

The Panasonic Trust Fellowships

These prestigious awards are tenable on the following Masters courses during 2001:

Multimedia Technology at the University of Bath
Manufacturing Systems Engineering at the University of Bradford
Cranfield Manufacturing Masters Courses at Cranfield University
Environmental Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh
Geotechnical Engineering at Heriot-Watt University
Environmental Diagnosis at Imperial College
Renewable Energy Systems Technology at Loughborough University
Water and Environmental Management at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Renewable Energy and the Environment at the University of Reading
Engineering for Development at the University of Southampton
Energy Systems and the Environment at the University of Strathclyde
Water and Environmental Engineering at the University of Surrey
Corrosion Science and Engineering at UMIST
Facilities Management at UWE Bristol
Urban Design/Town and Country Planning at UWE Bristol
Virtual Manufacturing in Construction and Engineering at the University of Wolverhampton

Do you run a Technology Updating Course?

The Panasonic Trust is always keen to expand the number of courses it supports with its awards.

Suitable courses, either full or part-time, can cover any aspect of new technology.

Suitable applicants need not be graduates, but should have an engineering qualification.

Please contact us for further information on funding opportunities.

Application Information

All enquiries about the Panasonic Trust and its activities should be made to:

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Panasonic Trust News

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ROYAL
ACADEMY
of
ENGINEERING

Female Engineers dominate Sustainability Awards

The Selection for this year's Panasonic Trust Fellowships was more competitive than ever. A record number of applications were received for this year's awards, which are given for the full-time study of subjects related to environmental technology. This resulted in more candidates than usual being shortlisted for interview, so much so that an extra day of final interviews had to be arranged. At a time when the profession has been self critical with respect to attracting and retaining women, the Trust awarded four of this year's five Fellowships to female engineers.

Commenting on this year's awards Panasonic Trust Chairman Robin Bond FREng said "I would like to congratulate this year's Fellowship awardees, all of whom demonstrated outstanding abilities not only as engineers but as professionals. I would also like to wish them well in their studies and hope their future career paths reflect the spirit of what the Trust and the Panasonic companies are trying to achieve in promoting sustainability". When asked about the number of Fellowships awarded to female engineers Bond said "The Trustees have always viewed applicants as professional engineers first and foremost. We never have and never will adopt a policy of positive discrimination for any cause. All our awards are made upon merit as this is how applicants will be judged throughout their professional careers".

The five engineers selected for this year's Fellowships are: Sujitha Herren from Swindon who will be attending the Multimedia Technology course at the University of Bath; Manufacturing Engineers Cassandra Crick and Darren Furse who will be expanding their skills and knowledge on the Manufacturing Masters Courses offered at Cranfield, and finally Hydrogeologist Laura Coleby and Joanna Mason from the Lake District who will be studying Engineering for Development on the South Coast at the University of Southampton.



"Many people one world"

Photo courtesy of Nicholas Clarge

Civil Engineer awarded Paton Bursary



This year's Sir Angus Paton Bursary has been awarded to 32 year old Jonathan Hackwell from St Austell in Cornwall, to study the MSc course in Water Pollution Control Technology at Cranfield University starting in September 2001. Until recently civil engineer Jonathan was employed by South West Water, who he joined upon graduating from Portsmouth University in 1991.

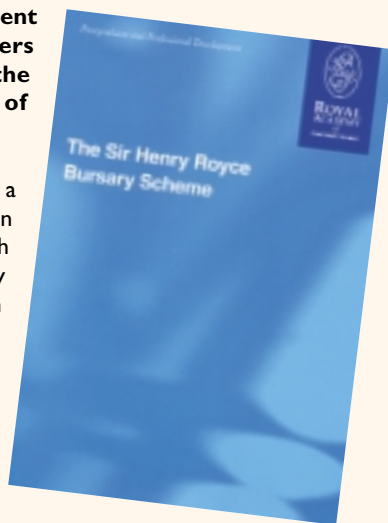
The Bursary was established by Sir Angus Paton CMG FREng FRS in 1986 to support the study of a Water Engineering related full-time Masters course. Since 2000 the Bursary has been awarded by the Panasonic Trust in parallel with its Fellowship Scheme.

Automotive Engineers awarded Royce Bursaries

Engineers from the Ford Motor Company in Dunton made a clean sweep of this year's Sir Henry Royce Bursaries. Bryan Arber, Mark Goody and Claire Webb were awarded this year's three awards to study the Automotive Integrated Graduate Development Scheme Masters course run by the University of Hertfordshire.

Each awardee receives a bursary of £1,000 in addition to a much coveted Sir Henry Royce Medal upon graduation.

The scheme is generously supported by the Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation and The Royal Academy of Engineering.



Bryan Arber



Mark Goody



Claire Webb

Congratulations!

To the following Trust awardees who have recently completed part-time courses and successfully graduated:

- David Bell** MSc in Corrosion of Engineering Materials from Imperial College
- Adrian Brooks** MSc in Building Services Engineering from Heriot-Watt University
- Philip Capon** **MSc with Distinction** in Engineering Product Design from South Bank University
- Joan Chambers** MSc in Building Services Engineering Management from Heriot-Watt University
- Douglas Cross** MSc in Advanced Manufacturing Systems from Brunel University
- Adam Daykin** MSc in Geotechnical Engineering Design & Management from Nottingham Trent University
- Guy Duberley** **MSc with Distinction** in Electronic & Computer-Based System Design from the University of Huddersfield
- Lisa England** MSc in Process Safety & Loss Prevention from the University of Sheffield
- Philip Garlick** **MSc with Distinction** in Environmental Engineering from the University of Portsmouth
- Fai Lee** MSc in Advanced Manufacturing Systems from Brunel University
- James Macgregor** MSc in Process Technology & Management from the University of Strathclyde
- Joanne Mottram** MSc in Process Technology & Management from the University of Strathclyde
- Marc Rudd** MSc in Engineering Project Management from Lancaster University
- Adrian Wright** **MSc with Distinction** in Process Safety & Loss Prevention from the University of Sheffield

Taking the Distance Learning Route

One of the first methods by which students were able to study part-time was through correspondence course. Students working in isolation would study material and complete assignments, posting them off to be assessed. The concept of study by this method still exists today although it is now known as distance learning. In addition many of the teaching methods now employed reflect technological advances such as group work via the Internet and video conferencing. However the discipline required to study this way has not changed and is often not fully understood until the student is actually enrolled. Recently graduated Trust awardee James Macgregor shares his experiences of studying by this route, and gives some sound advice for any potential distance learning student.



James Macgregor

In 1996 I returned to the UK after spending six years overseas working for Shell International Petroleum in Brunei, South East Asia. During my time in Brunei I was employed as an Instrumentation Engineer, which has been my profession since graduating from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) in 1982. The Engineering Group within Brunei Shell was relatively small and limited resources meant that much of the detailed design work was sub-contracted out to consultancy companies. This arrangement allowed myself and other discipline engineers to focus more on developing engineering studies and conceptual designs. This proved to be a very stimulating environment to work in and I frequently found myself working closely with other engineering functions in design development.

Upon my return to the UK, I found that my experience in Brunei had increased my professional expectations and consequently I felt a need to broaden my engineering and management skills with a view to further developing my career. I decided that the best course of action was to undertake an academic course at postgraduate level in order to acquire the skills I needed. I also realized that since I was working full-time, I would have to find some form of part-time course.

I set about gathering information on a variety of courses and discussing the subject with other engineering colleagues. During my research, I came across an article in the Institution of Chemical Engineers journal about the Integrated Graduate Development Scheme (IGDS) and in particular a new Masters course at the University of Strathclyde called Process Technology and Management.

The course is a 'Distance Learning' programme, arranged as twelve taught modules with a final year thesis, which counts for three modules. Regular tutorial groups are held at the university where delegates have the opportunity to meet each other and discuss their progress. The course material is made up of chemical engineering topics, in addition to Information Technology drawn from the ITACS scheme and a selection of management modules taken from the University of Strathclyde MBA course. Eight of the modules are regarded as core subjects and must be studied by all students. The remaining four modules are selected by the students to suit their individual requirements, for example the course may be structured to emphasise management or engineering content. The staff at

Strathclyde was very helpful when I came to selecting my option modules and carefully reviewed my overall objectives before advising me on what modules I should select in order to obtain the correct balance for the course. I found the course material itself very relevant to my day-to-day working environment and I think this factor in particular enhanced the learning process.

Having now completed the course, I would stress to others contemplating this type of study the need to be organized so as to get through the workload with the least pain and intrusion into one's life. Again the staff at Strathclyde were able to provide invaluable guidance on the subject of effective study and staying on track with assignments and other course requirements.

I anticipated having to fund the fees myself when I first applied for the Masters course which was a considerable expense. Fortunately I was made aware of the Panasonic Trust just before starting my studies and was successful in obtaining funding for the full three-year duration of the course. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Trust for providing me with this much appreciated financial support.

I completed the taught modules in March last year and spent the last six months of the course working on my thesis, which was based on the offshore oil & gas industry. Since graduating in November last year, I have re-assessed my new skills and am now actively seeking opportunities where I can use my MSc qualification most effectively. Environmental Protection and Technical Process Safety are two areas that I am particularly interested in and at present am in the process of contacting suitable employers with a view to working in this developing area.

One of the most important features of my MSc studies was the immediate relevance of the course material and this prompted me to coin the phrase 'learn it today and use it tomorrow'. I can recall many instances where I was able to integrate new skills I had learnt on the course with projects I was working on at the time. Not only did this benefit my employer and the job, but it also gave me immense satisfaction knowing that I could effectively integrate academic study into my working environment. This observation changed my perspective of engineering and allowed me to take a much wider view of my profession and my own capabilities.

There is no doubt that undertaking a postgraduate course on a part-time basis is very demanding of your time and effort. However, I have found that there are real benefits to be had through having acquired this qualification and knowledge. In this day and age, the rapid pace of technological change makes it all the more important that experience should be complemented by regular training and updating of qualifications.



Photo: Courtesy of British Gas