



Awards 2025

Outstanding Estates Team

Institution Name	Buckinghamshire New University
Submission title or project name	Buckinghamshire New University estates team: transforming campus, driving excellence
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	The Buckinghamshire New University estates team is a small but dedicated team of professionals. In 18 months, the team delivered a rapid programme of estate regeneration over nearly 40 per cent of the university's main campus to address its fragmented infrastructure. New specialist teaching spaces were created to meet evolving academic needs, and university colleagues were located into modern working environments to foster innovation and community. The centrepiece was a £20 million transformation of the campus heart, to serve as a nucleus of student life and interaction. The DOVE project saw the creation of a Student Hub, social and learning facilities opening from autumn 2023. Highly complex, the project was accomplished in just 61 weeks. A further standout achievement was the sustainable restoration of the listed, historic Brunel Engine Shed in central High Wycombe, achieving an SKA gold rating and EPC A for energy efficiency, through innovative use of recycled and low-carbon materials.



Awards 2025

Outstanding Estates Team

Institution Name	University of Huddersfield
Submission title or project name	Outstanding Estates Team
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	In the summer of 2020, during the Covid pandemic, the University of Huddersfield identified the growing need to make a significant difference to health outcomes for not only Huddersfield communities but also the wider north of England and beyond. It acquired a development site adjacent to the main campus alongside obtaining outline planning permission for 75,000m² of health-related development, and the vision for a National Health Innovation Campus (NHIC) was conceived. The estates team delivered a fast-track programme of acquisition, planning, procurement and construction in less than four years during the pandemic and amid unprecedented price rises as a result of world events. The result was the Daphne Steele Building, which is setting a new standard for healthcare education and putting the university on the first phase of a journey to improve health outcomes and lead innovation in healthcare for the north of England, the UK and internationally.



Awards 2025

Outstanding Estates Team

Institution Name	ESCP Business School
Submission title or project name	ESCP London campus: doing more with less
Nominee / key personnel	Sophie Bertrand (UK director of estate and operations, ESCP Business School)
URL	
Submission	In 2022, ESCP London launched a 10-year estates masterplan to modernise its Victorian campus in line with growth, sustainability and community goals. With limited space and budget, 2023-24 saw smart, scalable transformation, co-designed with students and staff. ESCP opened a new executive wing and a co-designed student wing with society rooms, a start-up incubator and collaborative study areas. The “Kick Space” project converted two existing rooms, adding 187 flexible, tech-enabled seats that blend the site’s heritage with modern functionality. To meet rising demand, a one-storey, carbon-sensitive Portakabin (+128 seats) was installed with council and community approval. Meanwhile, the low-cost “Free Space” project released staff offices as study spaces, adding 120-plus seats weekly with no investment. Sustainability was embedded throughout, and all work was co-created with students and staff. Led without a formal estates team, this community-powered, high-impact model shows how institutions can do more with less – creatively, inclusively and sustainably.



Awards 2025

Outstanding Estates Team

Institution Name	Abertay University
Submission title or project name	Library renovation project
Nominee / key personnel	Cullen Warnock (chief estates officer); Leigh Black (projects and design manager)
URL	
Submission	A strategic and co-designed renovation project relocated Abertay Students' Association (ASA) into the heart of the campus library, leading to a doubling in engagement with its food bank project, improved support for students, and best-in-class space for social events, study and enterprise. The Abertay library renovation project transformed the library's ground floor from a utilitarian study area into a multi-use hub designed to support learning and the student experience. The project had a total construction value of more than £1 million, and the university's estates team worked with Threesixty Architecture to create a sensitive palette of tones and textures promoting themes of "nurturing, well-being, mindfulness and social interaction".



**Awards
2025**

Outstanding Estates Team

Institution Name	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
Submission title or project name	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine's estates team
Nominee / key personnel	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine's estates team
URL	
Submission	In 2023-24, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine's estates team delivered four major capital projects worth more than £25 million, including: the restoration of the historic home of the world's oldest school of tropical medicine; the creation of a specialist inpatient research facility handling dangerous pathogens; the completion of an innovative new teaching space; and the construction of a state-of-the-art medical training and research facility in Malawi, which aims to be the best of its kind in a low-income country and marks a step change in equitable global health. All of this work was delivered in a complex regulated clinical, educational and research environment unrivalled in UK higher education. These projects added 22 per cent to the university's estate and were delivered by a team of just 10 people. This dedicated team worked between Liverpool and Africa, where they also supported pioneering work to appoint women to key construction roles in the CREATOR building project at the Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome-Programme.



Awards 2025

Outstanding Estates Team

Institution Name	University of Hertfordshire
Submission title or project name	How our estates team excellence is driving STEM innovation across Hertfordshire
Nominee / key personnel	Ian Grimes
URL	https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/campus-investment/spectra-building
Submission	The University of Hertfordshire's Spectra building is the £100 million flagship of our estates masterplan and a true showcase of whole-team excellence. Delivered with no additional staff, during a period of rapid student growth, every function of the estates department played a critical role – from strategic leadership to logistics, FM, capital projects and governance. Spectra redefines academic space, replacing offices with collaborative co-working zones and embedding a radical CDIO model where STEM students work across disciplines in industry-style environments. Built in close consultation with students, academics and industry, the building fosters innovation, employability and research. Delivered on time and on budget through open-book contracting and sustainable design, Spectra includes rare facilities such as a strong floor and a robotics lab. Its impact has already attracted global interest, significant grants and the largest charitable donation in university history. Spectra is more than a building, it's a bold vision brought to life.