

DIARY DATES

WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER
[Partnership Board](#)
[Steering Group Meeting](#)
 TELECONFERENCE

THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER
[AAG Steering Group](#)
[Meeting](#)
 TELECONFERENCE

THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER
[WUN Coordinators](#)
[Meeting](#)
 TELECONFERENCE

MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER
[Wireless Wellbeing and](#)
[Personalized Health](#)
[Symposium](#)
 SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

THURSDAY 30 – FRIDAY 31
OCTOBER
[Urbanisation and](#)
[Development in China](#)
 SOUTHAMPTON, UK

FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER
[WUN RDF Deadline](#)
 GLOBAL

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER
[Partnership Board](#)
[Steering Group Meeting](#)
 TELECONFERENCE

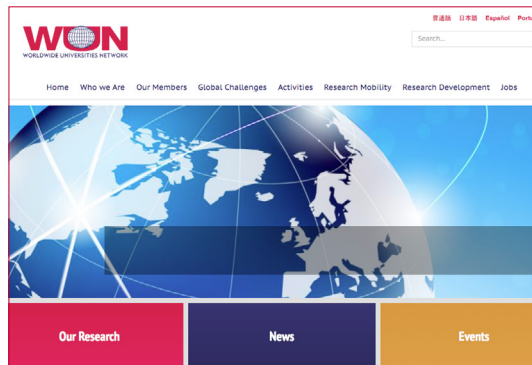
WUN LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

In August, WUN launched its brand new website to present a fresh, contemporary look for the network. As our main window to the world our website is an integral tool in sharing the WUN message with our internal communities of researchers and administrators but also to external audiences such as prospective members, funding bodies, governments, foundations and international agencies.

The website re-design was led by WUN General Manager, Nicholas Haskins, who said the project was aimed at delivering for WUN a fresh look that incorporates the latest technology and user trends. "In designing the new website we aimed to de-clutter our web space and present the user with a brighter, more intuitive experience", said Nicholas. "Our website is now more dynamic but at the same time makes it easier for the user to find the information that matters to them".

Among a range of new features the site includes information pages in Chinese, Japanese, Spanish and Portuguese as it is universities in countries that speak these languages that WUN has identified a number of key prospective partners and wishes to reach out to.

Check out our new website at www.wun.ac.uk



CRUNCHING NUMBERS: THE WUN BIG DATA WORKSHOP

As the technological age provides us with more access to data than in the history of humanity, a challenge presents itself of how to manage, interpret and, ultimately, exploit that data in ways that have a positive impact on almost every conceivable aspect of our lives. From health, to energy, environment, economics and culture - the applications of big data are limitless.

On 22 August, 30 representatives from data sciences across WUN gathered at the University of Rochester for the first WUN Data Science (Big Data) Workshop. This exploratory workshop was aimed at discovering opportunities for research and educational collaboration and to determine where WUN has the greatest impact in this burgeoning field of scientific exploration.

Delegates from 11 WUN member universities including Alberta, Auckland, Bristol, Cape Town, Leeds, Maastricht, Rochester, Sheffield, Southampton, UWA and Zhejiang used the workshop to explore common interests and potential collaborations across several primary themes including: computing infrastructure and data preservation, social networks and data mining, biomedical informatics and health prediction, and organising data science programs within a research university.



WUN BUILDING BRIDGES FOR STUDENT MOBILITY

Representatives from WUN international exchange and study abroad offices took some time out of the busy schedule at the NAFSA Conference in late April to discuss ways that WUN universities can work better together in creating international experience opportunities for students.

While WUN is recognised globally for its focus on supporting international research collaboration, the network is also committed to fostering the next generation of researchers. It does this at both the postgraduate and undergraduate level by providing opportunities for students to gain international exposure and preparing them for a career that will be global in scope.

A range of topics was discussed including summer schools, research internships and internationalisation opportunities for students who stay at home. The concept of a WUN Passport that would provide a more fluid exchange opportunity for students throughout the network was also discussed. Outcomes of the discussions at NAFSA will be fed into WUN's Student Mobility Working Group and the [WUN Global Higher Education and Research Global Challenge](#).

Thirteen of WUN's 17 member institutions were represented at the meeting, including Alberta, Auckland, Bergen, Bristol, Cape Town, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Leeds, Maastricht, Rochester, Sheffield, Sydney, UWA and York.

[Read the full story](#)



WUN delegates attending the 2014 NAFSA Conference in San Diego, USA.

WUN INVESTING IN RESEARCH

On 2 June, WUN announced the launch of the 2014 [Research Development Fund](#).

Now in its sixth year, the RDF offers grants to researchers in WUN universities to foster research collaboration across the network. Seed grants of up to a maximum of £15,000 (average award £10,000) are offered to support research projects in the four [WUN Global Challenges](#).

"The WUN RDF facilitates innovative research and strengthens partnerships within the Network", said John Hearn, Executive Director of WUN. "Catalytic funding ignites innovative approaches to the world's greatest challenges to be developed by leading minds across the globe. Since 2009 the RDF has contributed to WUN's mission of fostering high-quality, relevant and sustainable research."

In [last year's round](#), WUN dispensed £166,786 across 16 grants. The 2013 fund supported a diverse range of research projects spanning health literacy; reform of higher education; indigenous issues and food, water and energy security.

Applications are now open, with a deadline of 5pm GMT on Friday 31 October 2014. Those wishing to apply should download the WUN RDF Guidelines and Application Form from the WUN website and should consult their local institutional WUN Coordinator in advance of applying.

WUN DIVES IN TO SOCIAL MEDIA

To complement our website, WUN also launched its social media campaign in August by building a presence on Twitter, YouTube, Google+ and LinkedIn.

With the increasing popularity of social media in the global higher education landscape it is becoming important for WUN to be visible in these fora. "Listening to our members and witnessing the increased use of social media as a key communication tool, we realised that WUN needed to develop a dynamic social media presence", said Nicholas Haskins, WUN General Manager. "We canvassed our members to determine which social media platforms are the most relevant and we built our strategy accordingly".

We encourage our members and friends to follow the conversation on:

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Google+](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



WUN FOSTERS THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS

In June, WUN announced the latest round of awardees for its Research Mobility Programme (RMP). Sixteen young researchers from member institutions, including the University of Auckland, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Leeds, will receive funding to spend a period of up to 3 months at other member institutions.

The programme is designed to allow early-career researchers, including PhD students, to gain international experience and expand their professional networks. It also gives them access to expertise and facilities that may not be available at their home institution, while exposing them to ideas and cultures different from their own.

"Visiting Bristol was a great experience personally and professionally," says Brendan Murphy, PhD student at the University of Rochester. "These research connections have broadened my perspectives, and when the time comes to leave Rochester, I will apply to post-doctorate positions in Bristol and other European universities."

Executive Director John Hearn says the programme has been highly successful in breaking down the barriers to international academic mobility. "WUN has sent several young researchers to member institutions to learn, collaborate and share expertise. In many cases, this has not only led to academic success, but future career opportunities," says Hearn. "What it essentially serves as is a WUN passport that opens doors to international opportunities and experience".

[Read the full story](#)



Dr Wenfei Winnie Wang, an early career researcher from the University of Bristol visited CUHK on the WUN Research Mobility Programme.

WUN ACHIEVING RESULTS IN PUBLICATIONS AND FUNDING

A number of WUN projects recently announced successes of which we are proud to boast.

The WUN project *Changing Coasts, Climate Change and Other Drivers* published an article in the August edition of Nature Climate Change titled *Shifting perspectives on coastal impacts and adaptation*. The WUN RDF-funded project is a collaboration led by Southampton with partners at the universities of Auckland, Bristol, Cape Town and Western Australia.

The WUN project *Global Farm Platforms for Optimisation of Grazing Livestock Production Systems* published an article in the March edition of Nature. The article, titled *Agriculture: Steps to sustainable lives*, proposed that, with improved breeding and cultivation, ruminant animals can yield food that is better for people and the planet. The article is a result of the WUN-funded collaboration led by Mark Eisler and Michael Lee at the University of Bristol with partners at the universities of Leeds, Penn State, Western Australia and Zhejiang.

The *Shaping Health Systems Network* - a collaboration between Leeds, Sydney and Alberta that examines primary healthcare systems - published an article in the *Australian Health Review* titled Governance, transparency and alignment in the *COAG 2011 National Health Reform Agreement*.



Domestic goats and sheep can graze marginal lands, such as those in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. Photo credit: Colin Monteath, Hedgehog House/ Minden Pictures/FLPA

