



CIB Endorsed Student Chapters

New student chapter established

The Programme Committee has decided to establish a new CIB Endorsed Student Chapter at the University of Brighton. Below you will find the description of this new Student Chapter located at the University of Brighton. Furthermore, the Chinese Student Chapter of Tsinghua University provided us with a Newsletter.



New CIB Endorsed Student Chapter at the University Of Brighton, UK

The Programme Committee has decided to establish a new CIB Endorsed Student Chapter at the University of Brighton. Below is the description of the student Chapter as provided by the University of Brighton.

Background

The University of Brighton has an excellent reputation for delivering high quality vocational education and won the accolade of Sunday Times University of the year for 1999. The School of the Environment Research Centre (SERC) is a lively and active community of more than 40 researchers, collaborating with others around the world. Currently there are 35 PhD/MPhil research students and 45 MSc students and numbers are rising. Areas of research expertise include Environmental Impact Assessment, Structural Timber, Environmental Lifecycle of Buildings, Building Education through Virtual Systems and Construction Management.

International Cooperation

The SERC positively encourages international co-operation in its research activities. It is currently participating in separate, EC funded, collaborative projects with the Universities of Amiens, Rouen and Le Havre. Individual researchers are actively collaborating with others in Africa and the USA, Australia and China as well as countries throughout Europe. The Student Chapter would build on these existing links and further international exchange and collaboration.

Research Support

Support for research within the university comes at both School and University levels. The University runs a course entitled 'Certificate in Research Methodology' (CRM), which was developed as a result of an awareness within the University that specialist research degree study should be underpinned by a general training in research methodology and the research process. This is in line with the major policy directions of the major research councils. The CRM consists of a number of workshops, work in progress seminars and action learning sets all of which are modular.

At a School level the School of the Environment Research Centre provides a lively series of research seminars and provides the forum for research debate. It also provides the support and supervision for the postgraduate research programmes.

Membership

Membership of the CIB Student Chapter will be open to all postgraduate students as well as undergraduate students undertaking an Honours Project which is a research based activity.

Members must:

- Have an interest in research and innovation in the area of the built environment
- Take an active part in the activities of the Student Chapter

Students will be considered to be members of the University of Brighton Student Chapter of the CIB while they remain active researchers and participate in our common goals of dissemination and exchange of research findings.

Organisation

It is proposed that the CIB Student Chapter will initially be organised and administered through a President and Vice President.

The President will be responsible for overseeing the activities of the Student Chapter and for producing a regular newsletter. The remit of the President will be to raise the profile of the CIB activities amongst researchers at Brighton and to encourage collaboration with other researchers around the world.

The role of the Vice President will be to support the President and act as the President's representative on occasions when he/she is unable to attend. The Vice President will be specifically charged with developing co-operation, collaboration and dissemination through internet communications.

The School of the Environment Research Centre is already active in organising regular, monthly, research seminars led by invited experts. In addition internal seminars based on the progress of individual researchers are held every two weeks throughout the academic year. The proposed CIB Student Chapter will work within this structure providing internally and externally led seminars of particular relevance to CIB activities. This forum will be used for the development of further activities such as liaison with industry and site visits.

A key role in School of the Environment is undertaken by the Research Administrator, Mrs. Susan Gardner. Her role includes facilitating and monitoring research activities within the School and can therefore ensure a continuity to the administration of the Student Chapter.

Dr. Andrew Miller, Leader of the Environmental Lifecycle of Buildings Research Unit within the School of the Environment will work closely with the administrative organisation of the Student Chapter and will also serve as the main point of contact for the CIB.

Programme and Output

- Produce a regular newsletter on its activities a minimum of twice yearly.
- Build on links previously developed with international institutes and actively pursue new links with other CIB Student Chapters internationally.
- Actively encourage other CIB member institutes to establish their own CIB (Endorsed) Chapter.
- Support CIB events by encouraging student members to attend and to submit papers for publications at such events.
- Promote international cooperation and collaboration of student researcher and their supervisors.

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Newsletter of CIB Student Chapter at Tsinghua University, China

by Huang Xinyu, President of the Student Chapter

Introduction

The CIB Student Chapter at Tsinghua University was established in May 1999, with the intensive efforts of Professor Xila Liu, Dr. Fang Dongping and Dr. Richard Coble. The Chapter was formally endorsed by CIB at the board meeting in May 2000. Since then, the Chapter has organized various activities and developed with new members participation.

Activities

Following the guidance of Pf. Xila Liu, CIB board member, and Dr. Fang Dongping, CIB Tsinghua Coordinator, activities have been started relating to different areas, which are expected to be attractive to the members. These activities include:

- A Seminar Series focusing on the future development of the construction industry in China and in the world, which is named "Forum on Civil Engineering Nowadays".



Lecture given by Prof. Xila Liu



Discussion of Student Member

- Academic Salon on Research, in which student members who are dealing with research project can introduce their research topic and exchange their views with other students.
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Heated discussion at the Salon



Discussion between Members

- The organization of site visits to some major projects in Beijing, to experience onsite working and the development of building technology.
- Organizing student members to participate in the academic research exhibition annually held at Tsinghua University (which is also called "Challenge Cup" Research Competition).



Site visit of the members



The research exhibition

- Submit papers to the International Postgraduate Research Conference 2001, which is encouraged by CIB.

Student Members

The acceptance of each member depends on his or her application materials, academic performance and recommendation by his instructor and/or supervisor. After careful selection, only the most suitable students who applied for participation have been provided with membership.

Future plan

Activities the Chapter intends to organize include:

- Submission of academic papers to CIB journals or conferences
- Communication and exchange program with other CIB Student Chapters
- Lectures provided by site management on construction technology and management on site
- Undertaking suitable research projects
- Attract more student members