

Successful students from the School of Science



James Obili

CertHE Life Sciences for Subjects Allied to Medicine

James Obili hadn't studied for some time when he applied to Birkbeck, and was quite daunted. However, he says: "Once I was accepted onto the course I knew I had it in me. It was just a question of getting started and being able to find myself again.

"The first couple of essays were difficult but the tutors were always there. I am dyslexic and initially found it difficult to understand what some of the teachers were saying – it takes me time to grasp things. However, Birkbeck offers dyslexia support and I was given great support to get me through my course."

After his Certificate, James went on to study for a BSc Pharmacy. He says: "Birkbeck has given me that knowledge and confidence to know I can succeed. I'm really enjoying myself and it has inspired me to go further – I won't stop telling people to come to Birkbeck."

Saloni Krishnan

MSc Cognitive Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuroscience, PhD Psychology
After completing her Master's degree at Birkbeck, Saloni Krishnan realised that she really missed the research atmosphere at the College, and came back to study for her PhD. She says: "The fact that at Birkbeck I could get up and listen to twenty world-class speakers on the same day is just brilliant, and it's something that you don't realise until you leave. That's one of the things I love about Birkbeck."

Saloni also enjoyed being able to see what departments at other universities were doing, thanks to Birkbeck's central London location, and says: "Birkbeck is right in the middle of London so you can not only take advantage of Birkbeck's own academics, who are obviously great, but also academics from all around London. That's really fantastic."

Above: Saloni Krishnan

Dean's Highlights

A new set of Master's programmes in the Department of Psychological Sciences were launched this year, and the new BSc in Planetary Sciences with Astronomy has attracted a large intake. The MSc Bioanalysis and MRes in Microbiology in the department of Biological Sciences have had a successful first year.

Professor Mark Johnson was elected to the Fellowship of the British Academy, which means we have fellows of the Royal Society, Academy of Medical Sciences and Academy of Social Sciences amongst our current staff in the School of Science.

The school obtained 29 new research grants in the year, with a total income of £4.8 million, including an EU grant to Professor Denis Mareschal, on tracking early development, which will bring an outstanding cohort of PhD students from across the EU to the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development.

Cancer Research Technology, the drug development arm of Cancer Research UK, have contracted to place their structural biology team within the Department of Biological Sciences for a further 5 years.

Dr Pieter Vermeesch in Earth and Planetary Sciences not only obtained a highly prestigious European Research Council Starting Grant but also a large NERC grant.

The School has published over 250 research papers in the period under review. Work from the School has featured on Radio 4, the BBC website, the *Times*, *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* and the *Guardian* amongst many places. A blog by Dr Tim Smith in the Department of Psychological Sciences, on how we watch movies, attracted 860,000 hits.

Professor Nicholas Keep,
Executive Dean, School of Science