

# Honorary Community newsletter

**BUILT FOR LIFE**

Welcome to UCEM's new quarterly update to our Honorary Award recipients! As we return to a new normal way of working following the pandemic, we recognise the importance of re-engaging with our Honorary and Associate Fellows, our Honorary Degree recipients and our Property Award winners – a community of loyal and supportive friends of UCEM. We look forward to bringing you up to speed on all things UCEM each quarter, fostering more of a community ethos between us and outlining how you can continue to support UCEM in the months and years ahead with our ambitious plans for the future. We welcome your feedback and comments so we can continue to evolve the newsletter. Thank you for your ongoing and loyal support to this great institution.



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# UCEM update



Our strategic aim to become **the centre of excellence for built environment education** remains the focus of our activities and our positive institutional performance through the pandemic has endured into 2021-22. We continue to manage our finances to budget and have outperformed our targets on **new student recruitment** and retention through both the autumn and spring semesters, recruiting 1,473 vs a target of 1,400 for the year with our apprenticeship provision now accounting for over half of the UCEM student population. A vital part of the apprenticeship work is the strong relationships that we have built with key employers in the sector. In total UCEM now has circa 3,700 students. As you may well have seen, this part of our business became subject to **Ofsted** inspections last year and we received our first fully graded inspection of this provision in November 2021. The results were published in January 2022, and we were simply delighted to receive an overall grading

of 'good' with some elements of our provision commended as 'outstanding'. We also underwent an audit by the **Education and Skills Funding Agency** of our apprenticeship funding compliance in December 2021 which UCEM passed with flying colours, once again providing the accreditation the institution deserves and paving the way for us to continue to grow our provision for the future. These amazing results are entirely down to our exceptionally talented and hardworking staff and their commitment to excellence in all they do. If you would like to read the UCEM Annual Report for 2020-21 it can be now accessed on the [Charity Commission website at Charity overview](#), **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT - 313223, Register of Charities - The Charity Commission**

We hosted the first ever **Built Environment Apprenticeship Awards** back in February 2022 and were delighted to honour three very worthy winners in the categories of Employer Representative of the Year, Apprentice of the Year and UCEM Staff Member of the Year. The winners were chosen by a panel of experts who had to whittle down their top candidates from a total of 75 nominations! Find out more [on the website](#).

Our application for **Indefinite Degree Awarding Powers** remains in progress. The desk-based assessment by the Quality Assurance Agency has now been completed and UCEM is awaiting the final judgement of the Office for Students. We hope to be able to make an announcement later in 2022 and still aim for this to be springboard towards applying for full **university title**.



We held our first **Board of Trustees** meeting of 2022 in person on 31st March at Horizons and at this we approved an ambitious new programme of work in the area of **sustainability**. UCEM will be shifting its strategic focus towards sustainability goals over the coming years and will be launching new initiatives and programmes to help us become the **worlds most sustainable university**. The Board also discussed at length the higher education landscape and the increasing regulatory burden being placed on the institution. This burden is disproportionate for an institution the size of UCEM and places growing operational and resource requirements on us which we continue to strive to meet.

We were sorry to lose two independent trustees from our Board on 31st March, Andrew Hynard and Wendy Appleby, who retired and concluded their terms of office with us. We are incredibly grateful for the time they gave us and the expertise they shared

with us and wish them well for the future. We are now actively recruiting for trustees to join the Board to work with us on achieving our ambitions over the next six years. Information on the roles and how to apply are available at [ucem.ac.uk/current-vacancies/](https://ucem.ac.uk/current-vacancies/) and can be circulated through your networks via LinkedIn. The board is committed to diversity and equality of representation around the table, and we operate inclusively and with a variety of voices - including two student trustees, two staff trustees and two Board Apprentices. We also welcomed a new trustee to the board in the last quarter, Dominic O'Rourke, Property Director at Next Plc.



# MEET THE UCEM TEAM



**Becky Bickerton**

Head of Apprenticeship Outcomes

UCEM's Apprenticeship business is thriving and continues to grow. None of this would be possible without the incredible team working to deliver built environment apprenticeships at UCEM every single day. Central to this team is Becky Bickerton our Head of Apprenticeship Outcomes, who was recently voted a UCEM Star by her colleagues and won the UCEM Staff Member of the Year at the inaugural UCEM Built Environment Apprenticeship Awards in February 2022.

## How long have you worked for UCEM?

Four and a half years.

## How did you get into Apprenticeships and why did you join UCEM?

I joined UCEM towards the beginning of the apprenticeship journey, I really wanted to be part of its success. I truly believe Apprenticeships are for all and I am passionate that we get it right.

## What is your favourite part of your job and what motivates you every day?

People... sounds crazy but my team are the reason I work so hard - together we can make change! I am driven to get this right, always putting our apprentices at the heart of what we do.

## What is your greatest professional achievement at UCEM so far?

Securing the role of Head of Apprenticeships - I work hard, listen and constantly strive to improve what we do, both for my Outcomes team and for our apprentices.

## What do you find challenging about your work?

Time - there is never enough to accomplish my to do list!

## What's one thing that has surprised you about working for UCEM?

The extent to which UCEM really listens to their staff and supports individuals to progress within the business - I love that!

## What's next for you and your team at UCEM?

I will be supporting the team to adapt to the needs of the provision and dealing with the constant change in Apprenticeships. We will also be working to improve further from our recent Ofsted 'Good' inspection outcome and driving the partnership working ethos with our employers to secure ever more successful apprentice outcomes.

## What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Passion - Flexible - Authentic

## Tell us a surprising or fun fact about you!

I have a phobia of buttons - even worse when they are detached from garments...!

# UCEM online

Catch up on these key stories and events if you missed them



Graduation (Dec 21)

Always a special and memorable occasion - catch up with all the key stories from the **December 2021 ceremonies**.



Ofsted Inspection

Our first ever inspection and a truly fantastic outcome for UCEM - catch up with the Principal's reflections on this milestone moment for UCEM and read the **final inspection report**.



UCEM Built Environment Apprenticeship Awards

The inaugural awards took place in February 2022, the **winners can be found on the awards page on the website**.



# UCEM online

Catch up on these key stories and events if you missed them



UCEM Digital Education Team

In December this team were finalists in the 2021 Association of Learning Technologies Awards. The team came an impressive third out of 48 institutions! **Watch their submission for the awards.**



New Academic Appointments

UCEM made a number of key new appointments to its Academic Team in late 2021, **catch-up on who the academic team are.**

## The Honorary Awards community



The Class of 1966 featuring Tim Stapleton outside the College in Kensington

It is important to UCEM to grow the community of Honorary Award recipients and help you get to know each other better, so every edition we'll be learning about more two members of the UCEM Honorary Awards Community. In this edition we meet Tim Stapleton, part of the class of 1966 on the BSc Estate Management London Degree course at St Alban's Grove Kensington, a UCEM Honorary Fellow since 2005, and David Mason, UCEM's first ever Student Trustee and one of the first cohort of UCEM Associate Fellows appointed in 2019. We asked them both some questions to help us get to know them and learn more about their connection to UCEM.

### Tim Stapleton (Honorary Fellow)

#### How are you connected to UCEM?

In the 1960s only 5% of young people went to University. I was lucky in 1966 to be the last entry to the London University BSc Est Man at St Albans Grove, Kensington. Later I was a Trustee for 15 years at Reading, also taught on courses around the country and became an Honorary Fellow in 2005.



# The Honorary Awards community

**What are you doing now?**

I'm now retired, living in deepest West Devon in the Lyd Valley. When I retired from King Sturge (JLL) I had ten years as a non-exec director with educational charities. I have also written a book, *Sailing from Polruan*, about my passion for sailing. I'm now looking forward to the sailing season at Fowey.

**What's the biggest challenge you faced in your career?**

Balancing my passion for education with the ever growing pressure of the business of partnership.

**What is your greatest professional achievement so far?**

Working in a partnership (King Sturge) with over 50 equity partners which hinged on trust amongst a widely differing crew.

**What is your best memory of UCEM?**

Offering a country boy from Leicestershire life in a very swinging 60s Kensington and joining London University Officers Training Corps.

**What three words sum up UCEM for you?**

Opportunity, Vision, Challenge

**If you could have done any other job for just one day what would it have been?**

Helm an Americas Cup boat

**What three words sum up UCEM for you?**

Opportunity, Vision, Challenge

**If you could meet anyone in the world, dead or alive who would it be?**

Churchill



A new boat in 2000, Crabber 17, dressed for Fowey Regatta Week - raced more in hope than expectation!

**What is the first thing you would buy if you won the lottery?**

A swan 37 - a classic cruiser/racer with self-furling sails and a part-time crew!

# The Honorary Awards community



David Mason  
(Associate Fellow)

**How are you connected to UCEM?**

I graduated from the MSc Building Surveyor programme in 2017, which I studied for whilst working as a Project Manager. During my time at the institution I also served as the Lead Student Representative and was also the first student to be appointed to the Board of Trustees.

**What are you doing now?**

I am currently employed as the Head of Projects and Estate Management at The University of Winchester.

**What's the biggest challenge you faced in your career?**

Responding to COVID-19 has undoubtedly been the biggest challenge in my career to date. As a traditional University our whole method of operation changed overnight, which required almost a full reset in how we do things. My team was responsible for leading in ensuring the campus was COVID safe, undertaking assessments with every area of the business to ensure their spaces and methods of operation met the constantly

changing guidance. During this time I also acted as Centre Manager for the on campus COVID testing facility and led in the decanting of our student residences to turn them over to NHS staff in the neighbouring hospital.

**What is your greatest professional achievement so far?**

Assisting with the delivery of the West Downs Centre, a new landmark university building in Winchester, has been incredibly rewarding the last few years. The building has already been awarded a national civic trust award, is currently under consideration by RIBA and we hope it will be the first WELL accredited university building in the UK which pairs well with BREEAM excellent status. My recent promotion to the Head of Projects and Estate Management was also an obvious professional high point.

**What is your best memory of UCEM?**

Graduation has to be up there alongside being shortlisted for an academic excellence award. But I am also incredibly proud of my time working for the university and on the Board. Being given the privilege of becoming an Associate Fellow has only enabled me to continue gathering great memories in connection with UCEM, which really is a fantastic institution. I am also just about to send my first-degree apprentice to the institution, which feels great.

**What three words sum up UCEM for you?**

Efficient, inclusive and welcoming.



# The Honorary Awards community

**If you could have done any other job for just one day what would it have been?**

As a child I always thought I would join the armed forces or the police. I have achieved one of these due to my ongoing service as a Special Sergeant in Hampshire Constabulary. However, the inner child in me is just screaming astronaut as the answer to this question!

**What three words sum up UCEM for you?**

Opportunity, Vision, Challenge

**If you could meet anyone in the world, dead or alive who would it be?**

I managed to tick royalty off my list due to the centenary event at UCEM. Aside from that there are plenty of famous and influential people past and present who I would be delighted to meet, but I would have to pick my grandad to meet again one last time.

**What is the first thing you would buy if you won the lottery?**

This answer is very easy, a farm or small holding. Horses are the animal of choice for my fiancée and daughter, where as I have a soft spot for ducks, donkeys and dogs. Not all my animals have to start with a D though, I would also look to have some cows or sheep!



Meeting HRH The Prince of Wales, UCEM's Patron, during the Centenary Celebrations

# Forthcoming occasions and events



**Honorary Awards Luncheon**

**Wednesday 25 May 2022**  
**Founders Hall, 1 Cloth Fair, London**

An opportunity for all UCEM Honorary Award recipients community to come together, reconnect and reflect on the challenges and achievements of the last 24 months over lunch. For more information contact [specialevents@ucem.ac.uk](mailto:specialevents@ucem.ac.uk)



**Property Awards**

**Thursday 13 October 2022**  
**Central London**

Final details TBC, save the date and look out for your formal invitation during May.



**Graduation**

**Friday 4 and Saturday 25 June 2022**  
**Town Hall Reading**

Final details TBC, save the date and look out for your formal invitation during May.

If you have any suggestions for the UCEM Honorary Community Newsletter, or would like to contribute please email Lyndsay Hughes at [l.hughes@ucem.ac.uk](mailto:l.hughes@ucem.ac.uk)