

Honorary Community newsletter

BUILT FOR LIFE

Welcome to UCEM's latest update to our Honorary Awards community - UCEM's Honorary and Associate Fellows, Honorary Degree recipients, Property Award winners and current/former Trustees - our community of loyal and supportive friends of UCEM. This edition brings you up to speed on all things UCEM this Spring and the major strategic milestones we are working on this year. As ever, we welcome your feedback and comments so we can continue to evolve the newsletter. Thank you for your ongoing support to this great institution! We look forward to seeing you all again in the very near future!



Ashley Vice Chancellor a.wheaton@ucem.ac.uk



Jane Deputy Vice Chancellor and University Secretary j.e.fawkes@ucem.ac.uk



UCEM to become University of the Built Environment

We are delighted to announce that UCEM received the final decision from the Office for Students on its University Title application to become **University of the Built Environment** in mid-April after many years of hard work towards this milestone moment.

The consultation process ended in early January and in anticipation of the approval we have been busy creating our new brand ready to launch this summer, which the Board of Trustees unanimously and enthusiastically approved back in February.

The launch is now planned for June, with the new University of the Built Environment branding reveal on 9 June and a celebratory event with our external partners and supporters taking place on 19 June at the Barbican in London. Thank you all for your support to date for this critically important strategic initiative for this institution, particularly to those who took part in branding workshops with us in late autumn.

Skills shortages in property, construction and the built environment remain unacceptably high and the University of the Built Environment will now be part of the solution as we fulfil our vision to become the 'centre of excellence for built environment education' with a name that fully aligns to this ambition. "This is a very exciting time in our institution's history. The decision to change our name comes after lengthy research with students, staff, employers and alumni. We are the only specialist university focused entirely on the built environment. This name change will build on our legacy and heritage, and align our name with the work we do and the value we bring to the sector. '**University of the Built Environment**' will make clear to everyone our offer of built environment higher education. Over the years, we've grown and adapted to meet the changing needs of this fast-evolving sector. Our new name reflects that evolution, supports our continued growth, and fulfils the Royal Charter."

Ashley Wheaton HonRICS, Vice Chancellor

"It is a privilege to be Chair of the Board at such a significant time in the institution's history. The Board is delighted that after many years of planning and deliberation, UCEM has been granted full university title and that we can share the new name; a name that truly reflects our position as a leading specialist provider for built environment education. On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge the huge effort over many years that our staff have invested on this project, culminating in today's exciting news."

Peter McCrea OBE FRICS, Chair of the UCEM Board



2025 is progressing at pace and we have some major strategic milestones being delivered through immense effort and activity across the institution.

Strategic Merger with the London School of Architecture

We announced earlier this year that UCEM was in discussions with the London School of Architecture about a strategic merger. The last couple of months has been extremely hectic, with the UCEM team undertaking a period of detailed due diligence. We are pleased to announce, however, that on 3 April 2025, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution to enact the Transfer Agreement when all necessary conditions to proceed have been met. Plans are now gathering pace to fully integrate our institutions throughout the remainder of 2025. We validated the LSA 'MArch Designing Architecture Programme' as a UCEM award and marketing the programme to prospective students will be our immediate focus for the autumn semester intake. We look forward to developing this provision further in the coming years as an integral part of our strategy to become the centre of excellence for built environment education.

External Influence and Recognition

It has continued to be a busy period in terms of our external engagement activities and our strategic aim to **influence** the built environment sector and we have been involved with a number of key initiatives so far this year: Later in 2025, UCEM will be soft launching a **Built Environment Futures Assembly (BEFA)** to drive excellence across the sector. It will focus on skills, diversity, sustainability and professionalism and will be a wrapper to the extensive and increasing external/influencing activities UCEM has underway. The BEFA will be governed by a Strategic Advisory Board that will report to the UCEM Executive Team and will have a membership of senior leaders from within industry and education. The work of BEFA will be focused on five key areas to help deliver a more skilled, diverse, sustainable, place-oriented and professional built environment.

UCEM convened a very significant meeting in late December 2024 with the RICS and a representative group of 18 of the universities delivering the Chartered Surveyor Degree Apprenticeship. The aim of the meeting was to collectively lobby for an integrated End Point Assessment (EPA) for the Chartered Surveyor Apprenticeship Standard, effectively decoupling the EPA of the standard from the RICS Assessment of Professional Competence (APC), whilst retaining the value of the apprenticeship as a supported path to RICS chartered status. The proposal has been submitted to IfATE and the Trailblazer Group. Employers have been consulted on this change and around 90% are supportive of the proposal. If successful, this will be the key means to addressing the national achievement rates on the standard which are currently lower than target.

UCEM's next **Inspire** event will be held on 7 May on the subject of **Place Building: Developing Homes and Communities**. The event is being delivered with the support of The King's Foundation, the Edge

and the Construction Industry Council. This event will launch some jointly commissioned research undertaken by Savills called 'Health, Wellbeing, Education and Place Building: The role of place building in large residential developments on health, wellbeing and educational outcomes of residents in the UK'.

UCEM has also been working with the **Kings Foundation** to jointly propose a new curriculum for Sustainable Urbanism, and a Digital Knowledge Hub, both of which will extend the work being done on the Regional Building Hubs Knowledge Transfer Partnership. Alongside this, UCEM has partnered with the **Stewardship Initiative** to jointly host five 'Chatham House' working session with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Treasury to establish the principles needed to enable more placemaking within the context of the 1.5 million new homes to be delivered by the Government.

UCEM has jointly sponsored a report called **'Skills for Places'** with New London Architecture which was launched at a public event on 24th April, at which UCEM's Vice Chancellor was a keynote speaker. Other keynote speakers were Howard Dawber (Deputy Mayor of London for Business and Growth) and Joanna Rowelle (Director at Arup). The Skills for Places report examines career pathways into the built environment sector, aiming to inspire young people to enter the industry while addressing the critical challenges of building a more skilled, sustainable, and inclusive workforce. The study consolidates key data on current and future skill requirements, highlights innovative programmes, and sets out actionable recommendations to remove barriers to entry and foster the next generation of professionals.

Finally, UCEM has been part of the advisory panel shaping a new **Competence Framework for Sustainability**. Launched by the Construction Industry Council and the Edge and developed under the Construction Industry Council's Climate Action Plan, for which UCEM leads on the educational aspects. This Framework is a key initiative to support sustainability skills and competence across the sector. It sets out core criteria for sustainability and aims to create a consistent approach to competence development within the built and natural environment and reinforces UCEM's commitment to advancing sustainability education and practice.





Hong Kong

UCEM has had a local presence in Hong Kong since 2016 and has had students in the region for over 40 years, forming a core part of our institutional identity and international profile. The UCEM Board of Trustees approved a five-year strategy for UCEM Asia Ltd, UCEM's Hong Kong operation, in December 2024. The aim is to grow UCEM student numbers in the APAC region through the provision of programmes that are more localised to the needs of the regional market.

The UCEM team in Hong Kong will soon be joined by a new Director to drive this strategy forwards over the coming months and years. In addition, we will be holding a celebration event in the region on 22 October 2025 at which the new university title and our revised proposition in the region will be launched to key local stakeholders and supporters.

Institutional update

Internally, we have been delighted to welcome a further **1,500 new students** to UCEM in 2024/25. This was an exceptional performance vs target in the context of a higher education sector that is facing real financial and existential challenges at the current time. We were also delighted to retain our Matrix accreditation for a further year following a Continuous Improvement Check visit by the assessors in February. The **Matrix** Standard is about ensuring the delivery of high-quality information, advice and guidance to our students and UCEM was able to provide some brilliant examples of progress against the recommendations made to it last year that show how passionate our staff are about the service they provide to our students and colleagues.

We are also extremely pleased to announce that our Academic Board approved a new UCEM **Academic Career Framework** in March which will allow for the Conferment of Professorships in the future. UCEM will also introduce the titles of Associate Professor and Professor to its academic team to support career progression in recognition of academic ability.



In late February, we successfully undertook the Periodic Review, Revalidation and Apprenticeship Approval events for our **MSc programmes**. We secured revalidation for a further five years for our programmes in MSc Building Surveying, MSc Construction Management, MSc Quantity Surveying, MSc Real Estate, the Chartered Surveyor Apprenticeship and for all modules for standalone delivery. All this was subject to just seven commendations, eight recommendations and no conditions! This was followed closely by the revalidation of the Masters of Business Administration in late May, again with no conditions, just three recommendations and some eleven commendations. Whilst its been a stressful and busy time, the success speaks for itself and the incredible team effort to deliver such an outcome has been admirable

Finally, in March 2025, UCEM held its annual **Careers Week** event focused on the theme of connecting. Connecting with industry, people, professional groups and even ourselves. Speakers explored the themes of professional identity, innovation in the industry, technology, sustainability, leadership and social media for careers in the sector. Live sessions took place and recordings were shared for students and staff via our Careers portal. It was a very successful week.

Changes to the UCEM Board of Trustees



The Board of Trustees at their meeting on 3 April 2025 where we said a fond farewell to Amanda Clack and Stephen Jackson.

We had a significant change to our Board Leadership in early 2025. After six years with us, firstly as a Trustee and then as Chair of the Board, Amanda Clack stepped down from her role. She has been replaced as Chair by Peter McCrea OBE, who joined our Board as a Trustee last summer. In addition, we have also recently said goodbye to Dr Stephen Jackson, who was a member of our Board for nine years, the latter six of which were as UCEM's first ever Vice Chair. He has been replaced as Vice Chair by Prof. Nick Braisby who has been a UCEM Trustee since November 2020. We are incredibly grateful to Amanda and Stephen for the dedication, support and guidance they have given UCEM through their time on the Board and they will be very much missed. We look forward to working with Peter and Nick over the coming years through what should prove to be some milestone moments for UCEM. Finally, we welcomed Dr Liz Marr, formerly Pro Vice Chancellor: Students at the Open University onto the Board in March 2025. Liz brings with her over thirty years' experience in higher education and a passion for making education accessible to all. For more information on the Board, **visit our website**.



Dr Liz Marr, UCEM's newest Independent Trustee

Board Apprentices

In 2021, UCEM launched a brand-new **Board Apprentice Scheme**, for those candidates earlier on in their careers who might like to gain some valuable Board and leadership experience by sitting on the UCEM Board of Trustees for 2 years and being mentored by one of our Independent Trustees. The roles were held by Laura Bell McMillan and Becky Powley from 2021-2023. Incredibly, it is almost time to recruit again, as Chrystal Augustine and Lucy Gaitskell approach the end of their two years later in 2025. We plan to recruit over the summer so look out for more details on our social media and website and please share the links and information with any potential candidates you may know. This is a super opportunity for Associate Fellows or alumni of UCEM but, equally, is not exclusively limited to these categories. **Read more on the website**.

New Members of our Community in 2024

We are delighted to announce that the following people have joined our Honorary Awards Community in the last year, and we look forward to working with them more closely in the future and to seeing them at our upcoming events. Honorary Degrees were presented at our January Graduation Ceremonies. We congratulate them all and welcome them to our community!

Later in 2025, we will also be presenting to eight new Associate Fellows at the Community Luncheon event on 8 May and to six new Honorary Fellows at Graduation in the summer. Look out for details in the next newsletter.

Name	Award
Patricia Brown MBE Hon FRIBA	Honorary Doctorate
Chris Grigg CBE	Winner The Property Award
Mina Hasman ARB RIBA FRSA LEED BREEAM WELL AP	Honorary Doctorate
Annabel Huffer BsC Hons MRICS	Winner Alumni Award
Sumita Singha OBE RIBA	Honorary Doctorate
James Wheeler	Winner Academic Excellence Award
Dr Wei Yang OBE FAcSS FRTPI RIBA Client Adviser MCIHT	Honorary Doctorate



Sumita Singha OBE and Patricia Brown MBE became UCEM Honorary Doctorates in January 2025



Dr Wei Yang OBE and Mina Hasman became UCEM Honorary Doctorates in January 2025

Lynne Downey



Many of you will know our colleague Lynne Downey, who has been a key member of our Executive leadership team for the last 11 years, currently as Pro Vice Chancellor Student and Registry Services. Lynne has taken the momentous decision to leave UCEM with effect from end May 2025. Lynne will be shifting her focus full-time towards her Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology and Psychotherapy and once qualified will pursue a new career as a Counselling Psychologist. UCEM is incredibly grateful to Lynne for her dedicated service to the institution and she will be very much missed. Lynne will be keeping in touch and will be delighted to see members of the Community later this year at some of our special events.



Honorary Community

Updating your details

We will shortly be issuing a form to all members of the Honorary Community to complete. This will allow us to update your contact details, check how you want us to communicate with you and confirm your specialisms and the ways in which you can engage with UCEM as ambassadors in the future – this is a key part of ensuring we make the most of our community links and in guiding you in how you can help us - something we are often asked for by the community.

Please look out for this being emailed directly to you in the next month. It will also be placed on the **Honorary Community webpage**.

Meet the UCEM team



Kim heads up the Marketing Team at UCEM which is responsible for all our B2B and B2C marketing activities, internal and external communications, and alumni relations. The team is also the guardian of UCEM's brand, so it's been a very busy time as the new University of the Built Environment branding is developed for launch this summer.

What is your role for UCEM?

I'm the Director of Marketing, Communications, and Brand. My title is pretty much self-explanatory. I lead a talented team who look after everything from our social channels, website, and alumni to managing key events, our brand, and creating inspiring content.

How long have you worked for UCEM?

I will have been here for three years in July. It feels like only yesterday I was the new girl! I've still got so much to learn and achieve.

How did you come to be in this role and why did you join UCEM?

I was looking for a career development role, heading up a marketing function within an education environment. At the time, I was leading a team at Henley Business School, part of Reading University, overseeing the marketing for Executive Education and apprentices. UCEM seemed like a good fit and a marketing function that I could take ownership of.

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

I don't have a favourite part, as I love the variety. I've worked in the education sector for a long time and managed many teams, so I think working with and developing people is a big inspiration for me. I also enjoy the ideas and creative side of marketing, but sometimes I can get carried away, so I have given my team permission to say, 'that's a good idea, Kim... but'!

Meet the team



Kim with her Marketing Team at Graduation January 2025

What is your greatest professional achievement at UCEM so far?

It has to be our work around the name change and the brand. It is a career high point to lead on something so monumental. Having had such strong endorsement and positive feedback from those who have seen the new logo and brand is very rewarding (and a relief). I can't wait to see it come to life!

What do you find challenging about your work?

The way technology changes with the blink of an eye! We are a small team, and it takes a lot of personal dedication to stay on top of new platforms and ways of working. Marketing is very data-driven, and staying ahead is key to being competitive. And of course, we've now got Al to consider!

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

The pace at which the organisation is growing and developing. I've never worked anywhere that is as ambitious and passionate about what they do, but also so driven by what it can do.

What's next for you/your team at UCEM?

The next six months will be actionpacked. Launching the new name is our priority, rolling out the brand, managing events, delivering a refreshed website... it's a long list alongside all our usual activities and new programmes.

What three words sum up UCEM for you?

People, Passion, Potential

People - UCEM is very peopleoriented. Colleagues are friendly and supportive, and our students and alumni are just as engaging. People have a **passion** for the work we do and the part they play in that. There's so much **potential** for the institution and individuals; the future is very bright.

Tell us a surprising or fun fact about you!

I've been doing cartwheels since I was three, and I can still perform a decent one now!

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



Graduation - January 2025

Catch up on the latest from Graduation in January 2025.



Built Environment Apprenticeship Awards 2025

The fourth annual event took place in February 2025. **Find out more on the website.**



UCEM and DiverseCity Surveyors launch mentoring scheme for ethnic minority students

UCEM launched its fourth year of its Widening Participation mentoring scheme collaboration with DiverseCity Surveyors. **Find out more on the website**.

For other news articles from UCEM see whats-happening/news

For other interesting and thought provoking articles on built environment themes, such a smart buildings and biophilic architecture, see our content corner at **Articles - University College of Estate Management (ucem.ac.uk)**.

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 more about two members of the UCEM Honorary Awards Community. In this edition we meet Sandi Rhys-Jones OBE, who was awarded a UCEM Honorary Doctorate in 2023, and Nathan Jarman, who was awarded a UCEM Associate Fellowship in 2020. We asked them both some questions to help us get to know them and learn more about their connection to UCEM.



How were you connected to UCEM?

I am honoured (and still surprised) to have been awarded an Honorary Doctorate by UCEM in 2023. Of course, I have been aware of UCEM for many years - and indeed worked with UCEM immediate past president Amanda Clack some twenty years ago when we were members of Raising the Ratio, a task force at the RICS committed to increasing the number of women in surveying. Over the course of five years the percentage of women surveyors increased from 10% to 18% - but still work to do. And even before that I worked closely with Christine Gausden, who leads the UCEM construction management course, when she and I were members of the committee on equal opportunities set up to implement the recommendations of the landmark Latham Review of the construction industry.

What are you doing now?

After more than 40 years running a management and marketing consultancy and a publishing business, with clients in the UK and overseas, I am now liberated (the word 'retired' does not exist in my family). So, I continue to work, building a portfolio career that combines my non-executive director/business experience and my speaking, training and coaching expertise. Also, as a chartered construction manager and compulsive builder, I always have a couple of projects on the go and I am currently planning to tame a steep hillside site with some creative earthmoving. Not to mention a

couple of unfinished books lurking accusingly...

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

Keeping the business going through three recessions without having to make staff redundant was tough, but we were convinced that when the recovery came, we needed to have our teams ready to seize the opportunities.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

I used to say it was being accepted in the second cohort of students embarking on the MSc in Construction Law & Arbitration at Kings College London, one of only two women out of the group of 40 and without a first degree. I completed the course successfully, with merit in all modules, whilst running the business full time with my husband, bringing up three

The Honorary Awards Community



sons and studying in the small hours. But, having said that, becoming President of the Chartered Institute of Building tops everything.

What is your best memory of UCEM?

Meeting fellow recipients of awards when receiving my honorary doctorate - what a marvelous group of interesting and impressive people.

What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Opportunity, humanity, impact.

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

This is a fantasy response, that reflects one of my passions. I would have loved to conduct a great orchestra perform great music. Mozart Symphony No 40, Beethoven's Ninth, Shostakovic's 10th, Mahler's Resurrection, Nielsen's Inextinguishable....

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

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission. She is

an extraordinary politician, who combines career and family and who leads a complex organisation in extremely challenging times with charm and steely confidence. As a committed European, who has become increasingly vocal on the need for the built environment to engage more in politics, I would love a conversation with her - with some specific outcomes.

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

Until February this year I would have said The Old Neighbourhood, the last pub in our large village which was bought by someone claiming to want to run it as a pub but then allowed it to fall into disrepair and applied to turn it into inappropriate housing. I was part of a group that managed to turn it into a community asset, prevent planning permission and set about raising the money to purchase it. This bought enough time for a successful local publican to buy and restore it beautifully, with a grand opening in April. So what would I buy now instead? I would commission a wildlife pond, the missing element in the house we moved to four years ago, despite having a bigger garden than we have ever had, in a village



Sandi receiving her Honorary Doctorate at Graduation in December 2023

full of streams. We have always had ponds in our homes, and I miss the frogs, newts, fish and birds dipping in (although not the heron!) and the sound of water.

The Honorary Awards Community



Nathan Jarman BA (Hons) PGDipSurv

How are you connected to UCEM?

I studied with UCEM many years ago undertaking a post graduate course in Quantity Surveying & Commercial Management, I kept a regular link to UCEM and then in 2020 I was delighted to be made an Associate Fellow.

Since then, I have enjoyed keeping connected via the UCEM Associate Fellow community and also being part of the forces mentoring programme, this is supporting active service personnel undertaking Quantity Surveying courses with the university.

What are you doing now?

I joined my company on our Graduate Development Programme in 2008 and have been lucky to witness our growth from c. 2,200 people when I started to now over 20,000+ people globally!

Today, I am a Director and Board Member at Turner & Townsend leading the 750+ person strong Infrastructure Team across London and the South-East.

In terms of day to day, at Turner & Townsend we work in partnership with clients to deliver the world's most impactful projects and programmes across real estate, infrastructure,



energy and natural resources. My role is linked to delivering this, setting the strategy and direction for the team and providing wider technical and people support as needed.

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

I have been very fortunate to work on some of the UK and Europe's largest and most complex projects and programmes. Large investments and mega programmes always come with a variety of challenges and obstacles but with a supporting, collaborative and engaged team I always find that they can be overcome.

The biggest challenge I would say that I have faced to date has been the Covid-19 Pandemic. The uncertainty, the questions, the social implications and the wider economic pressure impacted every person, every sector and every project.

On a personal level though I am passionate about using the current 'Covid recovery window' as a chance to change how we do things, how we deliver and how we operate across the industry. The largest challenge now is making it happen and be effective... multi location working, understanding changes to the societal/ working practices and people's attitudes to fostering collaboration in a hybrid environment is tough.

I am a believer in "never wasting a good crisis" - Our challenge now is to reset how we do things and continue to promote that our industry is 'the place to be'. We need to use the change in working practices for the better - enhancing peoples wellbeing yet maintaining our sense of community and culture. A large industry challenge is capacity (to deliver the pipeline) and productivity, the next few years will be very exciting as we embrace digital, the green revolution, and enhance productivity of our workforce to benefit the industry for all.

What is your greatest professional achievement so far?

I am very proud of what I have achieved to date in my career, this includes the brilliant team that I lead. Professionally I am happy with the culture that we have been able to create amongst our large team, the positive and inclusive environment that we have in place has really shone through in recent years – something of which I am incredibly proud, on an individual, team and organisational

The Honorary Awards Community

level.

Away from the professional side of things I consider myself to be very lucky in many ways but my best personal achievement without a doubt is my family – my wife Charlotte is incredible, and we are lucky to have 3x sons – Henry (4), Rupert (nearly 3) and Louis (nearly 1) who keep us busy, entertained and fatigued!

What is your best memory of UCEM?

I look back at the approach of the UCEM course and miss the structure and regular cadence of coursework submission and marking, I worked really hard and was always proud of my submissions which was nice as I was first commencing my career.

UCEM has a Virtual Learning Environment on which we were encouraged to have open debates about industry developments or topics linked to the next module – I miss partaking and learning in this way, it was a great demonstration that you really do "learn better together"!

What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Innovative - I think the UCEM focus on sustainability and green is really



Nathan receiving his Associate Fellowship certificate from UCEM in 2022

stand out.

Standards - UCEM holds a high level of standards, this is of paramount importance in our industry.

Engaged - I do feel that UCEM really set the standard in staying engaged with alumni, latest developments and the wider industry - which only adds to UCEMs reputation and brand.

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

A member of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the only challenge I have is that I don't have any musical ability, time or patience to actually learn or master an instrument...! One day in the future...maybe?!

If you could meet anyone in the world, dead or alive who would it be and why? Barack Obama - I think he would be an interesting person to meet, I could also ask him to keep his 2nd book to under 300 pages...! (Barack Obama -'A Promised Land' is 751 pages long!)

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

I enjoy 'city living' so an additional home in a large city somewhere would be great, moving on to furnishings... I really enjoy art, so something by Antony Gormley (designed and made the Angel of the North), LS Lowry (Famous for industrial landscapes) or more work from Jack Davis (A local, highly talented Cornish artist who makes immersive, large-scale paintings) - they are brilliantly excellent!

Forthcoming occasions and events



Fifth INSPIRE series event

7 May 2025 London



Honorary Community Luncheon 2025 8 May 2025 Ironmongers Hall, London Final chance to register via <u>specialevents@ucem.ac.uk</u>



University of the Built Environment launch event

19 June 2025 Barbican, London



Graduation 4 July 2025 Town Hall, Reading



Save the date

Built Environment Award 2025 (formerly Property Award luncheon)

Institute of Directors in Central London Invites to follow in June 2025

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If you have any suggestions for the UCEM Honorary Community newsletter, or would like to contribute please email Lyndsay Hughes at I.hughes@ucem.ac.uk.