

EDUCATION

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Advertising Feature

Build a career around construction

ELEPHANT and Castle, home to London South Bank University, is currently undergoing a multi-million pound regeneration and, not surprisingly, you will find an alumnus of the University's School of The Built Environment and Architecture playing a leading role in the transformation.

Neil Nutley is commercial director of Lend Lease, the company responsible for this major regeneration project.

Nutley studied BSc Surveying at LSBU and is one of an active, global alumni network of 10,000 former undergraduate and postgraduate students who are helping to shape the future of construction, whether that is as president of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers – 13 out of the past 20 presidents have been LSBU alumni – or as an award-winner like Charlie Rose, who recently won the Architects for Health annual Student Design Award.

Among the high-profile names to have flourished at LSBU include David Camp, chief executive, Stanhope PLC (BSc Estate Management); Tony Giddings, executive director at Argent LLP (BSc Building Administration); Marc Gilbard, CEO, Moorfield Group (BSc Estate Management); Nick Leslau, Chairman, Prestbury (BSc Estate Management); and Kevin McGrath, chairman, M&M Asset Management and Governor, LSBU (BSc Surveying).

"A significant number of the workforce and decision-makers in the industry are LSBU graduates," says Professor Charles Egbu, Dean of the School of The Built Environment and Architecture at LSBU. "Over the past 50 years, London has established itself as the capital of the international property market and at the same time LSBU has emerged as one of the largest built environment schools in the UK.

"We prepare graduates for the working world by developing the skills and knowledge that employers value – and the breadth and quality of our industry-focused applied research and enterprise activities are also widely acknowledged."

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

Across the board – whether it is at undergraduate level or applied research – the school's focus is on real-world issues, relevant skills and practical solutions.

"Courses are developed in collaboration with industry professionals and in response to the skill needs of the sector," says Professor Egbu. "They carry industry-respected professional accreditation from the relevant bodies, ranging from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors to the Institute of Civil Engineers. In the field of Civil and Building Services Engineering, for example, we have an industrial liaison group, made up of leading consulting engineers, contracting engineers and research organisations who shape and advise us on our curriculum.

"We also teach across disciplines, reflecting the world of work. Architecture students work with surveyors and project managers, mirroring how they work in industry – and they work on the technologies and processes that will be required in future. Our

London South Bank University's School of The Built Environment and Architecture is not only one of the largest built environment schools in the UK, it's also one of the most respected, writes **Niki Chesworth**

£2.8 million Centre for Efficient and Renewable Energy in Buildings is leading the research, testing and development of new techniques and systems for buildings.

"This approach not only breaks down silos, it also ensures our students are 'multi-lingual' and understand the practices of each profession. Inter-disciplinary collaboration takes place in the Digital Architectural Robotics Lab, which is designed for high-quality research as well as developing commercial applications for architecture.

"As a result our students are prepared for the world of work and that is why so many employers come to LSBU to either recruit the next generation of professionals or to equip existing professionals with the skills that are needed now and for the future."

WIDENING ACCESS

Three in five students at the school are part-time, seven in 10 come from the local area and many do not embark on their degree with A-levels, coming in with HNDs and HNCs. As such LSBU attracts a diverse group of students.

The introduction of apprenticeships at LSBU is also designed to broaden access to the sector and help solve skills shortages.

LSBU has recently secured Government-backed Trailblazer degree apprenticeships in surveying, with Professor Egbu saying: "The sector is grappling with skills shortages and apprenticeships are a vital tool to help. One of the reasons why LSBU is well placed to deliver excellence in degree apprenticeships is the fact that we are already operating in this round-table culture – working closely with employers and industry bodies to train highly employable graduates on fully-accredited courses."



Future in safe hands: LSBU's Centre for Efficient and Renewable Energy in Buildings is leading the study in new techniques for buildings

HOW LSBU ADDS UP

- 10,000: the number of active alumni that are highly engaged with supporting the next generation of building professionals
- 100: the number of years LSBU and its predecessor organisations have been teaching construction skills
- 5: LSBU's ranking in the UK for starting salaries in building*
- 4: the school's ranking in the UK for graduate starting salaries in architecture*
- 2: postgraduate starting salaries in architecture, building and planning courses are ranked second in London*
- 1: LSBU is the No. 1 London Modern University for "graduate prospects"***
- 1: LSBU has the largest number of postgraduate students in the UK in building and town planning***

* HIGHER EDUCATION STATISTICS AGENCY
 ** SUNDAY TIMES LEAGUE TABLE, 2016
 *** FT AND PT COMBINED/GUARDIAN POSTGRADUATE SUBJECT TABLES, 2015

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Major project: Elephant and Castle, home of LSBU, is currently undergoing a multi-million pound regeneration