Offer Holder Day Programme
Wednesday, 14 February 2018

Welcome to Queen Mary's Festival of Geography Offer Holder Day!

We have lined up a number of talks and sessions for you, each tailored to suit interests across areas of human geography, physical geography and environmental science. There will also be plenty of opportunities for you to meet our staff and students during the day, and get your questions answered. Our Welcome Area will be in the **Octagon** on the ground floor of the **Queens' Building** (no. 19a on the campus map).

*Please note: if you are **not** attending an interview as part of the day **or** if your interview slot is scheduled for the afternoon (between 14.50-16.10), then you don't need to arrive until after 10am.*

09.15 onwards | DOORS OPEN | Octagon, Queens' Building

Doors open for registration at 9.15am. Refreshments and early bird campus tours are available from 9.30am. Please alert a member of staff or student ambassador if you wish to take a tour. There will be plenty of time during the day too, to take a tour of the campus.

09.30 – 10.30 | UNCONDITIONAL OFFER SCHEME INTERVIEWS | 1st floor, Geography Building

Some students who have met our criteria for consideration for the Unconditional Offer Scheme will have interviews during this time. We have already emailed you with your interview time, so please check your inbox. If you're unsure of the timing of your interview, please ask a member of staff on the Admissions Hotspot in the Octagon.

10.30 – 10.45 | REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS | Octagon, Queens' Building

To save time at our registration desk, please bring a copy of your confirmation email either as a printed copy or on a digital device, to be scanned by our team. After registering, please feel free to join our staff and students for a cup of tea or coffee.

10.45 – 11.15 | WELCOME TALKS | Octagon, Queens' Building

The day will commence with a welcome from our Head of School Professor Alastair Owens, followed by short talks from some of our current students.

11.15 – 12.00 | INSIGHTS | various locations

Experience a taster lecture in human geography, physical geography or environmental science:

- **Cashless India? The politics of development, digital payments and data**

  In November 2016 the Indian government made 85% of its cash illegal overnight through its policy of demonetisation. This lecture examines the Indian government's drive to make India a 'cashless' or 'less-cash' economy, with the aim to reduce corruption and extend digital financial inclusion to India's poorest populations. This radical economic policy raises questions about the politics of

digital development, the promotion of financial inclusion via digital money and the privacy & security risks that digital data presents to ordinary people in 'new India'.

- Why can't we solve a problem like climate change?

Climate change is considered a 'wicked problem', one that is hard to directly experience, and of such magnitude that individuals, societies and countries feel helpless to resolve it. This talk explores the critical role of geographers as translators of the science of climate change to inform effective policy-making and engagement to begin to face this greatest of challenges.

- Pollution and Contaminated Land

This session will introduce you to some fundamental principles that help environmental scientists understand how to assess the risk of environmental pollutants to human health.

12.00 – 12.45 | ENGAGEMENT | various locations

Take part in discussions, hands on activities, and ask us your questions:

- Urban Natures: Lively Spaces and Dynamic Environments

This session explores the theme of nature and environment in London which links to the on-going campaign to designate London as a national park city. We will present some of the exciting work on the Green London Project that our first-year students do in their very first teaching week and show examples of the wide range of projects focusing on urban river restoration that the School undertakes with stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, Thames21 and the Canal & River Trust.

- Bringing the field into the laboratory *

Our newly fitted teaching laboratory is the centre-piece of our laboratory suite, around which we have research facilities for the analysis of water, soil and sediment, enabling students to measure geographical phenomena and to simulate environmental processes. During this session, you will be able to learn about how we can reconstruct past environments using fossils, you'll be introduced to the palaeoenvironmental analysis of assemblages of mollusc shells, and will look at a selection of microfossils under the microscope. You will have the opportunity to visit our specialist River Lab too where we will demonstrate how physical and computer models can be used to help understand river behaviour. ** Please note: places are limited in the laboratories. Parents and guests are advised to attend the parallel Parents' and Carers' Q&A with Head of School.*

- Parents' and Carers' Q&A

Head of School will be on hand to answer questions about Queen Mary, the School of Geography, how we help young people make the transition from college or sixth form to higher education, and how we prepare them for life after university. Some of the admissions team and student ambassadors will be available too, to answer your questions.

12.45 – 14.00 | LUNCH & STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES FAIR | Octagon, Queens' Building

Lunch will be served in the Octagon where our staff and students will be available to chat to you about all aspects of life here at QMUL. Make full use of this session and feel free to bombard us with your questions – we know it's a big decision to choose your university and you and your parents will be full of questions, so please feel free to ask us anything. We are here to help you make an informed choice!

A **Student Support Services Fair** is also available during this time offering you lots of advice and support to help you navigate the different stages of student life. The fair will be arranged in four information points:

- **LEARNING** (subject expertise; degree programmes; teaching styles; assessment; feedback; learning resources; fieldwork; study abroad opportunities; student support; facilities; QMplus)
- **LIVING** (London life; living on/off campus; living in east London; accommodation options; Geography Society; Students' Union; advice and welfare)
- **ENGAGING** (volunteering; real-world impact; community engagement; making a difference; public/private sector; informing policy)
- **MOVING ON** (skills and employability; developing careers; graduate destinations; careers support during your degree; masters and PhD opportunities; alumni network)

14.00 – 14.45 | OPPORTUNITIES | Octagon, Queens' Building

Learn about fieldwork, careers and employability and hear from a former student:

• **Fieldwork at Queen Mary**

As a student at QMUL you will have many opportunities to participate in a range of innovative field classes. This session will provide an overview of the wide-ranging fieldwork opportunities in the School, from first to third year, the exciting and varied fieldwork locations that are on offer, and how fieldwork is embedded in modules across the various degree programmes.

• **Careers and Graduate talk**

In this session, you will learn about the breadth of careers options available for geography and environmental science graduates, as well as the support available to you during your degree and opportunities outside the university in the workplace. We will also be joined by a special guest – one of our former students who will talk about their experience when they studied here and the fascinating career path they have taken since.

*If you are **not** attending an interview as part of the day **or** if your interview slot is scheduled for the morning (between 9.30-10.30), then you are free to leave at 2.45pm after the Opportunities session.*

14.50 – 16.10 | UNCONDITIONAL OFFER SCHEME INTERVIEWS | 1st floor, Geography Building

Some students who have met our criteria for consideration for the Unconditional Offer Scheme will have interviews during this time. We have already emailed you with your interview time, so please check your inbox. If your interview is between these times, please meet us at 2.45pm by the Admissions Hotspot in the Octagon.

15.00 – 16.00 | OPTIONAL CAMPUS & ACCOMMODATION TOURS | starting from Octagon

If you haven't already seen our campus on a pre-application open day, our student ambassadors can show you around today. Campus and accommodation tours will be running from the Octagon during lunch, and also at the end of the day. Please alert a member of staff or student ambassador if you wish to take a tour.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's the difference between an Open Day and an Offer Holder Day?

The Open Days were more about an introduction to the university and getting a feel for the different courses and services we offer. With thousands of people on campus, you would have only scratched the surface of what we have to offer. The Offer Holder Days give you more quality time with our staff so you can ask more detailed questions from our academics, staff and students. You will also get an opportunity to take part in taster sessions and get a real feel for the course. It's also a great opportunity to meet other students who will be on your course so you might even strike up friendships before you start!

What should I bring?

Please bring a copy of your confirmation email either as a printed copy or on a digital device, to be scanned by our team. This includes your unique QR booking code which you will need to check in.

How do I get there?

The event takes place at our Mile End campus (Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS). We strongly advise visitors to use public transport to get to our campus. The nearest tube stations are Mile End and Stepney Green (about a 5-minute walk from each); buses 25, 205 and 339 also run past campus. Before you set off, visit the Transport for London website and plan your journey: tfl.gov.uk. Once you get to QMUL, go to the Queens' Building (the main building at the front of the campus, no.19 on the campus map). We will be based on the ground floor, in the Octagon. Parking for visitors is not available. Local parking restrictions also apply on weekdays and weekends (please refer to Tower Hamlets website). There are limited blue badge holder spaces available – please contact us in advance to check availability, should you or your guest need one.

What if I have special requirements?

If you have any special requirements, including dietary requirements, and you haven't already let us know via the online booking form when you registered for the event, please email us as soon as possible at geog-fest@qmul.ac.uk.

How will I find the talks?

Our Welcome Area will be in the Octagon on the ground floor of the Queens' Building. Some of our sessions will take place here, and some will take place in the nearby Geography Building. But don't worry about getting lost, as there will be friendly geography ambassadors on hand to guide you to each session. You won't miss them – they'll be wearing green hoodies. They will wait for you until the end of the talk, to make sure that you end up back in the right place.

What about my parent or carer? Can they join me?

It's a good idea to bring someone along with you who can help you in your decision-making process. Parents and carers are welcome to attend the talks too, but please note: there are limited spaces in the labs. There is a special Q&A session for parents and carers in Session 2 with the Head of School – we recommend your guests attend this.

Is lunch provided?

Yes, lunch will be served in our Welcome Area in the Octagon, during which you can chat to students and staff about all aspects of life here at QMUL. If you have any dietary requirements, please email at geog-fest@qmul.ac.uk.

What time does the event end?

The event ends at 2.45pm after the 'opportunities' talk. However, if you have been invited for an interview as part of the Unconditional Offer Scheme and you have an afternoon interview scheduled for after 2.50pm, the day might finish a little later for you – depending on what time your interview slot is. If you're unsure of the timing of your interview, please ask a member of staff on the Admissions Hotspot.

