

Our Green City

This online course developed by UWE staff explored the environmental and social challenges faced by cities, and the solutions being found in Bristol. A total of 1,400 people from more than 60 countries signed up to the course, with around half of the participants coming from the Bristol area.



Comments from participants included:

"I am considering how to get involved with organisations to have a bigger impact using my knowledge and experience."

"It's made me more interested to get involved with local schemes like public gardens and car share schemes."

"It made me very aware of what is happening locally, how I can be involved, informed and inform others."

Supporting sustainable travel

Throughout the year the university made changes to support staff and students to travel in a more sustainable and healthy way. These efforts were recognised in November, when UWE was named Employer of the Year at the Travelwest Business Travel Awards.

James Morvan, travel engagement project officer, said: "We have invested more than £400,000 in the past year. Changes include electric pool cars, a new travel info hub, on campus bike hire, electric car charging points, new cycle shelters and bike racks, new lockers and

showers, more bike repairs, electric car taster days and discounts."

Continuing the cause

"The impact of Bristol 2015 has been brilliant," said **Vicki Harris**, sustainability engagement officer.

"By being part of something bigger and something tangible where people live and work, it has given meaning and relevance to all that we do at UWE.

"It has made it so easy to engage with people – students and staff have shown a real desire for

making positive changes. Above all, Bristol 2015 has worked to make sustainability issues and practice mainstream and given us all hope and momentum for the future."

Georgina Gough, senior lecturer in education for sustainable development, said: "There is so much energy and enthusiasm

amongst staff and students to do more; in our formal and informal curricula, on our campuses, in our Students' Union, in our city and in our communities. Green Capital helped to establish and strengthen partnerships which will allow that to happen."



Georgina Gough and Vicki Harris

What was your highlight?

"The first green team meeting – the SU was full of passionate students, brimming with ideas for projects, initiatives and enthusiasm to make change."

Rachel Colley, SU experience enrichment project officer

"A record number of green internships in one year – we supported 35 businesses to take on green interns, improving their sustainable practices, developing green products, spreading the message."

Hannah Newmarch, head of employer partnership services

"The privilege to compose and perform a piece for orchestra that tried to both articulate Bristol's relationship with sustainability in an optimistic way, and to provoke discussion around the issues we are facing on a more global level."

Maxwell Davies, associate lecturer, centre for performing arts

"I never believed I would be so inspired, involved and creative in my first full year in Bristol."

Leyth Hampshire, SU sustainability officer

"Seeing so many keen sports clubs sign up to the greener future certificate in a bid to green up their clubs."

Adam Brittain, SU VP sports and health

"The Festival of the Future Cities. I was amazed by the vast amount of high quality, and critical thought that was presented at the festival. With all that good thinking, how are we still in the state we are as a country?"

Tim Chatterton, senior research fellow

A new approach to IVF

By Rose White, UWE MA journalism student

A UWE statistician is challenging current perceptions of IVF (in vitro fertilization) with his breakthrough research.

Andrew Smith, lecturer in statistics, discovered the success of an IVF procedure increases with the number of treatments. This perspective varies from the traditionally held belief that IVF is an individual, isolated process.

In December, Andrew and his collaborators published their study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*. Since then, the research, which was funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council, has appeared a variety of media including the *Times*, *Telegraph*, *Independent* and the *New York Times*.

In response to the media attention, Andrew said: "We've been delighted by the reaction. Particularly, it was good to see it picked up by so many newspapers. But, what's exciting now, is there will start to be interest from the scientific and medical community."

While much of the research on IVF has been focused on individual treatments, Andrew's

study looked at the data for women across their treatments. He said: "We could look and see how chances of success compared with multiple treatments over multiple cycles."



With the results of this research, Andrew said: "We want to prepare people for the idea that IVF may be a course of treatments. I want to give a realistic impression, because there can sometimes be unrealistic expectations that are given."

He said it is important for people going through IVF to not consider the treatment as a one-shot opportunity, but he acknowledges that IVF is an expensive procedure, with each cycle priced individually.

"IVF is a course of treatments, and people need to be prepared for the financial cost and the emotional cost," he said. However, with the research, Andrew and his collaborators want to give more information to

people who are starting IVF or have done a couple of cycles.

This information can be communicated by clinicians and patients reading the research in *JAMA*. But Andrew also hopes that an app called IVFpredict can incorporate his research and give guidance on a prognosis to patients and doctors.

Andrew said it is fascinating to look at the data. "You can see some remarkable stories just from a data set. You can spot instances where people have had quadruplets. Of course it is completely anonymous, but you can't help imagining what it was like for them."

As a part of an Applied Statistics Group, Andrew focuses on research that is practitioner based. Now, he and his collaborators will continue their progress on IVF by studying how many embryos should be replaced at once in a treatment.

