

# Newsletter

## The UQ-Exeter Institute Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the UQ-Exeter Institute newsletter - the first under our new name and branding. This edition includes information about funding opportunities, the upcoming Symposium and seminar, details of our student representatives, and funded awards.

Also in this newsletter, you'll hear from recent Institute alumnus Dr Samuel Kraus, and Exeter Professional Services Staff Fellowship holder Amy Williams. We'll also share some relevant policy developments and invite you to test your knowledge of UN SDG 3!

Please share your feedback and ideas for future newsletters to [UQ-ExeterInstitute@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:UQ-ExeterInstitute@exeter.ac.uk).

## UQ-Exeter Institute Rebrand

Our new name and branding were launched by Vice-Chancellors Professor Deborah Terry AC and Professor Lisa Roberts at the first in the Institute's Global Seminar Series in September 2025. As the seminar theme was 'Celebrating Women in Higher Education, Research and Innovation', Professor Terry and Professor Roberts also reflected on their experiences as women in higher education. You can watch a recording of the event on [LinkedIn](#). Read on to hear about the second in the Global Seminar Series.

Along with the new branding, we have a new [UQ-Exeter Institute website](#) where all new funding calls and opportunities will be posted. We would really like to showcase projects funded by the Institute to the wider world, so please send us your stories and photos by emailing [uq-exeter@uq.edu.au](mailto:uq-exeter@uq.edu.au) or [UQ-ExeterInstitute@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:UQ-ExeterInstitute@exeter.ac.uk).

Templates with the new branding for presentations and publications are available for presenting work funded by the Institute – please email the above address for copies.

## UQ-Exeter Institute Symposium 2026

Exeter is looking forward to welcoming UQ colleagues to this year's Symposium, to be held on 1-3 July at our Streatham Campus, under the theme of 'Collaborative Research in Action: Shaping a Positive Future'. More information about the Symposium will be shared soon. For now, please register your interest below.

The Symposium follows directly from the Exeter Climate Conference (29 June–1 July) so colleagues are encouraged to consider attending both (see [exeterclimateforum.com](https://exeterclimateforum.com), use code ECFCOLAB for a discount).

Register your interest



## Second in our Global Seminar Series

### Research in Action: Shaping the Future of Sport – from Performance to Participation and Health – 20 May

As Brisbane prepares to host the 2032 Summer Olympics, we will explore how research at the Universities of Exeter and Queensland is driving innovation for improved sports performance, participation and health. The online event will feature presentations from leading academics from both institutions, followed by a panel discussion. Please register below to attend what promises to be an inspiring event.

Register to attend



## Open and Upcoming Funding Opportunities

### Professional Services Staff Fellowships

Applications are now open to all professional services staff and will close 4 May. This fellowship offers professional services staff the opportunity to travel to the partner institution to undertake a work placement within their counterpart service. Further details and the application form can be found online below. Read on to hear about one of this year's Fellowship holders.

Apply today

### Research Funding

Following a review of the UQ-Exeter Institute funding schemes, we are now offering a scheme with two stages: the Workshop Grant Scheme and the Accelerator Grant Scheme. An Accelerator Grant application is intended to follow successful completion of a Workshop Grant project. The call for Workshop Grant applications has just closed, and applications are under review. The Accelerator Grant Scheme will open for applications in early July 2026.

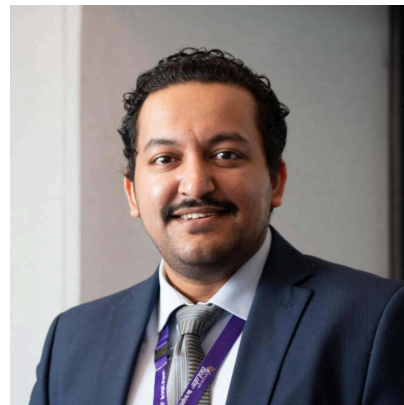
## PhD Student Representatives

Did you know that we have PhD student representatives at Exeter and UQ, who are the points of contact for all UQ-Exeter PGR students? They can help with general questions about the joint PhD experience, including navigating candidature across institutions and practical aspects of mobility between UQ and Exeter.

Our current UQ-based student representative is Edidiong James (Ediana), based at UQ's Business School ([edidiong.james@uq.edu.au](mailto:edidiong.james@uq.edu.au)) and our Exeter-based representative is: Prashanth Saseedharan, based in the Engineering Department at Exeter ([ps695@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ps695@exeter.ac.uk)). If you are a UQ-Exeter PhD student, please do reach out to them.



Edidiong James (Ediana)



Prashanth Saseedharan

## Recent Grant Awards

In April 2025, the Institute's second Strategic Grant was awarded to Janet Anders and Andrew White for a project entitled **Performance Analysis of Quantum Link Verification** -focusing on one of the biggest challenges in contemporary communications.

In July 2025, the following awards were announced through the Workshop Grant scheme:

- **Cybersecurity in the Age of AI: The Future of Trusted Computing Systems for Businesses**, led by Priyanka Singh at UQ and Khurram Bhatti at Exeter.
- **Developing a strategic collaboration initiative around AI for environment research**, led by Hywel Williams at Exeter and Eve McDonald-Madden at UQ.
- **Connecting researchers across the food system to identify solutions**, led by Nathan Cook at UQ and Kerry Brown at Exeter.
- **Psychedelics and mental health treatment: A responsible research agenda**, led by Tony Barnett at UQ and Hannah Farrimond at Exeter.

- **Launch of the Global Consortium for Mineral Sustainability (GCMS)**, led by Karen Hudson-Edwards at Exeter and Steve Micklethwaite at UQ.
- **From Pixels to Squiggles: Reconciling Hyperspectral Remote Sensing Data – best available techniques for mine waste and tailings characterisation**, led by Katerina Savinova at UQ and Eva Marquis at Exeter.

## Spotlight on Professional Services Staff Fellowships

**Amy Williams from the University of Exeter talks about her visit to UQ**

"Last month, I spent time with the Future Students International team at UQ as part of my Professional Services Fellowship. My fellowship focused on three key themes: compliance and immigration; communicating subject excellence to external stakeholders; and leadership styles, reflecting my role managing an overseas office in Exeter's International Student Recruitment team. The meetings I attended during my time on the St Lucia campus delivered strongly on these themes and more. I found it particularly interesting to learn how colleagues at UQ work closely with faculties to deliver focused international recruitment initiatives, develop partnerships and research collaborations, and manage the compliance processes undertaken by admissions teams.



Key highlights included knowledge-sharing sessions with the South Asia team, where we exchanged best practice when working in India. While our contexts are similar, the differences in agent management, application processes and expectation-setting were especially valuable to discuss. I also met with the Careers Team and attended the Employability Week Careers Exhibition, which offered insightful examples of how further study options and graduate roles are promoted to students.

In addition, I spent time with the global partnerships team and learnt more about the excellent work taking place across South Asia and beyond. I am very grateful to my hosts in the Future Students International team—Serena Yeo, Jogvan Klein and the South Asia regional team—for arranging such a thoughtful programme and for their open discussions on global markets and the unique challenges of international recruitment."

## PhD Alumnus Journey: Dr Samuel Kraus

Dr Samuel Kraus graduated in June 2025. His PhD project under the Healthy Living theme focussed on investigating bacteriophages – naturally occurring viruses that attack and destroy bacteria – as a novel source of therapy for the difficult-to-treat, antibiotic resistant, detrimental, tropical disease melioidosis, which is endemic in northern Australia and SE Asia.

Sam identified that individual bacteriophages are able to infect and kill *Burkholderia pseudomallei* – the bacterial agent that causes melioidosis - with a narrow host range and low therapeutic potential.

In combination with clinically relevant antibiotics however, he found that the bacterial killing was much improved, indicating synergy between antibiotics and bacteriophages, marking great potential as a future therapy for melioidosis.

The growing threat of antimicrobial resistance has now been widely recognised in the scientific and medical community, warning that within the next 25 years we might enter a post-antibiotic era where pan-drug resistant pathogens dominate post-modern medicine. Bacteriophage therapy, and the potential combination of bacteriophages and antibiotics, may slow or counteract the emergence and further spread of resistance.



In parallel to his PhD research, Sam dedicated his time as the UQ-Exeter Institute Student Representative and Management Board member from 2021 to 2025. In this position he helped solve problems, communicate changes and feedback and helped organise the 2023 and 2024 in-person symposia in Exeter and Brisbane.

Since graduating, Sam has continued to work for UQ in Brisbane, primarily focussing on obtaining more funding to research bacteriophages as novel sources of therapy for antibiotic resistant and detrimental human pathogens.

Thanks to the UQ-Exeter Institute PhD program he met his now wife during his stay in Brisbane. They have since welcomed their first child and have begun the process of settling into family life in Australia.

## Policy Tectonics

### Horizon Europe

We are excited to hear that Australia has begun formal negotiations to join Horizon Europe as an associated country, to which the UK re-established association in 2023. If negotiations are successful and association is agreed, this will allow Australian researchers to apply for funding and lead projects within the same framework as EU and UK partners.

For UQ-Exeter Institute collaborations, this signals a potential shift towards more integrated, jointly funded research opportunities across the UK, EU, and Australia, with clearer pathways from existing UQ-Exeter Institute supported seed funding schemes to large-scale international programmes.

- **Launching Horizon Europe negotiations with the EU**
- **Possible association to Horizon Europe: request for information**

### Other relevant news:

- **New Study Questions Whether Quantum Can Break Encryption at Scale**
- **AI Poses Emerging Risks to Power Grid Reliability**
- **UK Copyright & AI Policy Report Signals Uncertainty**
- **EU Digital Europe Programme Expanded**

# Know your SDGs Quiz

Take the SDG #3: Good Health and Well-being quiz [online](#).

A partnership between



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## Contact us

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