



Press Release from Bournemouth University

2 October 2009

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BU branch of Abbey opens for business!

A new campus-based branch of high street bank Abbey has opened at Bournemouth University (BU).

The branch, on the University's Talbot Campus, offers full banking services to students and staff with a cashpoint facility for cash withdrawals and account deposits.

The branch opening also marked the arrival of the first Santander scholarship recipients at BU this autumn. Four postgraduate students will receive £5,000 each from Santander to support their studies over the coming year. Three of these students joined in the launch - Gina Siebler from Portugal and Renzo Silva Lanza of Brazil will study for the MSc in Biodiversity Conservation and Spanish student Nerea Aizpura Iraola is preparing for the MSc programme in World Heritage Management.

Earlier this year BU entered a new partnership with Abbey, the UK subsidiary of Banco Santander. BU students, researchers and entrepreneurs now benefit from a three-year investment programme by the Bank's 'Santander Universities' Global Division through funded scholarships for postgraduate students and staff. The funding supports projects based in Iberoamerican countries included in the 'Santander Universities' network – Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela.

BU's research activities in forensic sciences and the environment, based in the University's School of Conservation Sciences, benefit specifically from the partnership. Over recent months 5 students and members of BU staff have benefitted from Santander travel scholarships of £1,000 each enabling them to develop projects in forensic science and the environment in Spain and Brazil.

Santander Universities is also funding activities to nurture entrepreneurship at BU, providing awards to develop student-led business ideas and encourage further links between the University's most promising entrepreneurs and experts from the business community.

Professor Paul Curran, Vice-Chancellor of Bournemouth University, welcomed the new facilities and students: "We are delighted to be part of the Santander Universities network and to see our

relationship develop through the new bank on our Talbot Campus. We also welcome our new scholarship recipients who we hope will benefit from the opportunity that Santander has provided to the thriving postgraduate community at BU.”

Luis Juste, Director UK & Portugal, Santander Universities, said: “Bournemouth University became part of the Santander Universities network only a few months ago and I am delighted to see that the progress in our collaboration has materialised in the opening of this branch. Our fully qualified branch team are looking forward to give support and advice to students and staff at Bournemouth University.”

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Notes for Editors:

About Bournemouth University

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).

BU is a finalist for 'University of the Year' and 'Research Project of the Year' in *the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards*, 2009.

In the 2008 [Research Assessment Exercise](#) (RAE) BU is the 4th most improved university in the UK for the quality of its research (according to *Times Higher Education*). Eight BU subject areas produce research of a quality that is comparable with the very best in the world including: Art & Design (including Computer Animation); Archaeology; Business Management (including Tourism); Communication, Culture & Media; Computer Sciences; General Engineering; Geography & Environmental Sciences and Nursing & Midwifery.

About Santander Universities

Banco Santander, one of the largest banks in the world, created 'Santander Universities' in 1996 to support the Higher Education sector in such areas as teaching and research, international cooperation, knowledge and technology transfer, entrepreneurial initiatives, student mobility and innovation.

Santander Universities Global Division has signed co-operation agreements with 714 universities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Mexico, Morocco, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

'Santander Universities' was introduced in the UK in 2007 through Abbey National plc and the bank is already collaborating with thirty-four British Universities and Higher Education Institutions, with agreements focused in promoting international exchange, entrepreneurial activities and the mobility of students and researchers within the network.

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