



Unique MA celebrates 21st birthday with awards ceremony at Staffordshire University

Students from across the globe travelled to the world capital of ceramics last week to celebrate their graduation from Staffordshire University.

The MA Economics of Globalisation and European Integration was first established in 1994 and involves a consortium of nine universities from across Europe, China and Brazil. Teaching rotates between the partners and this year's graduating cohort have studied at Staffordshire University, the University of Antwerp in Belgium and the University of Bari in Italy.

11 of the graduating Class of 2015 travelled to Staffordshire for a special ceremony which took place in Stoke Minster and they were congratulated on their awards by Staffordshire University's Chancellor The Lord Stafford DL FRAgS and Vice Chancellor Professor Michael Gunn.

Dr Ian Jackson of Staffordshire University's Business School said: "The MA is a unique degree as it provides a bespoke teaching and learning approach as well as promoting a deep level of understanding among both students and staff. It also embodies the two key themes of academic study; namely globalisation and European integration."

"It was especially fitting that the ceremony took place at Stoke Minster where Josiah Wedgwood is buried and it was inspiring to hear the keynote address by University Honorary Doctor Kevin Oakes of Steelite International who is leading the way in ensuring the future of ceramics in this area."

29 students have graduated from the intensive 13 month programme this year bringing the total number of graduates to more than 400. Recent graduates have gained employment with top companies, central banks and financial institutions.

- The programme is supported by the EU's Tempus and Socrates Programmes and currently has the distinction of being only one of a few to have the prestigious EU's Erasmus Mundus status.

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Staffordshire University is developing to meet the needs of modern day learners and current and emerging industries. Vocationally inspired, the University offers courses across a wide range of subject areas. The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 determined that 78 per cent of the University's research is world leading or of international importance.