouse.

Students also praised high-quality staff, well-structured courses and the university's close industry links which offer the chance of placements with global companies such as IBM, John Lewis and Disney.

Sports facilities were also highly rated. DMU's £8 million QELL Leisure Centre provides students, staff and members of the public with state-of-the-start facilities.

Other high-scoring areas included ratings for the quality of the student union, good personal relationships with teaching staff and whether students would recommend the university to friends.

More than 14,000 undergraduates took part in the survey conducted by YouthSight and their views were gathered between October 2012 and June 2013.



Accommodation was praised

Andrew does it by the book

Passion for reading honoured by The Queen

A DMU colleague's passion for transforming people's lives through reading saw him honoured by the Queen.

Andrew Jennison, a Post and Porterage Officer at DMU, was handed the British Empire Medal for running the Reading Agency's Six Book Challenge on campus since 2011.

He has encouraged more than 500 members of staff to pledge to pick six reads, record their observations in a diary and earn a certificate at the end of it. Among his proudest achievements is helping a member of the DMU cleaning staff with dyslexia, changing her life.

Andrew said: "When I received the letter from the Cabinet Office I was extremely surprised. I just couldn't believe it. I sat looking at it for at least 10 minutes. I feel so proud and very honoured."

"When I started the Six Book Challenge, I said if I helped one person to read it has been a success."

"I can now say we have made a difference to several people's lives

not only at work but also at home. To have a person come up to me and say 'Thanks - now I can read to my granddaughter' says it all.

"Reading is very enjoyable. I hope I have helped people get into the habit of reading and, hopefully, we can cultivate a passion here at DMU for picking up and enjoying a book."

"Helping people with their education gives them the ability to change their lives and open doors of opportunity."

Professor Dominic Shellard, Vice-Chancellor of DMU and a Professor of English, takes part in the Six Book Challenge each year.

He said: "Andrew is one of the most selfless, generous and enthusiastic people I have ever had the privilege to meet. He always goes the extra mile and never fails to cheer you up.

"He has dedicated an incredible

amount of his spare time to promoting reading among staff at DMU and we have seen first-hand how his efforts have inspired so many people and had a positive impact on their lives. Staff and students at DMU could not be more proud that he has been recognised in this way."

Taking advantage of his role in Post and Porterage, which involves delivering and collecting items from around the campus, Andrew was able to speak to staff across the institution and encourage them to take part.

In 2014, 173 staff and a further 37 children and grandchildren of staff members completed the challenge, earning the university a gold award. DMU is now listed as one of the top five workplaces in the country for Six Book Challenge.

Andrew was pivotal in setting up a Quick Read Library, which gives staff access to new books for free, after encouraging the HR Training and Development team at DMU to buy 400 books during the last four years.

Every faculty building in the university now has a Book Swap library for people to borrow books from and Andrew has helped organise Book Swap stalls around the campus.

The university has also invited schools and colleges to talks by authors and to take part in reading sessions.

Remembering our homework

It's been a remarkable year for DMU Square Mile's innovative Homework Club, which offers schoolchildren in Leicester the chance to be mentored by DMU students.

More than 1,000 Leicester pupils received a boost to their academic and social skills thanks to 200 DMU undergraduates who gave their time to help them.

Janvi Pala, BA (Hons) Education Studies student and Homework Club volunteer, said: "Many of the pupils who come into secondary school struggle with their reading and just need that extra support to increase their confidence."

"Paired reading is a programme where mentors work with pupils, on a one-to-one basis, to help improve their reading skills. Through this experience, I have gained many valuable skills, including organisation, leadership, and the ability to communicate effectively."

Homework Club, part of DMU's Square Mile programme to connect the community with the university, believes DMU students are the best ambassadors to inspire children in hard-to-reach areas. Janvi won the Inspirational Student title at this year's DMU Square Mile awards.



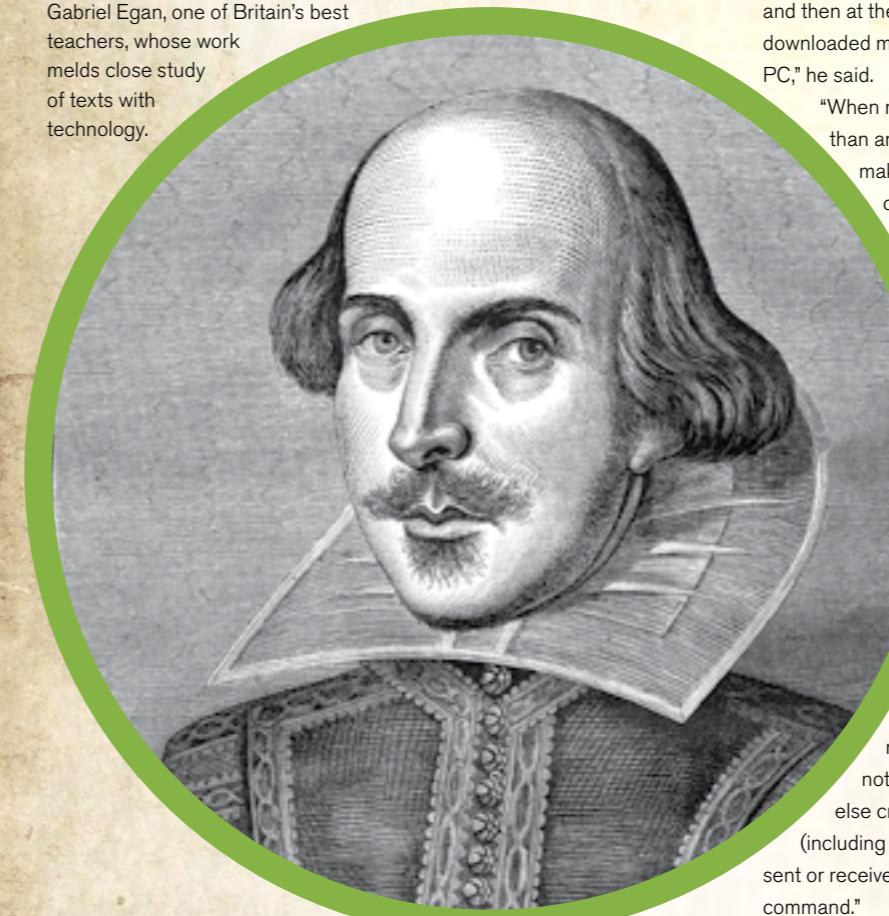
Andrew Jennison's inspirational efforts have been honoured.

LITERATURE



© iStock / shutterstock

Shakespeare is an inspiration to Professor Gabriel Egan, one of Britain's best teachers, whose work melds close study of texts with technology.



'Destroy all the filing cabinets!'

DMU paper-free pioneer joins the teaching elite

DMU's 'paperless professor' has been named one of Britain's best teachers.

Professor of Shakespeare Studies, Gabriel Egan, is one of 55 higher education staff to be awarded National Teaching Fellowships by the Higher Education Academy in recognition of excellence in teaching and learning.

DMU has now had 18 National Teaching Fellows since the initiative was launched - one of the highest numbers in higher education.

Prof Egan has been entirely paperless since he was a student and now produces electronic learning materials for his students and scans copies of Shakespeare's folios for his research.

He said: "Shakespeare, as usual,

said it best: 'Thou hast most traitorously corrupted the youth of the realm ... thou hast built a paper-mill'" (Shakespeare Henry 6 Part Two V.ii.30-35).

"He might easily have been talking about how universities are drowning in paper. To adapt another famous line from that play, 'The first thing we do let's destroy all the filing cabinets!'

Prof Egan has been paperless since he started his undergraduate English degree in 1990.

"Rather than taking notes on paper in lectures, I keyed them into one of Clive Sinclair's less-successful devices, a Z88 portable

computer (pictured bottom right), and then at the end of each day I downloaded my notes to a desktop PC," he said.

"When reading books, rather than annotate them to make my notes, I would create notes files on my PC. The point of all this was to be able to find the notes again by searching all the files.

"I have worked this way ever since and never kept my notes on paper, never used a filing cabinet. I can still search all my undergraduate notes and everything else created ever since (including all my emails ever sent or received) with a simple command."

He has scanned all his books, journal articles and course copies.

"Now, wherever I am, I have with me 3,000 books, 5,000 journal articles, and every word I've ever read or written, with me on my laptop. Geography makes no difference: I'm as well (or as little) able to answer any question when I'm in my office as when I'm on an aeroplane."

Prof Egan, director of the Centre for Textual Studies in DMU's School of Humanities, has built computer models of the theatre for which Shakespeare wrote, the 1599 Globe.

He has also made available a large collection of digital materials including an interactive map of early modern London, a smartphone app and an hour of documentary film,

Rather than taking notes on paper in lectures, I keyed them into one of Clive Sinclair's less-successful devices, a Z88 portable computer, and then at the end of each day I downloaded my notes to a desktop PC

collectively called Shakespearean London Theatres.

When training research students to become academics, he introduces them to advanced techniques for creating and curating one's own large digital databases of teaching and research materials, and in teaching undergraduates he uses open source and open access principles to show just how English Studies can be transformed by the new technologies for storing, analysing, and disseminating writing.

The successful National Teaching Fellows were chosen from more than 180 nominations submitted by higher education institutions across England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Each will receive an award of £10,000 to support their professional development.

Professor Stephanie Marshall, Chief Executive of the HEA, said: "Our students deserve the best possible learning experience. I congratulate all the successful Fellows and wish them every success in their own learning and teaching experiences."

Successful nominees were nominated by their institutions and had to show evidence of three criteria: individual excellence, raising the profile of excellence and developing excellence.



De Montfort University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard, student Hazra Debar, Liz Kendall MP, The Lord Paddick, student Michael Fajobi, student Jamie Osowski, Priti Patel MP and DMU Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor David Wilson at the Palace of Westminster.



See
pages 14-15
for the
100 Ideas



Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, with Professor Shellard and DMU Chancellor The Lord Alli. Mr Bercow praised the work that went into 100 Ideas to Change Britain.

Voices for change

DMU takes its vision of a better Britain to the centre of power

MPs and peers met with DMU students at the Houses of Parliament and pledged to see how the university's pioneering policy document, 100 Ideas to Change Britain, might influence manifestos at the next General Election.

The students, backed by academics from the university's Department of Politics and Public Policy, spent six months coming up with the ideas that they want

political parties to adopt. In a first for any UK university, students took their policy document to a reception at the House of Lords and handed it to highly influential members of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour parties.

Former Metropolitan Police chief The Lord Paddick, of the Liberal Democrats, Priti Patel MP, Exchequer secretary for tax policy and Liz Kendall MP, Shadow Minister for Care and Older

People, were presented with the documents by students outside Parliament.

All three welcomed the document at the unprecedented event and promised to take it back to their colleagues to discuss and see which policies they could adopt.

Ms Kendall also pledged to discuss the document in Parliament.

She said: "Politics should be about what people care about and

the DMU students have shown that young people are passionate about improving their lives and the world around them.

"This is a model for how we should do politics in the future, starting with what people want and making politicians listen to them.

"I want to discuss this in Parliament, with ministers and in Leicester with all the relevant businesses and public services, because ultimately politics is about making things change on the ground and this is something I am determined to see happen."

Ms Patel said: "Ideas help to

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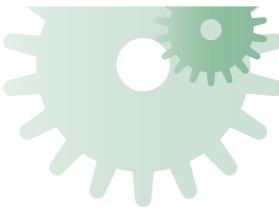
Film praised from across political spectrum

DMU students and academics have released a film about the pioneering policy document 100 Ideas to Change Britain.

The film made its premiere in the House of Lords, winning praise from MPs ranged across the political spectrum.

Speaker of the House John Bercow praised the students for their efforts at a "really great institution" where "youth and dynamism are on display".

The film was created in just two days with the help of staff and students and was met with applause in the House of Lords committee room once it had been shown.



Young people & employment

- 1** Define clearly the role and expectations of employers in relation to the initial education and training of young people.
- 2** Double current levels of public investment in schemes to encourage employers to take on and train the young unemployed.
- 3** A two-week period of work experience per year should be compulsory for every young person in education from ages 10-18.
- 4** Move towards a governance model for apprenticeships based on partnership between employers, trade unions and the education profession.
- 5** Apprenticeship restricted to young people aged 16-24.
- 6** The requirement for 30% of training to take place 'off the job' should be reinstated.
- 7** Apprenticeships should last a minimum of two years.
- 8** Schools should run an alumni programme, where former students who are undertaking apprenticeships visit current students to share their views.
- 9** Government should increase levels of subsidy to help SMEs take on apprentices.
- 10** Embed a strong core of general education in all vocational programmes, including



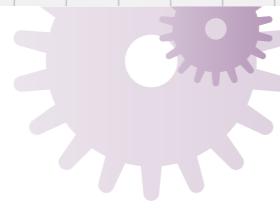
Future of our urban spaces & cities

- 1** Open up the energy market through the decentralisation and re-municipalisation of energy provision.
- 2** Support local food production and community gardens.
- 3** Develop vehicle-free zones and turn our streets into social and community spaces.
- 4** Increase public investment in the infrastructure necessary to de-carbonise transport.
- 5** Counter urban sprawl and the 'escape to the country' by building on brownfield sites.
- 6** Introduce a help-to-buy-a-plot scheme and support intelligent design flat-pack passive housing.
- 7** Implement conditional tax incentives for developers.
- 8** Support the retro-fitting of homes for renewable energy.
- 9** Offer new fiscal incentives to promote intelligent homes.
- 10** Reinvigorate the rationale for neighbourhood social welfare programmes.
- 11** A Speakers' corner in every city.
- 12** Communities and schools should adopt public squares.
- 13** Declare an annual national festival of music.
- 14** Experiments in DIY participation, creating 'virtual public spaces'.
- 15** Revitalise city centres by supporting community currencies.
- 16** Reinvigorate regional policy and planning in the UK.
- 17** Random allocation for school places.
- 18** Government should pump-prime the development of credit unions.
- 19** Use empty public buildings as 'meanwhile spaces' for local community businesses and activities.
- 20** Tackle public health inequalities by using design to promote active transport and active living.



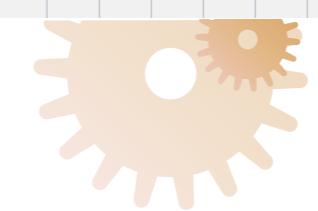
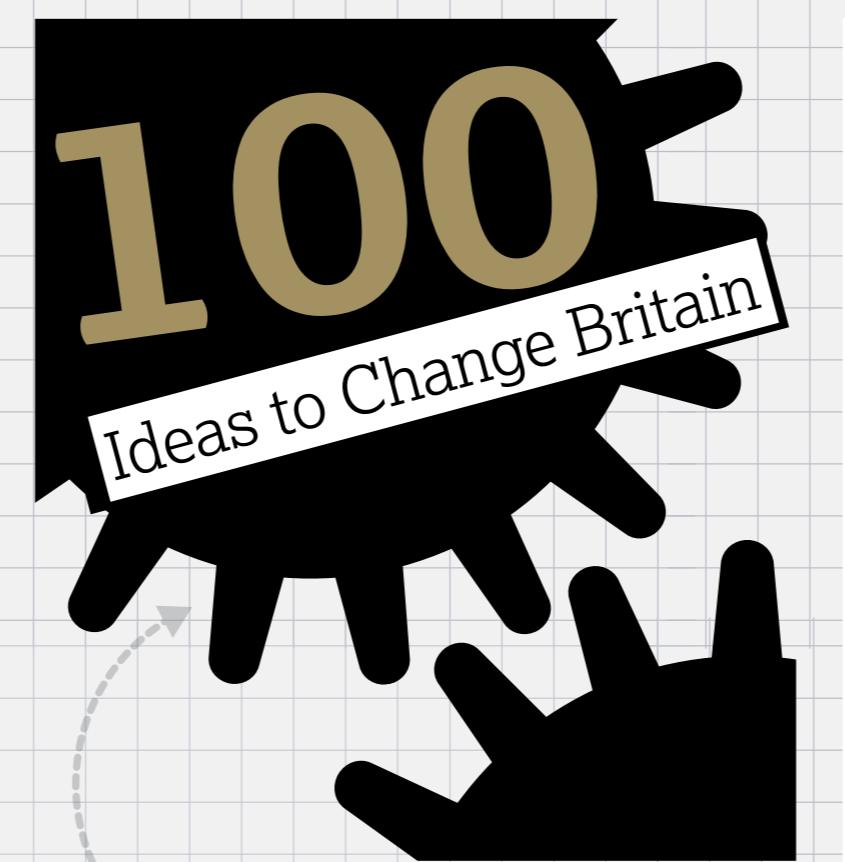
Migration & communities

- 1** Establish a National Migration Council.
- 2** Enhance the role of the Migration Advisory Committee so that it is akin to the Office of Budget Responsibility in importance.
- 3** Remove student migration figures from net migration figures into the UK.
- 4** Stress the importance of student migration to the health of the UK
- 5** Set clear policies in relation to economic migration and asylum.
- 6** The three main political parties should establish a set of policy proposals that they can agree on relating to Britain's position in the EU.
- 7** Increase the power of national parliaments in the European Union.
- 8** Develop a clear identity of Britishness through the teaching in schools of Britain's contribution to the development of global trade.
- 9** Create a National Commission on Britishness.
- 10** Embrace cultural diversity by establishing a national immigrants day.
- 11** Provide local authorities with the powers to set policies on migration.
- 12** Fund economic studies of communities to investigate variations in experiences of migration.
- 13** Provide tax breaks for employers to support up to one week of local volunteering by their employees.
- 14** Set up community partnership boards to enhance cohesion.
- 15** Increase public funding for community engagement with young people and establish mentoring schemes for socially disadvantaged citizens.
- 16** Establish a 'freedom to work visa' to ensure that movement of peoples across EU countries is linked to employment.
- 17** Launch major 'Educational Areas' initiative in communities with low levels of educational attainment.
- 18** Establish a common database for skilled workers across the EU.
- 19** Undertake an economic study on the costs of 'non-migration', comprising academics, policy-makers, and to be chaired by a former government cabinet minister.
- 20** Abolish zero-hours contracts which often exploit migrant labour and increase the fine for employing illegal workers from £20,000 per person to £50,000 per person.



Citizenship & political participation

- freely available for all adult learners.
- 12** Give citizens the right to raise petitions to have any issue become the subject of a binding local or national referendum.
- 13** Local government to be given greater constitutional protection.
- 14** Local government to have a free tax regime.
- 15** The localisation of the proceeds of taxes, such as car tax.
- 16** Central government to have no control over the boundaries of councils, which are to be set by councils themselves after a binding local referendum.
- 17** Councils, individually and collectively, to have a right to appeal to an independent adjudication tribunal if a bill introduced by central government is felt to adversely affect the roles of councils and councillors.
- 18** Councils to be free to choose their own electoral system.
- 19** Entire councils to be subject to recall petitions and elections by citizens.
- 20** All identifiable towns, villages and urban settlements to have democratically-elected parish or town councils.



Welfare reform & communities

- 1** The government must facilitate a significant increase in housing supply, i.e. 250,000 homes each year.
- 2** There must be an increased supply of homes of all tenures, not just for owner-occupation.
- 3** The government should promote alternative development models such as self-building, custom-building and community land trusts.
- 4** The focus on bringing empty properties back into use must be maintained.
- 5** Homes need to be smarter and adaptable in order to continue to meet changing population needs.
- 6** Introduce policies that enable small-scale and local-level development by a variety of providers, like pension funds and philanthropists.
- 7** Create a housing innovation fund and a housing investment fund that both the social housing sector and community groups can access.
- 8** Facilitate a housing pension fund that invests in housing development rather than unethical payday lending.
- 9** Enable local authorities to become developers.
- 10** Reform housing tax policies so that 'buy-to-leave' owners are taxed more highly.
- 11** The government should meet its own 'something for something' agenda by putting more support (non-financial) into the welfare system to ensure a true safety net.
- 12** Focus on job creation, for example by using the welfare budget more wisely to create employment opportunities.
- 13** Legislate for the living wage and the living rent.
- 14** Give tenants their voice back by expanding the scrutiny panel model.
- 15** Modernise the support in the welfare system.
- 16** The government should create housing champions in Parliament to promote the role and great work of housing.
- 17** The government must make housing a ministerial and cabinet post again.
- 18** Ensure housing has a statutory seat at the table with health.
- 19** Set the social housing sector a challenge to work in wider partnerships.
- 20** Enable time banking to become a mainstream idea, so that communities can use it to source library volunteers, maintain public spaces and repair village halls in exchange for free hire.

Continued from page 12

Ideas impress influential supporter

shape countries and manifestos. They can help shape the future of our country and this document could be a good contribution towards that."

Lord Paddick added: "Not surprisingly, the students have come up with a lot of ideas which we are talking about at present for our manifesto. But there are also some really, really good ideas that we have not thought about. I will be taking them back to the party and making sure they are considered."

Student Michael Fajobi, who lobbied The Lord Paddick, said: "He had done his research. He was very welcoming and listened to what I had to say and he will definitely take our ideas to his fellow Lords.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime event for me, presenting a policy document to a Lord outside the Houses of Parliament. What an experience."

Hazra Debar, who lobbied Liz Kendall MP, said: "I am so pleased I was able to speak to Ms Kendall. She showed such positivity and her views reflected many of the views of the policy commission.

"She was very supportive and said she would like to present the document to her fellow shadow ministers, which is exactly what we want."

Hazra also took the opportunity to present the document to Mark Spencer, Conservative MP for Sherwood, and Labour's Shadow Business Secretary Toby Perkins, when all three appeared on BBC's Sunday Politics show.

Jamie Osowski, who presented the document to Priti Patel MP in Westminster, said: "This was an excellent opportunity to meet with people in positions of power.

"It was great to see Ms Patel was so interested in the document. Promising to pass it on, especially in her position, was great news.

She was very enthusiastic and genuinely interested in what I had to say."

The man who heads up the government department responsible for UK economic growth has asked his staff to look further into the policy ideas drawn up by DMU students.



"The enthusiasm of the students and the supporting professors and visiting speakers produced some very creative suggestions. It is good to see students so engaged and empowered.

"The Young People and Employment theme's conclusions were particularly interesting. I was impressed that your students had chosen to focus so much on further education policy.

"I will pass on their suggestions around apprenticeships and further training to the attention of the Apprenticeships team."

The Policy Commission idea was formed by Professor Shellard, dismayed by claims that young people were disinterested in politics, and was inspired by a discussion with DMU Chancellor The Lord Alli about the need to reinvigorate the policy-making process in the UK.

To Change Britain document, as they know their ideas are being considered right at the heart of Whitehall.

In a letter to DMU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard, Mr Donnelly said: "Thank you for bringing the 100 Ideas to Change Britain report to my attention. I enjoyed reading it.

Mr Donnelly's backing is a huge confidence boost to the students who worked on the 100 Ideas

During the reception in the House of Lords, hosted by DMU Chancellor The Lord Alli, Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow and MP Jon Ashworth also had words of encouragement for the students and their document.

The Policy Commission idea was formed by DMU's Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard, who said he was frustrated by claims that young people were disinterested in politics, and inspired by a discussion with DMU Chancellor The Lord Alli about the need to reinvigorate the policy-making process in the UK.

Professor Shellard said: "The policies that the commission has created are so wide-ranging and so full of common sense that this document destroys the lazy myth that students and young people are simply not engaged in politics.

"This is a strong example of working in partnership to bring the best ideas forward and there are some suggestions and issues that these students feel strongly about.

Liz Kendall with Hazra Debar



'How we should do politics in the future'

"I am worried about the lack of engagement in politics but that is not the public's fault. It is the politicians' fault.

"Politics should be about what people care about and the DMU students have shown that young people are passionate about improving their lives and the world around them.

Liz Kendall MP

"This is a model for how we should do politics in the future, starting with what people want and making politicians listen.

"I want to discuss this in Parliament. I want to discuss this with ministers and in Leicester with all the relevant businesses and public services because ultimately politics is about making things change on the ground and that is what I am determined to do."

Liz Kendall MP



'They can help shape the future'

I commend the initiative and it deserves to be supported.

"This document is of interest to me and I will go through it and see if there are practical ideas and suggestions to go forward.

"At the end of the day the point of being on a policy board is to bring forward ideas. Ideas help to shape countries and manifestos. They can help shape the future of our country and this document could be a good contribution towards that."

Priti Patel MP

"100 Ideas to Change Britain is a great initiative and has come about in a very similar way to the Lib Dems policy-making process – ordinary members coming up with policy ideas which are then debated and adopted by the party.

'Good ideas that we have not thought about'

"Not surprisingly, the students have come up with a lot of ideas which we are talking about at present for our manifesto but there

are also some really, really good ideas that we have not thought about.

"I will be taking them back to the party and making sure they are considered."

The Lord Paddick



If I were Prime Minister

Jamie Osowski

are aware of this the better.

"Politics should be offered as a subject from secondary school and maybe even be made compulsory. I can honestly say if I had not studied politics at A-level I would not have made nearly as much of an informed decision as I am able to do now after nearly four to five years of studying the subject.

"There also needs to be a wider change in the public perception of politics. I think education is a key factor in this change. There should be advertisements that show real examples of community good that have been brought about by simple political action/mobilisation and community coordination.

"We also need to move away from the typical image of politicians and politics as being an overcomplicated, self-serving and sometimes deliberately deceiving business. Only education can effectively overcome this. Schemes like the National Citizen Service are a good idea and a start, but these should be expanded."



Gaining an advantage when the goal is a job

Dozens more graduates from DMU gained essential work experience and boosted their job prospects by taking part in the pioneering

Graduate Champions scheme. DMU Graduate Champions offers our recent graduates the chance to take up a six-week long intensive work placement to enhance their CVs and help them

stand out from the crowd in a competitive jobs market.

Each graduate is contracted and paid by DMU to complete 18.5 hours a week of graduate-level work over the six-week period, and the university pays the Living Wage of £7.65 per hour.

The scheme was launched last year and hundreds of graduates have already signed up to work for major businesses across the UK, with many securing permanent jobs as a result. All have been able to build their confidence by applying their skills in the workplace.

The latest round of DMU Graduate Champions has garnered

praise from graduates and their employers, who say the innovative internship programme is a brilliant way to benefit both parties, offering hands-on experience for



the graduates and the chance for employers to tap into a wealth of fresh knowledge and ideas.

Amy Turner, pictured left, graduated in International

“

I would recommend Graduate Champions to everyone. If the opportunity comes your way then grab it.

Amy Turner

”

Marketing and Business and worked as a marketing intern at Leicester Tigers, the UK's biggest rugby club and one of DMU's many big-name partners.

Amy said: "It is just so hard these days to walk into a graduate training scheme because it is so competitive and to be given the opportunity to work as a marketing intern at one of

the most famous brands in rugby is just incredible. To be able to put that on my CV is amazing."

Jacob Landers has a joint honours degree in English Language and Journalism and worked as a journalist associate at Sporting Edge, one of the UK's leading providers of training for business, sport and education.

Jacob said: "The hardest thing about getting into an industry is getting your foot in the door and DMU Graduate Champions is helping us do that. I would definitely recommend the scheme to everyone else. It is so important to get good work experience."



DMU's continuing focus on employability **really works**

Job survey puts us in the top 50 universities

DMU is in the top 50 UK universities with the best employment rates.

DMU was ranked 46th in a list of 151 in the annual Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) table, which ranks every HE institution in the country.

Some 93.8% of DMU graduates were in work within six months of leaving, compared to the national average of 92.1%.

DMU was also named the 14th best performing university after its employability rate beat the figure it was predicted to achieve by HESA, the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

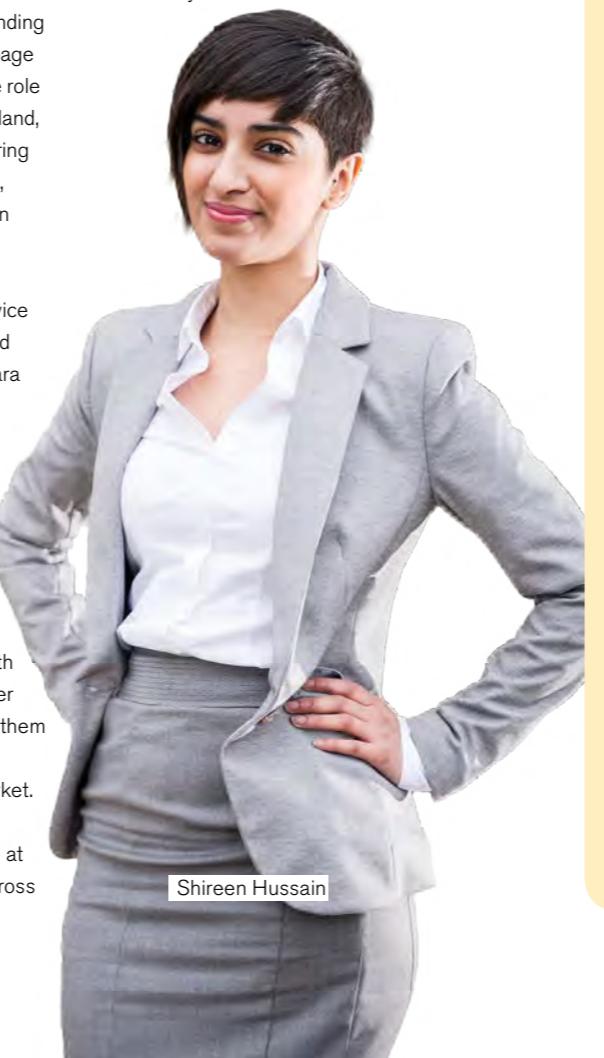
DMU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard said: "DMU is committed to improving the employability prospects of our students. "We have links with global companies which offer placement opportunities, our industry-standard courses fully prepare students for work and we actively support our graduates to find work through innovative programmes such as Graduate Plus and Graduate Champions. From September 2014 #DMUglobal will be fully up and running to deliver on our intention to send 11,000 of our students overseas in the next five years, further evidence of our ongoing commitment to the employability of our students."

DMU rose 82 places in the national poll compared to last year's DLHE survey. DMU has a number of initiatives in place to ensure that students and graduates get the best

possible start on the career ladder. Our success stories include a graduate who won an Oscar for his work on Disney's Frozen, see panel right; a Graduate Champion landing a job with Leicester City, see page 26; Shireen Hussain's full-time role with Compass Group UK & Ireland, the UK's largest contract catering and support services business, following a Graduate Champion placement; Computer Science graduate Priyanka Balcrisna's role with property support service Styles and Wood Group plc and Media Production graduate Cara Haywood's work on the BBC's new hit series The Village, see page 43.

DMU Graduate Champions offers recent graduates from the university the chance to take up paid, month-long intensive work placements with leading UK businesses in order to enhance their CV and help them stand out from the crowd in a furiously competitive jobs market.

So far, more than 260 internships have been offered at more than 200 companies across England.



Priyanka Balcrisna

Real-world skills build career in fantasy land

ADMU graduate helped create the incredible special effects that made Walt Disney's Frozen the highest-grossing animation film ever.

Ben Frost, who graduated in Multimedia Design at DMU, has been with Disney for more than a year, helping to create the FX magic in its movies.

His CV includes the likes of Gravity, Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows and Avatar and he is now based in California with his wife and son. Ben, 31, was inspired to study at DMU after seeing Lord of the Rings in 2001.

After completing a foundation course he then went on to do multimedia design where he learned computer graphics, graphic design and game design. "When we got to animation, it became instantly apparent that was what I enjoyed."

Ben is now working on Disney's next cinematic offering, Big Hero 6, a 3D computer-animated superhero film inspired by Marvel comics.

DMU's Leicester Media School runs courses which enable students to work in a technology-led environment. With industry-standard facilities and experienced teaching it is the perfect foundation for a career in creative industries.



It's a very good place to start...

DMU has been named as one of Britain's top 20 universities for the most successful graduate start-ups.

DMU's graduate entrepreneurs have contributed £16.5million to the UK economy in four years, according to the latest available figures.

This has boosted the Leicestershire economy to boot, as many have stayed in the area to form their fledgling businesses.

DMU places huge emphasis on employability and works hard to inspire and support students who want to start their own businesses.

Its Enterprise Inc project offers a £5,500 package of bursaries, support and mentors to entrepreneurial students, plus free access to meeting rooms and hot-desking space at the university's Innovation Centre.

Graduate Dan Lamoon and Jonny Prest are now directors of Seed Creativity, which they describe as a "finishing school to make creative more commercial."

Becky Wilson, above, who is a 2008 Media Production graduate,



was helped in setting up her own company, The Social Media Geek, by Seed Creativity. She helps companies market themselves on social media.

Becky has built up a solid portfolio of clients from different sectors, advising them on a range of skills, from setting up their social media accounts to running them, writing blogs, reaching out to customers and running their Twitter accounts.

She also guest lectures for DMU.

DMU graduate Nichole De Carle gained a First at DMU's world-renowned Contour Fashion course before going on to work for Alexander McQueen, Donna Karan and Pleasure State.

She launched her own label, Nichole de Carle London in 2009 and has won international acclaim and a host of celebrity fans.

DMU's achievement was recorded in the influential Witty Report – an independent review of how universities could support economic growth.



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STANDUP FOUNDATION **DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY** **LESBIAN GAY BI & TRANS the CENTRE LEICESTER**

TACKLING HOMOPHOBIA IN SPORT

Leicester Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans Centre was recently successful in obtaining funding from the Ben Cohen Stand Up Foundation to run a project aimed at Tackling Homophobia in Sport (THIS). Dr Helen Owton has partnered the project together with De Montfort Square Mile, with the aim to work towards eliminating homophobia from sports.

Given the publicity that some gay athletes have been receiving about 'coming out' in sport, it is timely for sports clubs to act now and enhance the ways that bullying is tackled.

Further information
Leicester LGBT Centre, 15 Wellington Street, Leicester, LE1 6HH
W: <https://webowton.wix.com/thisproject>
E: paul.fitzgerald@leicesterlgbtcentre.org
E: helen.owton@dmu.ac.uk
Twitter: @This_Project

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DMU is proud of its international reputation for creativity and innovation - but the exciting ideas born here are no airy notions. What really drives us on is seeing those ideas realised, made into the things you hold in your hand, see on the street, buy in stores, wear, watch, swim, celebrate in and make part of your life.

Here is a just snapshot of the last few months, when DMU dreamers showed their substance and stunned the London fashion world, impressed the big names in fashion and design, caught the eyes of pop stars and the attention of major employers, taking our talents to New York, Istanbul and Tuscany and their creations around the world.

You'll see DMU really takes a hands-on approach to life, making real things that make real life better.



MAKING IT HAPPEN

Dressed for success...
**DMU stuns
London
fashion world**

Fabulous collections from the next generation of talented designers hit the catwalk during DMU's two shows at this year's Graduate Fashion Week (GFW).

Twenty students from DMU's world-renowned Contour Fashion course and 17 students from Fashion Design each showcased collections during the week in

London, the world's leading event for fashion graduates.

Hundreds of people attended the shows and took to Twitter and Facebook to express how impressed they were with the students' work.

GFW's @OfficialGFW tweeted "well done to @dmulcester on a fantastic show" and "well done to @dmulcester students on a great show!"

Vogue.co.uk also tweeted links to their online photo galleries of the designs, while tweets from

Fashion Bust, a leading online magazine for lingerie and swimwear lovers, referred to Contour Fashion designs as "stunning, amazing and inspiring".

Contour Fashion graduate Nichole de Carle, who has had

designs worn by

Beyoncé, Paloma

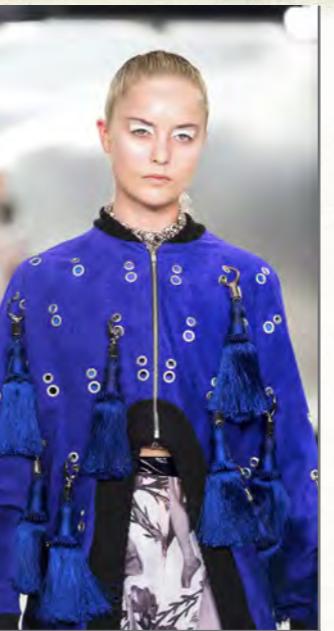
Faith and Jessie J,

attended the Contour

Fashion show.

She said: "It is exciting to see that the lingerie sector has a lot more opportunity within the fashion world."

"The platform really gives a voice to Contour designs within the fashion circuit, which creates an incentive and employment advantage."



Pop princess Paloma picks out Nichole

Paloma Faith has graced the front cover of her recent single wearing designs by DMU Contour Fashion graduate Nichole de Carle.

The beautiful silk opal dressing gown and matching high-waisted knicker in raspberry diva nude were worn by the British pop star on the artwork for her single, Only Love Can Hurt Like This.

This is the third time the singer has worn designs by Nichole's lingerie company Nichole de Carle London, having previously sported creations on the front cover of her album Fall to Grace and in the video for her single, Can't Rely on You.

Paloma is one of many



celebrities who admire Nichole's designs. Earlier this year global superstar Beyoncé opened the Grammys with her hit single Drunk in Love wearing a black onyx tuxedo from the graduate's latest collection.

Pictures of her amazing performance appeared in publications around the world.

Gap choose Cat to fill dream NYC role

A Fashion Design student from DMU landed a dream work experience placement - two months with clothing giant Gap in New York

Catrina Pringle, pictured right, joined the global retail giant's men's sweaters section.

Catrina, from High Wycombe, in Buckinghamshire, was selected from more than 100 students at DMU for the all-expenses paid placement.

Gap arranged for her to stay in an apartment in Hoboken district, New Jersey, just across the Hudson River from the famous



Manhattan skyline.

"I still can't believe it," said Catrina. "Working with Gap is a great opportunity, especially in New York!"

DMU is the only university outside the USA that Gap offers internships to.



Shoe king Choo honours DMU design

One of the biggest names in shoes, Jimmy Choo, presented awards to three Footwear Design students from DMU at the prestigious Cordwainers Footwear Student of the Year Awards.

Bethany Conway was awarded second place and £3,000 prize money at the glittering ceremony, attended by leading names in the industry.

Fellow students Zuzana Vitamvasova and Mawuenam Agbenu were also presented with commendations.

Bethany, from Bournemouth, said: "Being selected for the Cordwainers competition was an amazing experience with great opportunities and a chance to meet with some admirable designers and other people in the footwear industry."

"The whole event was inspiring and all the winning students were overwhelmed at how many people

came to support our work and encourage us.

"I was honoured to be presented with the award by Jimmy Choo - a huge privilege. It was a truly great evening and one I definitely won't forget."

DMU's renowned Footwear Design course has strong industry links with students working on projects set by global shoe brands such as Kurt Geiger, Office Shoes and Clarks.

Graduates from the course have gone on to work for leading names including Vivienne Westwood, Dune and Ted Baker.

Former student Becka Hunt also designed a pair of shoes for the Duchess of Cambridge.

The Cordwainers competition winners were chosen by a panel of industry experts including Kate Greenyer, creative director of Pentland Brands, Guy West, one of the co-founders of Jeffrey-West Shoes and designer Atalanta Weller.

Meeting Jimmy Choo was part of a great evening for Bethany Conway.



Stylish pair's Italian job

Two Footwear Design students spent summer in Italy, after winning a prestigious award from the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers Footwear Design Scholarship.

Ella, from Bristol, said: "I couldn't believe it when I found out. All the hard work paid off."

Ella Looker and Natalie Pitcher worked in Tuscany at Modartech, a recognised School of Excellence which trains the next generation of fashion and footwear designers.



They gained experience in Italian design, pattern-making and styling with the institute's expert teaching staff, after being honoured with the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers Footwear Design Scholarship.

Ella, from Bristol, said: "I couldn't believe it when I found out. All the hard work paid off."

Natalie, from Kent, also received £500 as part of her prize. She said: "I am very proud to be given this great opportunity to visit Italy and learn about Italian shoe design."

Natalie Pitcher

Footwear students fly flag for creativity

Four students from DMU's Footwear Design course showcased their talent in front of an international audience, at the British Government's GREAT Festival of Creativity in Istanbul.

Accompanied by Footwear Design course leader, Kevin Guildford, the students designed and created shoes in front of more than 800 visitors to the festival, in Turkey.

DMU academics and staff represented UK education at the festival, which links creativity and commerce.

Student Stephanie Sweetmore said: "It has helped me with future career aspirations and has given me



the confidence to aim for the stars."

Inspired by a family friend, Stephanie aims to make shoes for terminally-ill patients.

As a result of treatments such as amputation, many patients have difficulty finding shoes they can wear - something she would like to change.

Stephanie said the festival had given her the chance to meet influential people who will help her future career.

Zuzana Vitamvasova, a Slovakian student, worked for five years in



retail before starting the DMU course and following her dream of becoming a sports footwear designer.

She said: "The festival was an amazing experience for me, to be part of the festival and represent the university."

Zuzana said DMU had helped her develop a strong footwear portfolio.

Lottie Roberts, another Footwear Design student, said: "It was really interesting to talk to people in the other creative industries."

Lottie plans to develop her own brand and franchise in the future. In 2013, she was shortlisted for The Biomechanics Design Award and The Worshipful Company of Patternmakers Bespoke Orthopaedic Design Award.

Fellow student Mitchell Windsor said he had been inspired by the festival, which he said had broadened his insight into creative industries.

Twisted purple moccasin that fitted the brief perfectly

A Footwear Design student whose family shoe-making roots inspired her to study



won an internship at a top London-based contemporary shoe firm.

DMU's Michaela Wilson-George produced a purple casual moccasin-style shoe which caught the eye of designers at Hudson Shoes.

Michaela, seen right, second right, was one of five DMU Footwear Design students shortlisted in a Hudson competition and invited to the brand's London head office.

Gemma Vallance, menswear designer at Hudson and herself



a graduate of DMU's Footwear Design course, said: "Michaela's work had an air of professionalism to it. She did great research with a real understanding of the market."

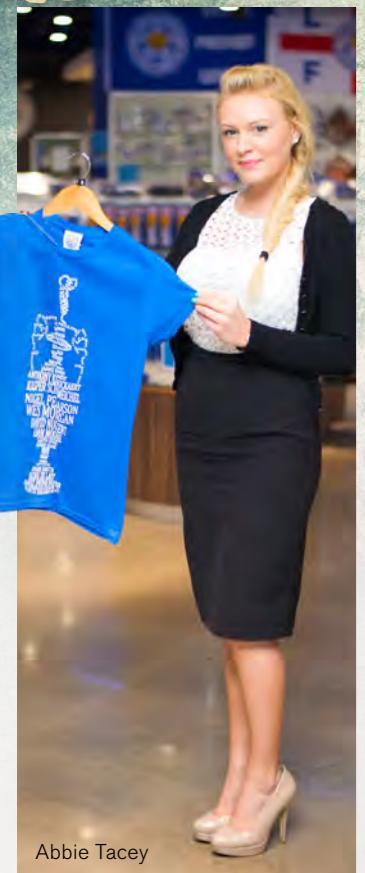
"Most importantly, she found a product we didn't offer in our range, giving it her twist."

Michaela won a £500 prize as well as the internship at the firm's head office in Hoxton Square, London.

Michaela said: "For me it just runs in the family."

"I love the smell of the leather, working with your hands. It's in my blood."

“
The festival was an amazing experience for me, to be part of the festival and represent the university
”
Zuzana Vitamvasova



A winning partnership

Fans wear DMU for Premier League party

T-shirts celebrating Leicester City's meteoric rise to the Premier League have been designed by a DMU fashion graduate.

Abbie Tacey, who studied fashion, textile design and screen printing, started gaining vital work experience with the Foxes' retail arm under the pioneering DMU Graduate Champions scheme, which sees the university offer recent graduates the chance to take up paid internships with leading UK businesses.

The Foxes were so impressed that Abbie is now working for them

as a freelancer, producing designs for all of the City Megastore's clothing ranges, including childrenswear and the highly popular lifestyle range called Fox and Crop.

But the icing on the cake for Abbie's career so far has been producing the T-shirt which celebrates Leicester City winning the Sky Bet Championship. The clever design uses the names of City's players to create the shape of the championship trophy.

More than 2,000 T-shirts were stocked at the City Megastore and they sold like hot cakes as City started their Premier League

promotion party at their final game of the season.

Foxes fan Abbie, who hails from Coalville, in North West Leicestershire, said: "I am incredibly proud of the T-shirt. The hard work – the research and designing – has really paid off.

"When you are a university student you produce a lot of designs but to see something out there on the shelves that people are going to wear makes me feel so happy."

"I am loving my time at Leicester City. To think that I am now doing work for a Premier League club all seems a bit surreal."

"I am just really, really lucky to have an opportunity with a fantastic club who are incredibly supportive."

Matt Payne, head of retail and licensing at Leicester City, said: "Abbie started as an intern under DMU Graduate Champions and she just got the idea of what it means to work here straightaway in terms of bringing high street fashion

into a football club environment. She is great to have around, very professional and a great designer."

Abbie added: "I have told my friends all about the DMU Graduate Champions and told them to sign up for it when they graduate."

"I would recommend it to anyone. If it wasn't for DMU I wouldn't be here now."

DMU enjoys a brilliant partnership with Leicester City and the two famous Leicester institutions work together to offer work placements for students as well as hugely popular match ticket offers, while staff from DMU's International Centre for Sports History and Culture have worked with City to help celebrate the club's heritage.

The DMU student football teams have enjoyed tours of the stadium and meeting famous players from the past while journalism students from DMU have gained experience reporting on matches from the press box.



“
When you are a university student you produce a lot of designs but to see something out there on the shelves that people are going to wear makes me feel so happy.
Abbie Tacey
”

Creating a **Splash** on the high street



DMU student Poppy Spinks could soon see her designs being sold with major high street retailers such as John Lewis, ASOS and House of Fraser, after winning a competition with renowned lingerie brand Lepel.

The company organised a project for students in their second year of DMU's world-renowned Contour Fashion course to design a collection that would complement the brand's future swimwear.

The degree specialises in lingerie, underwear, bodywear, swimwear, loungewear, nightwear, sportswear and corsetry.

Poppy, from Milton Keynes, will now work with the team at Lepel to put her designs into production. Her prize also includes an internship with the company and £500.

Second and third places were awarded to Alice Neves and Alison Hunt who were also awarded valuable work experience.

Steve Hazelhurst, Head of Marketing at Lepel, said: "From start to finish all the students impressed with their enthusiasm for the project and their passion to understand the brand and offer new insight. The standard was exceptional."

Poppy said: "I'm so excited for

manufacturer Clover Group International Limited – supplier to some of the biggest names in the industry, including Victoria's Secret.



Poppy Spinks

T-shirts fit for shop giant

George praises strong designs

Four Fashion Design students from DMU caught the attention of one of the UK's biggest clothes retailers.

Laura Dickinson, Helena Megson, Hannah Edgar and Simon Arnold were all short-listed as finalists for George's Men's Graphic T-shirt competition.

Only six students were shortlisted nationally. Inspirations for designs ranged from tailoring and the 'modern gentleman' to the Wild West.

Designs were printed onto T-shirts and displayed at the world's leading event for fashion graduates, Graduate Fashion Week, which is sponsored by George, whose head office is in Lutterworth, Leicestershire.

The four first year students said

they were honoured to have been shortlisted.

Laura, 18, from Nottingham, said: "I am thankful to George for giving us all this wonderful opportunity for our work to be displayed." Simon, 20, from Felixstowe, Suffolk, added: "It is such a wonderful opportunity."

Estella Arroyo, design manager at George, said: "De Montfort University always produces strong designers, which is something we've noticed during our involvement with Graduate Fashion Week."

"It's fabulous for George that students from one of our local universities have shown such an interest in the Men's Graphic T-shirt competition. All of the entries this year were fabulous and really high quality."



Hannah Edgar



Laura Dickinson



Simon Arnold

Something of a triumph for Sian

New collection sells in best boutiques

A new collection of bridal lingerie, created by a DMU graduate, has gone on sale at upscale boutiques.

The Ecliptic Renewal range – featuring a lace, vanilla-coloured bra, thong and suspender belt – was created by Sian Whitefoot after she was named Lingerie Designer of the Year at the prestigious Triumph Inspiration Awards 2012.

While still a student on DMU's world-renowned Contour Fashion

stores in Stratford and Bluewater shopping centre in Kent.

The 22-year-old, from Sale, also worked with the company last year to customise a garment for display at London Fashion Week – alongside leading fashion designers Matthew Williamson, Louise Gray, Fyodor Golan and Felder Felder – before going on to showcase at the largest graduate fashion event in the world, Graduate Fashion Week.

"My whole experience with Triumph has been amazing. From the initial stage in London, travelling to Shanghai, working with the design team in Munich and finally seeing my product in store," said Sian.

She also won €15,000 prize money.

Her range is now on sale on Triumph's website and in flagship



grateful for Triumph for such an amazing opportunity.

"Thinking that my original design came to life in my student living room and it is now being sold

worldwide is truly amazing."

Sian graduated from DMU last year and now works as a designer for lingerie company Ace Style Intimate Apparel.

A foot in two camps

A shoe with a Stilton wedge heel has been created by a DMU Footwear Design Student as a cheese campaign takes a step forward.

Lorna Gray, 19, designed

and made the prototype for campaigners hoping to get the blue cheese made in Stilton, Cambridgeshire, officially recognised. Under EU law, Stilton can only be made in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire but villagers in Stilton want their cheese to be included.

Campaign leader Richard Landy commissioned Lorna, who lives in Stilton, to make the shoe. She drew inspiration for the mouse face from shoe designer Charlotte Olympia and created the Stilton wedge.

She said: "It was quite dense polystyrene which I made to fit and carved it and painted it so it resembled the cheese. It took about a week to work on it and create."

Lorna's shoe design has featured on TV, BBC News Online, on the radio and in newspapers and Mr Landy said: "It could be seen as a slightly dodgy choice because although the idea of cheese and feet goes together, it's not usually in a good way, but Lorna's studying in Leicestershire, she's from Stilton, so we think it's a good choice."



Space explorer Lee shapes up

Lee Clarke, a BA Product Design student at DMU, so impressed judges in two design competitions he won an eight-week internship at one company, plus a \$1,000 scholarship.

Lee also exhibited his work at the New Designers Show, at London's Business Design Centre.

Lee came up with his concept of a 'Community Rail' – a storage system that allows tenants in a block of flats to share bulky items.

He explained: "With the system, residents don't need to clutter their small flats with large equipment that would only be used occasionally."

"Instead, the Community Rail offers a station where equipment can be borrowed for free for a



Lee Clarke

Playthings seriously impress big names

The innovative and creative abilities of two DMU students have caught the eyes of top companies, who have offered them a year's work placement each.

Jaguar Land Rover was so impressed with 20-year-old Agneta Linikaite that they chose her ahead of applicants from across the country for the undergraduate placement at their Coventry engineering centre next month.

Collaborative Consumption challenged students to find a new solution to sharing. His project was shortlisted by the RSA competition judges and he was invited to present to a panel in London.

His success there puts him in the company of past winners including Sir Jonathan Ive, one of the key heads of design at Apple. Lee also secured an eight-week internship at leading design consultancies, Priestmangoode.

"I am absolutely over the moon at winning the Jaguar Land Rover placement," said Agneta, originally from Jurbarkas in Lithuania and now a Product and Furniture Design degree student at DMU.

"I believe a strong portfolio and preparation were the key things to my success. During my course, I

Nick Sandham, senior designer at Seymourpowell, said: "Luke stood out for his execution – his ability to transform an idea into a physical product."

"I believe a strong portfolio and preparation were the key things to my success. During my course, I had a chance to collect together an industry-level set of projects."



Luke Wadsworth

had a chance to collect together an industry-level set of projects."

Seymourpowell, the global design consultancy behind the concept of the world's first cordless kettle, selected third year BA Product and Furniture Design student Luke Wadsworth for a one-year placement from September.

He was offered the placement at Seymourpowell after winning a competition brief arranged by the company jointly with DMU's Design Products department and Northumbria University.

Beth's glasswork is inspired by inner-city life and urban scenes. Using everyday sights like litter, graffiti, old buildings and even ripped posters, she creates glass objects which are original, colourful and striking.

"We live in a throwaway society and I wanted to capture that in my work. It could be as simple as noticing how posters are overlaid and as they weather, they rip and you can see the layers underneath."

Beth joined the Design Crafts degree knowing she wanted to make art but had no idea about what to specialise in.

She said: "What I liked was you could spend the first year finding out about everything from ceramics to fine art and sculpture. I liked the sculpture aspect but the minute I did glass blowing I just knew I loved it. Each piece I make is completely individual."

"The course gives you a grounding in a mix of disciplines and the facilities are brilliant.

"When I was at New Designers,

when people found out we were

from DMU they came over to say

how lucky we were to study there

because the facilities are just

incredible."

Beth's work was admired by

Simon Moore, a renowned glass

artist.



Agneta Linikaite

"I was really emotional when I got the prize and I'm so excited about

Big players select DMU

DMU Game Art graduates again proved they make the titles you play by getting jobs with big industry names listed on a new all-time classics chart.

The Guardian's 30 Greatest British Video Games countdown included both Race Driver: Grid, created by Codemasters, and Rockstar North's Grand Theft Auto.

Rockstar North hired DMU's Adam Jarvis and Tom Wicks, while

Codemasters put DMU's Tom Edwards, Tom Lawson, Simon Hughes, Jason Garlick and Dan Rose in its creative teams.

Principal lecturer Andrew Clay, from the Faculty of Technology, said: "DMU's Game Art course gives students industry-set briefs and encourages work placements with professional games studios. Two-thirds of our Game Art graduates gain jobs in the industry within three months of graduating."

A touch of glass



DMU Glassware artist Beth Wood, pictured above, gained three incredible opportunities after being spotted at New Designers 2014, the UK's premiere showcase for emerging talent.

Beth won a runners-up prize from the Contemporary Glass Society, got a personal invite to a master-class from artist Simon Moore and was asked by the Contemporary Applied Arts to exhibit in their central London gallery.

"New Designers has just been a fantastic experience," said Beth, from Cleethorpes.

"I was really emotional when I got the prize and I'm so excited about

the gallery and the workshop."

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"The course gives you a grounding in a mix of disciplines and the facilities are brilliant.

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Beth's work was admired by Simon Moore, a renowned glass artist.

Comic ideas, serious success

A comedy animation by DMU students so impressed the British Council it is being used on its Korean blog to highlight the excellence of art and design courses in Britain.

They created Hair Despair in response to a professional project brief set by DMU's industry partner, Northampton-based animation studio RJDM Studios, challenging students to think of a short work involving a chair and two characters interacting.

Their imaginative tale features vacuum cleaner salesman Franky Goodman whose wish for a haircut poses a dilemma for barber Bobby Brooks. Giedre said: "It was a surprise, a very pleasant one, when we heard we'd been chosen. We were very pleased and it has motivated us to do more."

The 22-year-old from Šiauliai in Lithuania travelled to Britain to study at DMU and has secured a permanent job at RJDM.

Freddie, from Peterborough, is now seeking work in a studio. He said: "There's no dialogue in it so you can see why it would appeal to anyone. We're very proud."



Frankie and Bobby

Thanks to being the most shared, Hair Despair will now feature on the blog for the next two years.



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Words of wisdom at DMU's special celebration

Friends of DMU who have already made their mark on the world shared the stage with students at our summer graduations



Inspiring figures that have lit up the worlds of art, sport, science and changed the political landscape have received honorary degrees from DMU – and shared their words of wisdom as they took to the stage at the prestigious Curve theatre.

David Gower OBE, whose cricketing career began in Leicestershire as a teenager, and who went on to play for England, captain his country, win the 1985 Ashes and score an astonishing 26,335 runs, said: "If I have a message, it's follow your heart, follow your passion. It will lead you to interesting places and drive you to future success."

DMU enjoys a close relationship with Leicestershire County Cricket Club. DMU and LCCC signed a new partnership deal earlier this year offering amazing opportunities for students.

A stalwart politician who has served Leicester for decades has been presented with an honorary degree. **Keith Vaz MP** was made an honorary doctor of laws in recognition of his long public



Bali Rai



David Shrigley



Kate Bellingham



Simon Cole

service and commitment to helping others. The Leicester East MP said: "This institution has the ability of not just making shoes for the next Queen of England but also creating the first artificial pancreas, all at the same time."

Novelist **Bali Rai** will be writing new letters after his name after he was presented with an honorary degree from DMU.

The Leicester author, whose Devana High series is a firm favourite in schools across the country, said: "It is a real honour, particularly as I am Leicester born and bred. An education is something that you continue with through life and that you should keep your horizons as wide open as possible."

Acclaimed dancer and producer **Farooq Chaudhry** was handed an honorary degree in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the arts. Mr Chaudhry, producer of the Akram Khan company and the English National Ballet, has inspired hundreds of young artists during his career. He urged those taking their next steps to work

hard, dream – and rebel. DMU is home to the vibrant, purpose-built PACE building where our dance students train. DMU has been producing quality dance research for 20 years and its work has been praised as "world-leading" in the latest research assessment.

Chancellor of DMU, **The Lord Alli**, was made a Companion of the university - the highest honour the university can award and one that recognises his significant contribution to gay rights. As a gay Muslim and Britain's first openly gay peer in the House of Lords, he helped pave the way towards same-sex marriage in Britain.

He told graduates: "You go into a world with so many opportunities, and so many dangers too. I hope your time at this university has helped you find your voice and I look forward to hearing it speak out for the millions who cannot."

The Lord Alli also paid tribute to the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard and told the graduates what a great honour it was to work at DMU.

TV presenter and science champion **Kate Bellingham** describes herself as a lifelong student and told those gathered: "A lot of work that I do is promoting opportunities for women in science and engineering and in general, so getting something like this is icing on the cake."

Turner Prize-nominated artist **David Shrigley** was a student at DMU's predecessor and returned to be conferred with an Honorary Doctor of Arts.

He is now working on making art for the Fourth Plinth – an iconic giant thumbs-up which will sit in Trafalgar Square.

He said: "I began studying here in 1987... a long time ago! I can say it was the most formative and important period of education as an artist."

Architectural historian and Emeritus Professor at DMU, **Professor James Stevens Curl**, was made an Honorary Doctor of Arts.

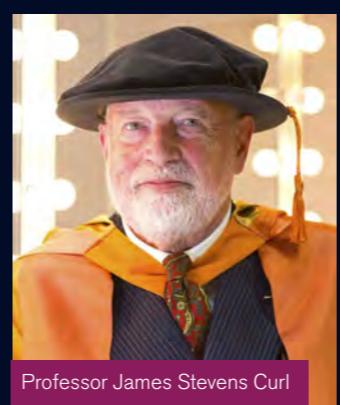
She said: "I have worked with DMU for a long time and it is well known for its quality and students. Love your work, don't let your work conflict with your values."



Keith Vaz MP



Farooq Chaudhry



Professor James Stevens Curl



Linda Jasper



David Gower

DMU's winning touch with World Cup country



The World Cup was watched by billions – and one DMU student had a special reason to be glued to the screen.

Advertising and Marketing student Amy Silver was part of the World Cup Organising Committee, thanks to #DMUglobal, DMU's sector-leading internationalisation programme.

She spent two weeks in São Paulo helping with publicity and marketing and gained vital experience which will make her CV stand out in today's competitive global marketplace. She also formed lasting friendships and contacts, as well as gaining an insight into working abroad.

Amy worked alongside law student Ryan Dawson. She said: "The whole two weeks were just surreal. We absolutely loved it. It was an incredible experience."

As part of their work, they helped at a major launch event for the

“ Experiencing a different culture can teach you so much.
Amy Silver **”**

travel and tourism industry that looked at how Brazil could benefit from the tournament. Amy also got to tour some of the stadiums hosting the matches and saw the Brazil team's training facilities – as well as some stars of the future at a children's training centre.

They met the Honduras coach and saw where the team were staying. Amy said: "We could tell the people that we worked with were unbelievably excited to have the World Cup in their city, they were just ecstatic. The people I met and worked with really made the whole trip for me."

"Everyone should go abroad during their studies because experiencing a different culture can teach you so much."

Playing our part in the greatest show on Earth

DMU headed to Brazil during the World Cup to stage two free exhibitions of football and fashion, to inspire visitors and show why DMU has been consistently named as one of Britain's most creative universities.

The football exhibition, pictured above, called They Can Play, took place at the British Consulate in São Paulo.

A fashion showcase saw work from DMU's world-renowned Fashion, Footwear Design and Contour Fashion courses displayed at Escola, in São Paulo's

fashionable Rua Augusta.

They Can Play, which took its name from a comment made about the triumphant 1970 Brazil World Cup squad by England manager Sir Alf Ramsey, aimed to show the historical importance, contribution and legacy of Brazil's football players.

It celebrated the work of academics on the international stage. Dr Neil Carter, a member of DMU's renowned International Centre for Sports History and Culture was lead academic for the exhibition. DMU also created a virtual gallery of the exhibition.

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President shares a moment with students

A picture of Brazilian students from DMU celebrating a World Cup victory went global after it was posted on social media – by the President of Brazil. President Dilma Rousseff sent out the message on Facebook as part of a series of posts toasting fans from around the world who were cheering the Brazilian team on. President Rousseff has close to 650,000 likes on Facebook. The picture was taken in Filbert Village halls of residence, a short walk from the DMU city centre campus, during a World Cup party. DMU has now welcomed our newest arrivals from Brazil and celebrated one of the largest populations of Brazilian students in the country. The students are from the fantastic Science Without Borders (SwB) programme, a global initiative by the Brazilian Government enabling students to study in top universities overseas. SwB is strengthening the connection between DMU and Brazil.



Postcards from DMU World

Tanycia equipped for global challenges

DMU student Tanycia Gayle went to China as an intern with technology company Numob, thanks to #DMUglobal.

Tanycia, a media and communication student, has been supported by a full bursary from #DMUglobal, the university's pioneering programme offering DMU students a meaningful international experience during their studies.

She said: "Working for Numob was exciting, insightful and I met such a great team of people."

The company develops mobile applications for iPhones and iPads and also designs hardware.



Tanycia worked on marketing strategies for devices available on their latest app, one of which detects radiation.

A whole new world of opportunities

DMU's involvement with the British Government's GREAT Festivals of Creativity made a fantastic impression in Turkey, thanks to our talented students and academics.

The festival celebrated the link between global business and creativity and was designed to encourage people to meet and share the expertise which will help businesses worldwide.

Some of DMU's talented students joined four of our academics to exhibit innovative work in Istanbul with GREAT, as part of the university's ambition to secure a global future for its staff, students and institution.

Professor Joan Taylor presented her incredible invention, the artificial pancreas, and Professor Martin Richardson showcased his



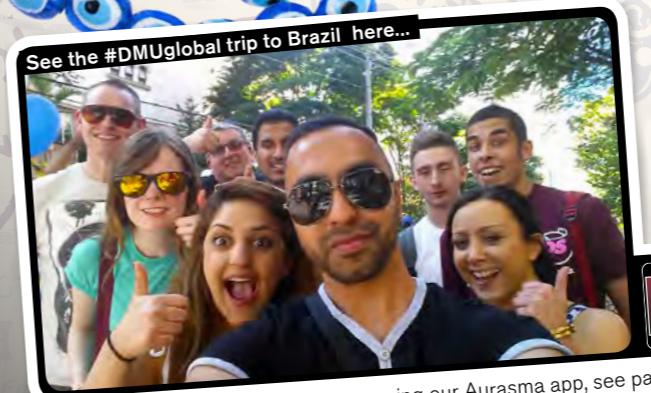
revolutionary holography.

Michael Powell, who is pictured above, displayed stunning animations from his Game Art

students, including the virtual walk-through of Medieval London called "Pudding Lane" which won an international award.

Michael said: "I met some fabulous people and built networks for future developments.

"Seeing our students' work in the context of all these other industries shows just how world class we are."



Siham shares her China highlights

DMU student Siham Dahir learned Chinese language and culture in Shenyang, thanks to #DMUglobal.

Siham, a second year biomedical sciences student, attended a summer school in China for two weeks, supported by a full bursary from #DMUglobal.

She said: "It was a fantastic and life-changing opportunity and I couldn't recommend it enough." She spent the first week attending classes at Liaoning University in Shenyang, including Mandarin language and traditional Chinese calligraphy. The second week was spent travelling to Beijing and Shanghai.



Gambia connection inspires Cecilia

DMU student Cecilia Asong was 'inspired' by her trip to Gambia, supported by #DMUglobal, the university's pioneering programme offering DMU students a meaningful international experience during their studies.

Cecilia helped with community projects, visited historical and cultural sights and attended lectures about the country.

The youth and community development student received a full bursary from #DMUglobal. She said: "Learning doesn't only happen in a classroom, there is a lot to learn from an international experience."

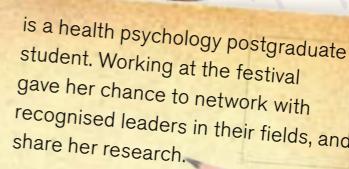


Spreading the word, gaining experience

Two students got the chance to work at the British Government's GREAT Festival of Creativity in Turkey with #DMUglobal.

One of the #DMUglobal Frontrunners, Roopinder Shubh, a marketing student, said: "I would definitely recommend any #DMUglobal opportunity. It not only builds your experience, but it builds your interpersonal skills too, so you grow as a person."

Rabia Iqbal, the other Frontrunner,



is a health psychology postgraduate student. Working at the festival gave her chance to network with recognised leaders in their fields, and share her research.



Sporting experts on top of the world

A postgraduate course partly delivered at DMU has been named best sports management course in the world.

The FIFA Master MA, coordinated by the Centre International d'Etude du Sport in Switzerland, is top of the global league in the major survey carried out by SportBusiness International.

The SportBusiness ratings are recognised around the world as the leading rankings for sports management courses. Graduates go on to top roles within the sports industry.

Students on the intensive one-year course spend their first term at DMU's renowned International Centre for Sports History and Culture, where they study the humanities of sport.

The FIFA Master has been the best PG course in Europe for the past two consecutive years but this is the first time it has beaten rivals from around the world to receive the top overall award.

It won the award based on factors such as graduate employability, strength of alumni, quality of teaching and international appeal.

It was also a runner-up in the Professors' Choice award, a mark of academic reputation, and the Graduates' Choice award, which rates student satisfaction.

More than 500 international sport management courses and alumni submitted applications to the 2014 competition.

Professor Richard Holt, Co-Scientific Director at DMU with Professor Pierre Lanfranchi said: "This award is the culmination of

a remarkable international co-operation between three universities for over 14 years. It is a unique course, bringing together law, management and the humanities of sport. We have excellent students who, with our help, have achieved exceptional success."

James Panter, FIFA Master Humanities of Sport Module Co-ordinator at DMU, added: "We are delighted. To be named the best PG course in the world is fantastic news. The new rankings are wonderful recognition of the hard work the course co-ordination and teaching teams in the United Kingdom, Italy and Switzerland provide each year.

"We are very proud of our graduates and this is a great endorsement for them too."

The FIFA Master course has

been named best in Europe for the past two years. After starting their studies at DMU, they continue their course at the SDA Bocconi School of Management in Milan, learning about sports management, before studying sports law at the Université de Neuchâtel in Switzerland.

Each year, students travel from all around the world to study on the programme, with the 14th Edition class including students from Egypt, Azerbaijan, Trinidad and Tobago, South Africa, Slovakia, Costa Rica, France, Brazil, Indonesia, USA, Italy, Germany, Austria, New Zealand, China, Canada, Czech Republic, Tanzania, Ireland, Australia and the UK. More than 90 per cent of its graduates work in the sports industry, including FIFA, the IOC and the Sauber Formula 1 Team.

© ANDRE DURAO / shutterstock

Germany are the best team in the world on the football pitch, DMU are the best for sports management



Team driver Lasmin Oliveira

Quick thinkers are still seeking perfect formula

Engineering students got on the grid for a challenge to design, build and race a car at Silverstone.

The dream of getting their own single-seater around the home of British motorsport inspired the DMU students to enter the Formula Student event, the world's biggest student motorsport gathering.

Teams are challenged in three areas - project management and design, static inspections and dynamic tests like the skid pan,

acceleration and endurance.

Ross Deacon, who founded DMU Racing in 2010, said: "We have come a big step in terms of the performance and in the design of the car. We've found a 20 per cent weight saving on last year."

The expertise Ross gained through his Mechanical Engineering course helped him secure a third year placement with global diesel engine manufacturers Cummins Turbo Technologies, at their Huddersfield base, where he has now got a job.

Mayur and DMU prove to be a hit with cricket superstars

DMU student and keen cricketer Mayur Chauhan was bowled over by sporting opportunities during the season.

Not only did he get to bowl at India's Test side at Grace Road, Leicester, he did the same for Alastair Cook's England team as they prepared for the first Test.

Mayur was chosen to be 12th man in a match for Leicestershire in a competition offered to our students as part of DMU's winning partnership with the club.

He said it was an awesome experience, adding: "I've had such an incredible time I can't believe it."

Paceman Mayur, who bowls at 78-80mph, was having his picture taken by the DMU photographer at the ground when he was asked

if he could bowl. When he said he could, he was invited to help the India team warm up by bowling at them. He took Kohli's scalp and a couple of the Leicestershire team as part of a team of bowlers who had been brought in for the week and did so well he was invited back.

"We had lunch with the India team, we were chatting with them, and it was brilliant. They were so friendly and it was like being part of their team for the day." His performance in the nets led to another offer to bowl, this time at England as they warmed up for the first Test at Trent Bridge.

DMU's links with Leicestershire see staff and students get discounted tickets to games while the club has also given valuable employability experience to graduates.



Mayur Chauhan

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Foursome's fairytale beginning to creative career



DMU students gain valuable experience working behind the scenes at big show

Four students from DMU got hands-on experience behind the scenes at a musical ahead of its world premiere.

Alex Long, Amy Collingwood, Arti Dulobdas and Emma Smith, pictured above, spent a week at Leicester's acclaimed Curve theatre, helping the production team of the show, *Water Babies*.

DMU places huge emphasis on employability of its students and has many initiatives in place to ensure that students and graduates get the best possible start on the career ladder.

Alex, from Southport, said: "Spending this time with the Water Babies team will help me immensely in the future."

Amy, from Northampton, said: "I wanted to increase my knowledge of the process of theatre production.

Art, were design assistants.

They were all chosen following successful applications for the roles, which were offered to DMU as part of the university's continuing partnership with the state-of-the-art theatre.

Alex, from Southport, said:

"Spending this time with the Water Babies team will help me immensely in the future."

Amy, from Northampton, said: "I wanted to increase my knowledge of the process of theatre production.

"I learned more about directing and getting to see close up how a director works."

"To be so involved with such a large-scale show was so exciting and I hope that the skills I learn will help me stand out to future employers."

Fellow design assistant Emma said: "I really wanted to gain experience in this industry – the chance to adapt my skills and work on the design of a theatre set was one I couldn't miss."

© Featureflash / shutterstock

Students dealt chance to try TV

DMU students got an insight into how one of daytime TV's biggest game shows is put together when they went behind the scenes of *Deal or No Deal*.

Presented by Noel Edmonds, the popular Channel 4 quiz show, produced by Remarkable Television, an Endemol company, was marking a milestone with its 2,500th show.

DMU Leicester Media School students were taken to see how

production company Endemol put together the programme.

Thom Corah, lecturer, said: "The students found it really useful, in particular having the chance to get some frank insights into how to get into the industry."

The visit is another example of the excellent student experience offered by those studying at DMU. The Leicester Media School enjoys close industry links allowing students invaluable experience.

Flo touches down in Neverland of opportunity



Fashion Design student Flo Tudgay jetted off to America to work on costumes for a new musical backed by Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Flo spent six weeks in the costume design department of *Finding Neverland*, performed at the American Repertory Theatre in the world-famous Harvard University.

Flo said it was "an amazing experience" and a great chance to make contacts in the industry.

DMU's ground-breaking

programme #DMUglobal, set

up to offer students experience

of different cultures, helped to

support the trip.

Signalling interest in broadcast jobs

Students experienced life in busy broadcast newsrooms after winning coveted placements with the BBC.

DMU students Amit Nathwani, Harry Dean and Melina Kazadi spent time at BBC Radio Leicester, working closely with their news and programmes output teams.

All three have been heavily involved with the university's award-winning radio station, DemonFM.

DMU works closely with leading names, such as the BBC, to offer its students incredible opportunities to gain valuable work experience and boost their employability.

Amit, pictured below, who is studying Business and

Management with Media and Communications, said: "I needed to get more experience in news because my background is in sport, so this was a great opportunity."

Harry Dean, BA Journalism, Media and Communications, spent a week at the station.

He said: "It's an experience for me and the other guys to spend time at a professional radio station. I've done work experience with magazines and newspapers but this is special."

Jane Hill, managing editor at Radio Leicester, said: "The joy of the DMU placement scheme is that we take applicants who are already involved in the student radio."

Creative Cara takes her place among *The Village* people

A DMU graduate got a great launch into a creative career after working on one of the BBC's flagship programmes.

Cara Haywood, who graduated in Media Production, was a location assistant on *The Village*, a popular period drama filmed around Derbyshire.

As a location assistant it was Cara's job to organise everything behind the scenes so filming ran smoothly.

Cara got the job with Company Pictures via the Creative Skillset's TV Trainee Finder programme, plus the chance to work on *Flog It!* thanks to DMU tutor Zoe Allman.

Laura has a foot in show and business

Multi-talented DMU student Laura Arsmson, pictured, helped kick off one of TV's biggest nights when she and fellow dancers in Addict Initiative opened the Britain's Got Talent grand finale.

Laura and the Leicester-based troupe, who put a distinctive dark twist on street dance, showed their best moves to 11 million ITV viewers with an 'epic' reinterpretation of the

Hansel and Gretel story.

The finalists' performance, built around a revenge fantasy, won praise from all the judges, pictured right, with the notoriously hard-to-please Simon Cowell saying: "Throughout this competition you have been the best dance group we've had. There wasn't a foot wrong."

Laura, an Accounting and Business Management student, thanked supporters from across Leicester, including DMU partners Leicester City FC and Leicester Tigers. Judge Amanda Holden said of Addict Initiative's opening turn: "It's like watching a mini-movie. You belong to epic TV shows and movies."

Laura, from Nuneaton, taught dance before broadening out to study at DMU's Faculty of Business and Law and could one day combine her passion for dance and management acumen to build a

dance business.

Her creative streak ties in well with DMU's outstanding reputation for creativity across all faculties. Indeed, the Which? University guide has named DMU as one of the most creative universities in the UK for two years running, ranking it alongside Oxford and Cambridge.



Connecting with schools

Technology inspires the next generation

Innovative technology and research at DMU helped inspire hundreds of schoolchildren.

More than 200 young people from secondary schools across Leicestershire were at DMU for Teen Tech, an event to encourage more pupils to study technology and science.

DMU has close links with local schools through the award-winning Square Mile project and works hard to raise the aspirations of young people through university outreach work.

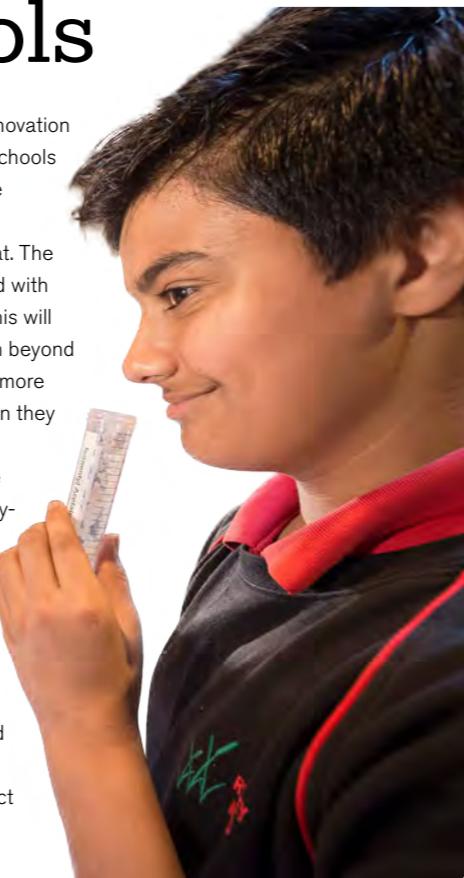
Teen Tech, which formed in 2008, runs school science events across the UK. Its chief executive is TV presenter and DMU honorary graduate Maggie Philbin.

She said: "Teen Tech is an opportunity to see a whole range

of different jobs and meet people working in these amazing industries and doing these incredible jobs."

DMU's displays sat alongside stands with engineers and scientists from local, national and international companies such as computer systems specialists Emerson, National Grid, Pera, National Space Academy, and Hewlett Packard.

The Institute of Creative Technologies is a university-wide research institute that concerns itself with the practice, theory and history of creative technologies. Its focus on creative computing has applications in the arts and entertainment, games and mobile applications, product and web design and other interactive systems.



Clockwise, DMU honorary graduate Maggie Philbin at the Teen Tech event; DMU has close links with local schools.



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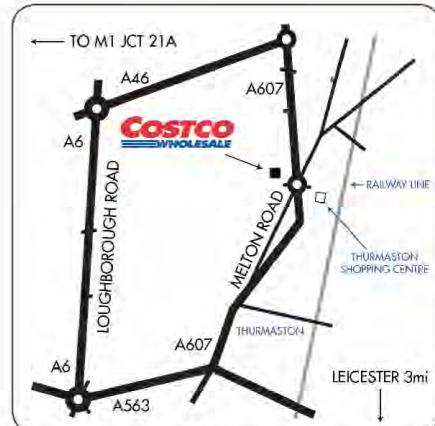
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The power to change lives

DMU expertise makes real difference in India

An international team led by DMU Professor Subhes Bhattacharyya has brought life-changing power to remote villages in a project that will improve health, education, communication and income for locals – and help keep them safe from elephants.



crucial to the core aim of improving quality of life.

The Off-grid Access Systems for South Asia (OASYS) scheme, a collaboration between British and Indian researchers, electrified five communities in Odisha state that lie out of reach of the power-grid system.

The area had been hit by a cyclone, presenting challenges to the team as it prepared equipment and materials and assembled a team of local workers to realise the project – this engagement being



An international team led by DMU has brought life-changing power to remote villages – and helped keep villagers safe from elephants.



Sounds like a positive idea

Audiology students at DMU volunteered their time to give free hearing tests to shoppers in Leicester.

They took over an empty shop in Highcross and ran free 10-minute tests for anyone who wanted them.

The event was run in partnership with Action Deafness and DMU Square Mile, which uses the skills of the university's staff and students to benefit the community.

Wendy Stevens, senior lecturer and programme lead for Audiology, said: "They have all volunteered without hesitation. Two had exams in

nuts, egg plants and turmeric, while electric scales, grinding and packing equipment will increase efficiency and stabilise income.

Villagers also told the team reliable power meant they could widen their option and look into new commercial opportunities.

Environmental concerns lay at the heart of the experiment, with the team choosing to create a solar power plant after weighing their options. Solar means no fossil fuel is required, making it clean and less dependent on external resources.



Winning trio to investigate further

DMU Forensic Science students have won prizes at an event highlighting the finest research in the region.

The Forensic Institute Research Network conference saw 77 students from across the East Midlands present their work.

Among those taking part were three DMU year Forensic Science students, Lucy Roy, Edward Turay and Aimee Goodall.

Their projects were on

counterfeit medicines, fake alcohol and the identification of gunshot residue.

DMU places great emphasis on encouraging students to reach their full potential and allow them to grow their careers through a range of experiences at university.

Its thriving and supportive research culture meant the students were supervised and helped by experts in their field such as Professor Graham Lawson, of DMU's acclaimed Pharmacy Practice Research Group.

He said: "They did very well. Events like this can give the students the chance to say they have achieved something and it can inspire them to discover more".

DMU gets credit for strength in market

DMU has received an improved credit rating from a highly-respected international rating agency.

Moody's, which operates in 31 countries, has increased the university's credit rating from "Aa2 negative" to "Aa2 stable".

This follows a rigorous review of DMU's current performance in the university sector and a stringent evaluation of the institution's plans for the future.

Moody's highlighted that DMU's credit score was increased due to the university's "unique market position" and "demonstrated ability to strengthen its financial position and maintain strong student enrolment trends".

Inspiring the nurses of tomorrow

The deputy chief executive and chief nurse of Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust has been appointed honorary professor of DMU's Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

Adrian Childs will contribute to educational programmes for undergraduate and postgraduate nurses.

He will work with the faculty to deliver master-classes to student nurses and work alongside the university to develop the nurses of the future. Adrian said: "I feel very honoured."

DMU's Faculty of Health and Life Sciences has an outstanding reputation for research and innovation in health.

Picturing links to industrial heritage

A student's design inspired by Leicester's historic links with hosiery and shoemaking is on display to the thousands of people who enter the city from the West End.

Kieran Stott-Everett, studying Graphic Design and Illustration at DMU, has had his design hand-painted on the railway bridge on Narborough Road.

It follows a competition run for DMU students in partnership with Leicester City Council, Network Rail and business representatives from the area.

What DMU did for the Romans

International speakers celebrate anniversary

An international conference co-funded and supported by DMU marked the 30th anniversary of a ground-breaking project.

Dr Pippa Virdee, Senior Lecturer in Modern South Asian History at DMU, is convenor of the Punjab Research Group. The conference celebrated the research, scholarship and networking that the group has promoted since 1984.

Dr Virdee said the group provided space for scholarly discussion beyond religious, regional and international boundaries, something which had been problematic.

technology – the type used in electronic gaming – pupils could hold up their iPads and "walk around" Roman buildings. Project leader Nick Higgett, principal lecturer at DMU's School of Design, said: "What this demonstrates is DMU's expertise in app development and using it for digital heritage purposes, something which we are leaders of in the UK."



Precious insight into Indian era

A Leicester exhibition that shed light on India's role in international trade in the Middle Ages used DMU expertise.

The four-panel show focused on the copper sheets inscribed by those trading in the port of Kollam – in present-day Kerala – nearly 1,200 years ago.

DMU lends expertise to influential study

Banks have become more willing to lend to commercial developers according to the respected DMU Commercial Property Lending Report.

The report, compiled by DMU's Bill Maxted, of the Faculty of Business and Law, is the UK's most influential and in-depth study of the commercial property lending market.

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The Bank of TMC

Our specialist support programme for young entrepreneurs is called The Bank of TMC. The Bank of TMC enables and inspires young people to use their creative skills to bring about positive change, both in their own lives and in the communities in which they live and work.

We recognise the huge potential in young people and help them to turn their ideas into real, lasting and thriving businesses.

Your trusted business advisors

"For me, the easy part was coming up with the creative idea, the hard part was figuring out how to earn a living from it," explains Akshay.



"Business terminology was a different language to me. The team at The Mighty Creatives acted as my trusty translators; I was constantly reminded that I was not alone on my journey, with regular business workshops and one-to-one sessions, delivered by professionals in the field."

Akshay's big idea

The result is The Underground Theatre Company, Akshay's thriving social business, initiated at the age of 19. He now delivers workshops in schools, youth clubs and at corporate events, using rap and beat-box to tackle serious messages.

"If young people are being entertained at the same time as being educated, the message that is being delivered becomes more memorable," says Akshay.

You can visit Akshay's website at www.undergroundtheatrec.com

Supporting the next generation

The Bank of TMC offers tailored support for young people aged 16-25, who live or work in Leicester city, Oadby or Wigston.

Our creative business consultants share a wealth of expertise, while our workshops cover everything from business plans to marketing.

There's also access to sources of finance and the Bank of TMC's own grants, which range from £1,000-£5,000 to help start or grow creative businesses.

The Bank of TMC is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), RBS Inspiring Youth Enterprise and Leicestershire County Council.

The final word from Akshay

A year on, Akshay keeps a close relationship with The Mighty Creatives. "The funding from the Bank of TMC acted as the bridge between the ideas in my head and reality," Akshay explains.

"Sometimes it's easy to lose sight of the thing that you were so passionate about in the first place when setting up a business, but TMC encouraged me to stay motivated and develop my product."

Interested?

To find out more or apply, visit www.themightycreatives.com and click on 'Bank of TMC'.

And like Akshay, you too could find your creative dream taking shape.



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2. Renewal offer available to DMU staff/students who are existing AA Members, or who join under the enrolment offer, and will be available at each renewal date until they no longer attend the DMU or the withdrawal of this scheme.
3. Mintel – UK Vehicle recovery report, September 2013. 4. Based on AA Case Repair Rate December 2013 – January 2014.