

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

Simon Kemp's imaginative approach to teaching, particularly by putting students in high-pressure, real-life business situations, hugely impressed our judges.

Moving away from traditional classroom-based lessons on environmental management courses, the senior teaching fellow in engineering and the environment asked students to conduct professional audits for several major organisations in Southampton, including Southampton General Hospital, Skandia Insurance and West Quay Shopping Centre, under his supervision.

Students presented their work to the clients and received feedback on their services – inspiring some to set up their own consultancy firms on graduation. They have worked with nearly 100 local businesses, promoting many firms to improve their green credentials.

Students praised Mr. Kemp's teaching as "brilliant", extremely well designed", "totally unique" and "incredibly academically rewarding" and laud his dedication to providing an outstanding learning experience. Mr. Kemp has also embraced technology, filming his lectures and using Twitter to extend debates beyond the classroom.

"Simon's teaching exemplifies the best in innovative and inspirational teaching in UK higher education today" said lead judge Philippa Levy, deputy chief executive of the Higher Education Academy.

"His imaginative approach to teaching sustainability and environmental management systems challenges and supports students to learn actively and to develop crucial employability and professional skills."