



## Press Release from Bournemouth University

14 September 2009

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### **BU sets sail at world-class events**

Outstanding students from Bournemouth University (BU) will be down at the 2012 Olympic venue Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy this September participating in two world-class sailing events.

Students from BU's School of Services Management, along with academics from the School's Centre for Event & Sport Research, will participate in this week's ISAF Sailing World Cup event – Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta.

Run by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) the event takes place at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy, one of the selected venues for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, from Monday 14 to Saturday 19 September 2009.

Over 30 students from BU's Events Management, Leisure Marketing and Sports Management programmes have been selected to work at the live event in a variety of roles from manning the event information stand to acting as media and PR runners.

The RYA has also enlisted academic staff from BU's Centre for Event & Sport Research to undertake evaluative research at the event and will use the results to help improve the experience for event attendees next year.

Earlier this month a group of five postgraduate event, tourism and hospitality students braved the wind out on safety boats in the harbour to participate in the RSX World Championships, also supported by the RYA.

The competition involves a specialist type of windsurfing equipment designed for acceptance in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Tourism student Christy Hehir, who took part in the event, said: "Volunteering at the RSX World Championships has been a real insight into the world of sailing and has provided great experience of how such a large sporting event is conducted.

“Out on the water, I was texting in the ranking positions of the sailors as they literally flew by and I was even lucky enough to join the committee boat, and help with the start of the race. This experience has been a great way to end my MSc year at BU and despite getting wet, windswept and even soaked, it has been awesome.”

Dr Holly Henderson from BU’s Centre for Event & Sport Research said: “This is a fantastic opportunity for our students from the School of Services Management to be involved in both world class events at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy. The experience is invaluable. Obviously, we are also delighted to be conducting the research for Skandia Sail for Gold.”

**Notes to Editors:**

1. BU is a finalist for ‘University of the Year’ and ‘Research Project of the Year’ in *the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards, 2009*.
2. BU is the UK’s Number One New University (first place among all institutions that became universities since 1992) according to The Guardian University Guide 2009 & 2010. ([www.guardian.co.uk/education](http://www.guardian.co.uk/education))
3. In the 2008 [Research Assessment Exercise](#) (RAE) BU is the fourth most improved university in the UK for the quality of its research (according to *Times Higher Education*).

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