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Uclan Publishing is the world's only student-run, not-for-profit trade publishing house. Established eight years ago, alongside an MA in publishing, it has now produced about 150 titles, many of them retailing through Waterstones, WHSmith and Amazon.

Students are at the heart of this unique enterprise: they learn on the job by working in multidisciplinary teams alongside authors and external sponsors, democratically selecting what to publish and discussing all editorial, marketing, sales and rights decisions. By acquiring a full range of hands-on publishing skills and impressive physical products as evidence of them, they have proved highly attractive to potential employers.

This year, Uclan Publishing went up a gear in its efforts to compete with the biggest and best-funded players. A. J. Hartley's thriller *Cold Bath Street* has powerfully demonstrated what this means in practice. It became a national best-seller and was adopted as a promotional title by Waterstones. An audiobook is being created in-house with the actor Christopher Eccleston, and Netflix is considering optioning it for a film. As well as organising a national book tour, students created a ghost tour on the River Ouse in York as an innovative form of publicity. The 200 tickets on offer sold out within 12 hours.

"Uclan Publishing is a resourceful and successful enterprise," said the judges, "which successfully combines student engagement and training with an imaginative venture to disseminate writing by new and established authors."