

THE CHRONICLE

#SHTMatSurrey

*The Monthly Newsletter of
School of Hospitality and Tourism Management*



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THIS MONTH IN SHTM

The exam period is almost over! We would like to congratulate our students for completing their modules this semester. All those hours spent revising and completing assignments will hopefully have paid off. For our final year students finishing their course this semester, we hope to congratulate you in person at the graduation ceremony in July!

We would also like to wish all SHTM staff a happy period of marking! We're almost there!

We are excited to welcome new colleagues to join our team in the coming academic year. We are inviting candidates for interviews for a Reader in Events this week, and a Senior Lecturer/Reader in Hospitality next week.

The SHTM weekly coffee club and bi-weekly Wates gatherings are back! Please join us whenever you're on campus on Wednesdays.

A NOD FROM THE HEAD

Prof Iis Tussyadiah

University of Surrey advances to the top 3 in the world on the 2021 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS) for Hospitality and Tourism Management, climbing two places from last year's position on the same rankings. This marks a significant accomplishment which further cements SHTM's global leadership in education and research in our subjects.

Such high rankings are clear evidence of the quality and dedication of our staff to advance research and scholarship in the fields of hospitality, tourism, transport, and events management, and the immense support of our partners. I would like to congratulate and thank everyone for this fantastic achievement. I am tremendously proud to be part of SHTM.



SHTM: Home to Global Leaders

University of Surrey's School of Hospitality and Tourism Management is ranked **third** in the world and **first** in the UK on the 2021 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS), for Hospitality and Tourism Management, published by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy.

The GRAS rankings represent the most comprehensive and objective ranking of world universities by subjects. The GRAS rankings use a range of objective academic indicators and third-party data to measure the performance of world universities in respective subjects, including research output (Q1), research influence (CNCI), international collaboration (IC), research quality (Top), and international academic awards (Award). This year sees SHTM's remarkable performance in all indicators, particularly in research influence and international collaboration.



How Divided are UK Residents on Vaccine Passports?

Prof Iis Tussyadiah, Dr Athina Ioannou, & Prof Graham Miller

The UK moved to Step 3 of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown on 17 May 2021, which included lifting a ban on foreign travel. Yet, travelling to amber and red list countries still carries strict regulations. UK residents can use proof of vaccination or Covid status (via NHS app) to ease travel restrictions, a scheme known as vaccine passports. However, its implementation is still laden with issues and public opinion about it appears polarised.

We conducted **two studies** to explore public opinion about vaccine passports. First, we **mined opinions from Twitter** from December 2020, the start of vaccination rollout, to April 2021 and, using topic modelling, extracted major themes from relevant tweets. 14 major themes were identified. Those supporting vaccine passport argued that it will allow people access to services and to go on holiday, ease international travel, help the economy to recover and society to return to normality. Those rejecting the scheme cited issues of civil liberties, discrimination, privacy, and surveillance.

To further explore the prevalence of these opinions in the UK, **an online survey** was distributed to 1,000 UK residents between 14 and 20 May 2021. When it comes to vaccine passports, people surveyed generally agreed on its benefits. Only about a third agreed that vaccine passports will restrict individual freedom, increase discrimination, and threaten privacy. Half of those surveyed stated they intend to use vaccine passports in general, for travel, and to go to pubs, restaurants, and shops in the near future. Only 20% reported they would be unwilling to use it, with 30% undecided.

These findings on consumer confidence regarding vaccine passports are important for the industry and governments as we carefully plan to ease international travel. As consumers are aware of the benefits of vaccine passports, the most effective way to increase uptake is to address its drawbacks. For institutions providing and requesting proof of vaccination or Covid status for travel, it is paramount that the remaining issues pertaining to privacy and exclusion are addressed.



SHTM Events

The Department of Events at SHTM has partnered with the **City, Events, Mega-Events & Tourism Conference**, held in Paris on 25th - 27th May 2021. Head of Department of Events, **Dr Mike Duignan**, gave a concluding remark at the conference.

Watch the video here:
youtu.be/BtPSeOBNS34

Awards

SHTM Lecturer, **Christy Hehir**, won second place for best presenter in the poster category at the UK Polar Network's **UK Polar Early Career Conference** (#PolarECC). The conference theme was "Early Career Researchers and the future of UK Polar Science." Christy presented her research on polar tourism. Many congratulations!



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