Spotlight on: The Fulbright Awards

Scholarships for academic work in the US

We've recently welcomed Professor Dwayne Simmons from the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) via the Fulbright-University of Sheffield Scholarship Award scheme to the Department of Biomedical Science for a year-long exchange programme.

At UCLA Dwayne is a professor in the Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology and teaches courses in neuroscience.

Dwayne's research primarily focuses on the cellular and molecular mechanisms associated with hearing loss in the brain and inner ear. In addition he also serves as director of several NIH-funded programs, whose goals are to increase the number of students from diverse backgrounds who enter biomedical research careers, and directs diversity and education programs for the UCLA Brain Research Institute.

During his scholarship at Sheffield Dwayne will be conducting research on the role of calcium buffering in auditory function and deafness.

“Through collaboration with colleagues in the department and also more widely across the Faculty of Science, I intend to enrich my teaching and further my research,” said Dwayne.

“I would encourage both my US and UK colleagues to take part in the scheme – gaining knowledge of the ways academics from different cultures can work together is proving invaluable,” he added.

Fulbright Scholarships foster mutual cultural understanding between US–UK academics through educational exchange between both nations. The global Fulbright Programme is one of the most prestigious awards programmes world-wide. Operating since 1948, it now spans over 150 countries, with over 300,000 alumni.

Quick facts about the Global Fulbright Programme

- Within the global Fulbright Programme, 28 alumni have served as head of state or government
- 11 Fulbright alumni have been elected to US Congress
- 1 Fulbright alumnus has served as Secretary-General of the UN
- 43 Fulbright alumni from 11 countries have received the Nobel Prize, including two in 2010
- 78 alumni have received Pulitzer Prizes