

First Week Newsletter. Trinity Term, 2017.

Morning all!

Welcome back to term, and, more importantly, welcome back to the newsletter! This week, your favourite (sort of) publication brings to you: innovation, education, spiders, and, of course, as always, everyone's favourite - the Memorial Room closures.

Hope it's a great week for everyone!

Queen's Notices.

- 1. Committee Meeting Tonight.**
- 2. Memorial Room Closures.**

Other Notices.

- 3. Varsity Education Recruitment.**
- 4. Oxford University Innovation Competition.**
- 5. Paid Study: Are You Afraid of Spiders?**
- 6. Paid Study: Lorsartan.**
- 7. Kabaddi Committee Positions.**
- 8. Lovvol Volunteering Programme.**

1. Committee Meeting Tonight.

Just a reminder that we'll be having a Committee Meeting at 5pm in the Memorial Room tonight.

2. Memorial Room Closures.

The Memorial Room will be closed at the following times this week:

- Monday 24th, 5-7pm.
- Wednesday 26th, 11am-1pm, 2-6pm.
- Friday 28th, 9-11am.

The usual drill: make sure you're not working there at these times; make sure you take all your belongings (laptops, papers, bags etc) with you when you leave.

3. Varsity Education Recruitment.

Varsity Education is recruiting for July and August 2017!

Varsity Education is a not-for-profit education company that runs summer programmes in both Oxford and Cambridge. Students attending our programmes are aged 15-18 and are keen to learn more about their chosen subjects and looking to apply to top UK Universities.

We are running one two-week programme in Cambridge between 22nd July - 5th August and one two week programme in Oxford between 7th August – 21st August.

We are looking for advanced undergraduates, graduates and postgraduates from Oxford and Cambridge to lead students in small group classes (in both subject specific lessons as well as study skills workshops), complete general pastoral tasks and accompany students on excursions and activities around the city. There are a number of roles on offer and this is a great opportunity for those keen to spend the summer in the city, gain valuable teaching experience and work with bright students from the UK and around the world.

Most applicants will be required to be available for the full two week session they apply for, however, there will also be some part time work available.

We can provide accommodation for those interested in the role of Housemistress/Housemaster and some meals will be included. Pay will be between £300-£400 per week depending on the role.

If you would like to find out more, please email us at office@varsity-education.ac or apply by clicking on this link: <http://www.varsity-education.ac/recruitment>

4. Oxford University Innovation Competition.

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5. Paid Study: Are You Afraid of Spiders?

Are spiders a problem for you?

Interested in taking part in a research study?

We are looking for healthy volunteers aged 18-60 years and fluent in English to take part in a study investigating how a single dose of the medication hydrocortisone affects attention for spiders, using simple computer tasks. Hydrocortisone is a stress hormone also naturally occurring in the body. However, we think that it may also enhance the effectiveness of psychological therapies such as Cognitive-Behaviour Therapy. The study involves four appointments of about 5 hours in total.

If you are interested in participating, and for more information, please contact us (judith.appel@psych.ox.ac.uk). **You will be reimbursed for your time.**

REC Ref: 15/SC/0270 – This study has also been approved by Brookes University.

6. Paid Study: Losartan.

Interested in taking part in a research study?

We are looking for healthy volunteers aged 18-40 years and fluent in English to take part in a study investigating how a single dose of the medication losartan affects learning and information processing, using a simple computer task. Losartan is currently used to treat high blood pressure. However, we think that it may also enhance the effectiveness of psychological therapies such as Cognitive-Behaviour Therapy. The study involves three appointments of about 5 hours in total.

If you are interested in participating, and for more information, please contact us (judith.appel@psych.ox.ac.uk). You will be reimbursed for your time.

7. Kabaddi Committee Positions.

With the Kabaddi season having come to an end, it's time for us to open committee applications for the 2017-2018 season. This is the link for committee applications:

[Application form](#)

If the link is not working, please copy and paste this url into the address bar of your browser

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjsuleXKh-ksKb6Q8BXxLj-Fy6F0Vz2M3UJbszT6XvWZmC_Q/viewform

This year, you don't need to have played Kabaddi before to join the committee. All of this year's committee will be present next year if you need any assistance with organising any sessions (both for playing the sport and for general fitness). The only requirement for a committee role is that you're enthusiastic about growing one of the most popular sports in the Eastern hemisphere within Oxford.

As the newest sport to arrive at Oxford, we have grown massively in one year and we already have 3 teams up and running. We need a new committee to keep all this groundwork in place. We are also the only current sports club in Oxford that does not charge a membership fee to be part of the society. If you want to get involved in a society where you can meet a great bunch of people, and where you can also get fitter, stronger, and more flexible then look no further.

Also as part of committee, you'll have first pick in allocating members into the 4 possible teams that we are allowed to field. The first team players will be awarded colours after playing their varsity match, and this is a great opportunity for anyone seeking to get colours, as most members currently are novices. The teams that we currently have are:

Men's Blues

Oxford Ospreys (men's seconds)

Women's Blues

Oxford Oselots (women's seconds)

Why not give something new a try?

8. Lovvol Volunteering Programme.

Come join our Lovvol volunteering / internship programmes in China and Mongolia. Unlike other volunteering organisation, not only are all our programmes completely FREE, but also selected student applicants get free training and certification as well as free food, accommodation, excursions and even Mandarin lessons during the programme in China. This year we will be visiting Shanghai, Beijing, Changsha, Chengdu, Ulaanbaatar, Xiamen, Shenzhen and many more!

We welcome students from across the UK, USA and Australia. Interested? Apply now or register interest @ <http://www.lovvol.org/apply/>

Please find some programme details as follows:

Lovvol encourages our Ambassadors to explore China in an engaging manner. We aim to foster cultural understanding and introduce Ambassadors to the Chinese language and way of life, inspiring the next generation of Chinese children to learn English and broaden their horizons. Currently we offer three distinctive programmes:

1 **Cultural Exchange** - some classroom teaching (English) combined with a range of cultural

workshops, blended learning activities and excursions;

2 **Inspiring Futures** - a progressive holistic education programme developed by our partner **Future Foundations** - to be delivered by our Ambassadors to Chinese children. The differentiating factor is the consideration given to the development of 'emotional intelligence' alongside our core objectives of cultural exchange and language progression.

3 **LOVVOL Adventurer** – For the first time this year we have teamed up with a summer camp provider specialising in water sports and adventure activities for young children. If you are the sporty adventurous type this might be a great way to combine a new cultural experience in China, teaching and developing your leadership skills

How we operate & Role Descriptions:

- Ambassador: Depending on the specific programme, Ambassadors are asked to complete pre-departure research and training. After arrival in China or Mongolia, Ambassadors will engage with school children, aged from 7-16 years old in groups of around 20. There will be no compulsory textbook for teaching. However, sample materials will be provided. Teaching is normally focused on conversational English and cultural workshops, while the format for activity-based classes is active group learning and participation, for example real situation English, outdoor activities, culture exchange and teaching English songs etc; Support and assistance from experienced teachers will be provided at the local institutions, so Ambassadors can develop confidence gained from the pre-departure studying and training.

Start and end date:

1/07/2017 – 31/08/2017

Duration:

4 weeks to 2 months depending on student applicants' availability and the programme

Skills and qualifications:

None required. Any previous teaching or volunteering abroad experience or Mandarin language skills would be beneficial

Essentials:

All ambassadors must have a native level of spoken English, and also enthusiasm, motivation and a willingness to interact with children and embrace the experience!

How to apply

Please log on our website to register your interest or apply at <http://www.lovvol.org/apply/>. Alternatively, please contact enquiries@lovvol.org for further enquiries. Places are limited and it is on first come first reserved basis.

Benefits

Full-board accommodation are provided in addition to excursions and cultural workshops on some programmes (e.g. mandarin lessons, trips etc) for free