News from Head of School

One-to-One Support Working on your own Blackboard 9 course

The EPS eLearning team would like to invite you to attend an EPS Blackboard 9 Support Clinic. Already many have attended and benefited from one hour's one-to-one support working on their courses. The clinics are set up in such a way that you can book multiple sessions if you wish to continue developing skills in online learning. We advise that you start re-building your course as early as possible and do not leave the work until September. It is likely to be time consuming, and there is re-training involved in re-building your Blackboard 9 courses. Book here. More Information

School Best Thesis nominations 31 July 11

This is a reminder that the deadline for nominations has been extended to 31 July 11. Please send nominations to Janet Boyd, details below. Each year, the School awards a prize for the best PhD thesis awarded during the previous year. Since 2005, the School has synchronized the internal submission and School award process with the annual calendar for the CPHC/BCS Distinguished Dissertations Award, so that the best submission to the School prize may be submitted to the CHPC/BCS competition if it is sufficiently good. More details can be found here.

Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)

There are pending changes to the USS that suggest that current employees who are not members of the scheme and who may choose to join at some point, should do so by 7th September.

Events

System architecture research at Oracle Labs 25 July 11

Mario Wolczko, Oracle Labs
1400 in Atlas 1
Please let me know (Lynn) if you would like to talk one-to-one with him.

Rutherford Public Lectures 8,9,10 Aug 11

To celebrate the centenary of Rutherford's "discovery" of the atomic nucleus in 1911, a short series of public lectures is being held which will look at the history of this discovery, as well as its application to modern medicine and nuclear energy. The lectures will be given by speakers with strong experience in presenting to the general public.

Monday 8th August 2011: From Rutherford to the Large Hadron Collider (Dr David Jenkins, University of York)
Tuesday 9th August 2011: Nuclear medicine: Atoms and antimatter matter in medicine (Professor Alan Perkins, University of Nottingham)
Wednesday 10th August 2011: Is there a safe future for nuclear energy (Dr John Robert, Dalton Institute, University of Manchester)
All lectures begin at 7.30 pm in University Place, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester. Entry is by free ticket only. Tickets can be obtained via the following weblink.
The EU Office have arranged for the National Contact Point for the FP7 theme ‘NMP’ (Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies) Dr Alastair McGibbon from the TSB, to come to Manchester on 18th August to present the 2012 NMP work programme following the summer calls in July. Please note that Liz Fay will shortly be advertising the time and venue of the event.

Please email Vicki Holt ASAP if you wish to:
1. Attend the lecture
2. Attend the lecture and wish to register an interest in a potential meeting with Dr McGibbon either over lunch or after the lecture (obviously Dr McGibbon’s availability for these meetings will depend on the level of interest so it may wise for interested groups to pick a representative/s)

Information Day on Call 8 of FP7 Objective 1.2 - 27/9/2011, Brussels
Ares(2011)757746

Information Day on Call 8 of FP7: Cloud Computing, Internet of Services and Advanced Software Engineering (Objective ICT-2011.1.2)

This one day event is a unique opportunity to understand the Objective 1.2 Call 8 of the FP7-ICT Work Programme as well as to build quality partnerships.

The Information Day will be the perfect platform for you to meet researchers with similar or complementary research interest to form consortia for project proposals. You will also receive information about the scope of Objective 1.2 and the procedure for preparing a proposal from Commission officials.

Start preparing in advance by making the best use of the on-line networking features!

To profit from the on-line networking opportunities, simply create your profile and submit, browse through proposal presentations, technology requests and offers, and comments left by other proposers.

Registration for the event is open free of charge! Feel like visiting the on-line networking features available on the Information Day website?


Funding Opportunities

FET Open - Young Explorers

The European Commission has introduced a new scheme aiming to help young researchers (defined as people who were awarded a PhD at most 6 years before the date of submission of the proposal). The scheme will provide funding to STREP proposals on any topic that may open new avenues in future Information & Communication Technologies Research as long as the coordinator and all workpackage leaders are ‘young researchers’.

More Information

Microsoft Research PhD Scholarship 2012 16 Sep 11

The programme is open to all universities or national research institutions in any country in Europe, the Middle East or Africa. Applications must be made by PhD supervisors not by students. Supervisors will be informed of our decision in January 2012 and will then have up to one year to find the best student for the proposed project. Students will typically start their PhD in October 2012.

More Information
JSPS Invitation Fellowships

We would like to inform you of our call for applications for the JSPS Invitation Fellowship for fiscal year 2012. JSPS is the leading research funding agency in Japan, established by the Japanese Government for the purpose of contributing to the advancement of science. JSPS plays a key role in the administration of various scientific and academic programmes, whilst expanding bilateral exchange between Japan and the United Kingdom. Invitation Fellowships provides the opportunity for mid-career to professorial level researchers to conduct collaborative research activities with leading research groups at Japanese Universities and Institutions. There are 2 types of Invitation Fellowship. The Short Term Invitation Fellowship is for visits of 14 to 60 days and the Long Term Invitation Fellowship is for visits of 2 to 10 months. Eligible research fields are not limited: computer, engineering, health, biological, life, natural and physical sciences, mathematics, humanities and social sciences etc.

Applications are to be sent to JSPS Tokyo via the host institution in Japan. The closing date for applications is Friday 2 September, 2011. This is the date applications are to be sent to JSPS Tokyo. The host institution will need to collect the application from the applicant via their host researcher in Japan sooner. Successful applicants are asked to start their fellowship between 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013. More Information

ERC 2012 Work Programme

Link (csonly) to a draft of the ERC 2012 Work Programme which is due to be published next month. It outlines the details for 4 expected ERC calls:

- Starting Grants (Oct 2011 deadline).
- Advanced Grants (Feb to Apr 2012 deadlines depending on subject).
- Proof of Concept awards (deadline May to Oct 2012 - for current ERC holders only I think).
- A new scheme called "ERC+ Grants" to bring together PIs with complementary skills/knowledge to address problems of frontier research (deadline Jan 2012).

As this is a draft document please treat its content with caution and do not circulate beyond the University.