8 December 2021
InterContinental London | The O2

FINALISTS GUIDE

VIVE LA STUDENT HOUSING REVOLUTION!

student.propertyweek.com
@StudentPW #StudentPW

Organised by: Diamond partner:
Welcome to the Student Accommodation Awards 2021 at the InterContinental London - The O2. It is great to see so many of you in the room and so many from today’s conference, which I hope you found as informative and inspiring as did.

It is incredible to think that it has been two years since we gathered in person to celebrate the best of the best in the student accommodation sector. Some might be forgiven for asking: what is there to celebrate this year? As everyone is all too painfully aware, the sector has been hit particularly hard by the Covid pandemic. My response is: there is more to celebrate than ever.

As we report in the latest issue of Property Week, the sector has bounced back spectacularly, with UCAS data showing a sharp uplift in the number of people applying for full-time undergraduate courses in the latest academic year and experts noting that the investment market is as hot as it has been in the past five to 10 years.

What makes this recovery so extraordinary is that its foundations were laid in the depths of a pandemic. Over the past year and a half, everyone operating in the sector has had to simultaneously step up and dig deep to contend not only with the myriad challenges posed by Brexit but also Covid. This year’s winners did both.

To reflect the much-changed student accommodation landscape, we introduced four new awards in 2021 for: Best Covid Response, Social Impact Initiative, Health & Wellbeing Initiative and Climate Crisis Initiative. The new categories, and indeed all this year’s categories, clearly resonated with you. We had a higher number of entries than in 2020, making the judges’ lives harder than ever.

Thank you to everyone who entered and to the judges for taking the time to read through all the submissions and picking such worthy winners.

Thank you also to our diamond partner, CRM Students, and all our other sponsors. Thank you to the Property Week events team for organising tonight’s awards ceremony and today’s conference and thank YOU for joining us.

Good luck to all those shortlisted and congratulations to the winners and those who have been highly commended. When the time comes, please give what you can in support of our chosen charity, CRASH, and have a fantastic evening.

Liz Hamson, Editor, Property Week

Congratulations to all those who made it on to our Student Accommodation Awards shortlist
Meet The Judges

With thanks to the Student Accommodation Awards judging panel for their time and efforts.

Agency Team of the Year

Abodus is thrilled to support the Student Accommodation Conference & Awards again this year as a platinum partner. We are excited and honoured to be amongst some of the leading operators in the PBSA sector.

AWARDS PARTNER

Beachrock
Beachrock has created waves in the PBSA sector by trading more than £430m of deals in its first year. Key deals of 2021 include the disposal of the £210m Jewel Portfolio of assets in Cardiff, Portsmouth and Norwich to new investors Apollo. The deal currently remains among the largest post-Covid disposals of operational PBSA.

Harris Associates
Entering the PBSA sector just prior to the onset of Covid-19 Harris Associates has become known as an agency disruptor. In the first half of 2021, it transacted more than £500m of deals on 1m sq ft of development sites and completed the £315m acquisition of the 2,621-bed Kinetic portfolio by Lone Star from Fusion Students.

JLL
JLL’s student housing capital markets team has completed more than £880m worth of transactions in 2021 and been involved in more than 44% of all transactions in which advisers were appointed. Highlights include acting for QualReal on the £580m acquisition of a PBSA portfolio and acting as adviser on a £124m investment disposal for clients VGO and Roundhill.

Knight Frank Group
As the biggest valuer of PBSA in the sector, Knight Frank’s student property team maintained its activity despite headwinds in 2021. The dedicated research team advised Summix on its Bath scheme and advised Curlew Capital on its 282-room development in Stratford in east London.

Londonist DMC
Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Londonist DMC has continued to support its university partners and increased its room commitments with PBSA providers. Working with Scape, IQ, Unite Students and Chapter, the agency has cemented its place with leading PBSA providers as well as working with universities such as King’s College London.

Savills
With PBSA transactions topping £1bn and more than 6,000 beds across Europe in the past 12 months, Savills student team has not skipped a beat even with the travails Covid-19 has caused the wider market. Successfully leveraging its sector specialism, Savills has also valued in excess of £2bn in UK PBSA assets and advised on £8bn of PBSA transactions in the past two years alone.

CHARITY PARTNER: CRASH

CRASH has been the UK construction industry’s social impact partner for 25 years. CRASH unites the power of the industry to do good by channelling their professional expertise, construction products and fundraising to build places that care for the sick, vulnerable and homeless in the communities we work and live. CRASH’s work demonstrates how the construction industry, together with the PBSA and the charitable sectors, can build more caring societies.

Together we construct places that care for people, for more information and project transformations, please visit: www.crash.org.uk.

Support CRASH by bidding in our silent auction – simply visit www.sliderstock.com/student or scan the QR code opposite, set up an account, browse and bid!

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**Best Covid Response**

**@StudentPW #StudentPW**

We are proud to be a sponsor of the Best Covid Response 2021. It is a great pleasure to support the industry once again at the Student Accommodation Awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHORTLIST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abodus Student Living</strong>&lt;br&gt;Aim to help students through the difficult lockdown period. First, Abodus introduced flexible tenancies and worked closely with students to ensure student welfare was maintained. It also launched a robust management plan to limit Covid-19 outbreaks and hired extra staff to keep students informed and entertained. It also offered free mental health workshops, checked on students in financial hardship and held twice-weekly virtual events such as live cook-alongs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CityBlock</strong>&lt;br&gt;Aiming to help students through the difficult lockdown period, CityBlock offered flexible tenancies, financial concessions and helped students with parcel and food services. The operator also encouraged residents to exercise and work on a herb garden and created an online outdoor social area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Code Student Accommodation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Anticipating the impact lockdowns would have on student mental health, Code implemented a thorough welfare agenda. Students drew up a robust management plan to limit Covid-19 outbreaks and hired extra staff to keep students informed, entertained and safe. It also offered free mental health workshops, checked on students in financial hardship and held twice-weekly virtual events such as live cook-alongs.</td>
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<td><strong>Fresh</strong>&lt;br&gt;With an objective to minimise infections and ensure student welfare was maintained, Fresh implemented a comprehensive Covid-19 response. Action plans were formed for every property, and self-isolating students received help with shopping and received welfare gift packs. Covid videos in English and Chinese were produced to help communicate safety measures.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Future Generation</strong>&lt;br&gt;With three schemes worth £220m under construction, Future Generation acted quickly to refinance, paid for materials upfront and used a six-week site closure to review working practices. The schemes were delivered on time. At its existing PBSA sites, public spaces were reconfigured and virtual exercise classes were introduced in the bedrooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOST</strong>&lt;br&gt;Based on a strong relationship with its students, HOST focused on providing day-to-day support, stability and opportunities to socialise safely during a tough academic year. At the height of lockdown, HOST ran 36 online activities over six weeks while signposting mental health charities if further support was needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>King’s College London</strong>&lt;br&gt;When lockdown commenced in March 2020, King’s College introduced flexible contracts, releasing 4,000 students during term time without charge. The university also created a free pack-and-store service. For those on campus, it delivered food hampers to self-isolating students and ran a series of events including positive thinking and keeping fit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIV Student ( Valeo Management Europe)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Working with its university partners, LIV Student overhauled its procedures to provide a 24/7 service for students, provided airport pick-up, bedding and kitchen packs, free quarantine stays for overseas arrivals and distributed emergency food parcels. Providing one-to-one sessions with students also helped communicate Covid safety issues more effectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Londonist DMC</strong>&lt;br&gt;The upheaval that Covid-19 caused the student sector made Londonist DMC re-evaluate its objectives. It decided to pursue a wellbeing-first Covid response strategy, which catered for students and partners by providing fitness vouchers, complimentary cleaning, fresh grocery gift cards and discounts with major retailers.</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Nido Student</strong>&lt;br&gt;To help students through the pandemic, Nido established a virtual events programme, which gained more than 18,000 views. It also offered virtual tours of residences, provided quarantine support for international students, allowed arrival of up to 90 days late with no charge, with on-hand support, and changed contracts to suit changes to course dates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SugarCube</strong>&lt;br&gt;By creating Instagram polls to provide feedback, SugarCube tailored its food parcels to self-isolating students, sending out supplies to students every 2.5 weeks. The operator also provided meditation and yoga lessons as well as a mental health coach to speak to residents who needed support.</td>
</tr>
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Collaboration Award

Balfour Beatty Investments and University of Sussex for East Slope Residences
The East Slope Residences project at the University of Sussex provides 2,100 new student beds and campus amenities under a 50-year contract. Responding proactively to the Covid emergency, Balfour worked outside its contract to complete some blocks to be used as quarantine facilities and liaised closely with the university on risk planning.

Uliving, Equitix and University of Essex for Decade of successful partnership
Successfully funding a project during a Covid year by raising £113m is no mean feat. Uliving and the University of Essex strove to include all parties, such as building and FM contractors, in the third phase of their campus project to openly discuss and solve problems posed by the pandemic.

Watkins Jones Group and Cranfield University for Homes for students, trees and bats timed to perfection
Cranfield University’s collaboration with Watkins Jones demonstrates how universities and developers can build strong, positive and trusting relationships to deliver amazing student homes and a better environment. Every part of the development was delivered hand-in-hand, with both parties sharing expertise and work to fine-tune every aspect of the development.

Climate Crisis Initiative

BOHO Management
Putting climate change top of the agenda, BOHO Management took a revolutionary approach to its 399-bed student property Scotway House. Partnering with smart-tech firm Utopi, BOHO is the first student provider to install internet of things sensors in a property to automate elements of building management.

Kexgill Group
Deciding that it ‘could no longer be a bystander’, Kexgill Group has committed to some tough climate targets including cutting gas use by 10% and electricity by 5% by 2023, it aims to introduce small wildlife-friendly habitats to all properties by 2025. The operator has also begun promoting sustainable living to its tenants.

Staits Capitol
Placing a firm emphasis on its ESG credentials, Staits Capitol set itself the aim to be carbon neutral by 2027. After undertaking an energy audit, the PBSA operator, which looks after accommodation for 27 universities, focused on strategic interventions to lower its carbon emissions across its estate.

David Phillips
A first of its kind, Re:Lease is a sustainable furniture reuse and repurpose system. With up to 180,000 items of furniture ending up in landfill per year, the project works with build-to-rent operators by evaluating furniture so it can be reused, repurposed, recycled or donated to charity.

Torsion Group want to recognise and support all those nominees doing great work to mitigate the climate crisis by initiating some admirable projects within student accommodation. Congratulations to the worthy finalists of this year’s Climate Crisis Initiative Award at the Property Week Student Accommodation Awards 2021.

We are proud to be a sponsor of the Collaboration Award. It is a great pleasure to support the industry once again at the Student Accommodation Awards.

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CA Ventures (Novel Student)  
Overcoming multiple obstacles to deliver its initial portfolio across Edinburgh, Glasgow and Sheffield, the Novel Student team ensured minimal disruption to schedules despite lockdowns, labour and material shortages. By cutting wellness at the heart of its offering, its spaces are designed to exude a sense of peace and tranquility.

Downing Students  
At the height of the pandemic, Downing Students delivered three new schemes worth £50m on time and within budget. The firm has also adopted environmental design principles into its developments. Facing multiple headwinds, the firm continued to expand by purchasing five new locations, using MMC to ensure a much greater level of sustainability.

Future Generation  
In the midst of a maelstrom and with three schemes worth £220m under construction, Future Generation successfully refinanced schemes worth £220m under construction, securing a unique position in the UK sector. Despite labour and material shortages, the company also secured planning for two large-scale schemes in Battersea and Canary Wharf.

Study Inn  
Study Inn develops and operates a student platform providing ‘guests’ with a level of service and a quality of life not seen in the sector. It regenerates buildings in prime locations, using MMC to ensure a much reduced carbon footprint. Despite Covid-19, the operator delivered its Nottingham development on time and on budget.

LIV Student (Valeo Management Europe)  
Funding five projects across Spain and Portugal despite the pandemic and delivering a further three projects, including one ahead of schedule, showed LIV Student’s resilience in the face of adversity. The company also restructured its business to ensure it could deliver on a remote basis across four jurisdictions and adapted its operating assets to maximise occupancy.

Mace  
Overcoming arguably the toughest 18 months it has ever faced, Mace managed to complete, refinance, operate and exit student schemes while committing to green goals. In 2020, it delivered 976 student rooms across two schemes in Exeter and Oxford. The contractor also committed to a net-zero policy, which it achieved by December 2020.

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Ulving  
Student accommodation developer and operator Ulving offers a unique approach to delivering successful schemes in partnership with universities and investors. In 2021, it welcomed its first students to the 804-bed Mitras halls located on Meauxelwood campus as part of a design-build-finance-operate partnership with the University of Brighton.

Watkin Jones Group  
From working with a local authority to enhance a scheme in Wembley to gaining planning for a high-quality mixed-use scheme in Bath, Watkin Jones’s vertically integrated model continues to occupy a unique position in the UK sector. Despite Covid-19 challenges, its PDEA revenue and profit remained resilient at £205m and £54.5m.

Abdus Student Living  
As the pinnacle of contemporary, affordable and desirable accommodation in Sheffield, The Elements is the beating heart of the Abdus Student Living portfolio. With an admirable focus on student welfare, the management also deeply cleans the entire 150-person block to ensure it was safe for a vulnerable student to collect belongings.

Carson & Partners  
Benedict’s Gate is a new-build student accommodation building in Norwich incorporating 302 student bedrooms. Sitting behind the remains of the ancient city wall, the scheme frames the surrounding views and employs high-quality materials to deliver a robust and attractive building, which has a strong presence in the city.

Urbanest  
Urbanest continues to seek to innovate and raise the bar in its delivery of new student accommodation. During the last 12 months, it completed Urbanest City, its latest 300,000 sq ft student-led mixed-use development in the City of London. It has also secured planning for two large-scale schemes in Battersea and Canary Wharf.

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Corstorphine & Wright  
The Oaks is a 378-bedroom purpose-built student residence in Westminster, Coventry. Designed with an emphasis on student amenity spaces, accommodation is provided in generous self-contained studios and ensuite cluster rooms, which share open-plan living and kitchen spaces to promote social interaction and wellness. The scheme also includes a multipurpose gym and rooftop garden terrace.

Downing Students  
Opened in September 2020, River Street Tower in Manchester is already considered among the top new student residences in the city. Facilities include a cinema room, state-of-the-art gym, gaming zone, private dining area to host dinner parties, study rooms and large communal areas for socialising and events.

Scotway House Glasgow  
Located on a brownfield site on a major commuter route in Bristol, Market Quarter Studios represents an important step in bringing a significant, but delicate, building back to life through a complete internal transformation, including a facade retention scheme to provide 92 student studios in the heart of the city.

Yugo  
Immensely popular among students, Yugo’s Cliff House offers state-of-the-art facilities combined with an award-winning wellbeing programme, an onsite team that puts its residents first and a network of career resources in order to provide residential spaces where students can live, grow and thrive.

Fresh  
Aiming to provide the ‘perfect student home’, the Lantern in Liverpool by operator Fresh stood itself during the pandemic. A bespoke Covid-19 safety plan was created to minimise infection, including signage with QR codes to allow students to report symptoms. The support was reflected in satisfaction scores of an enviable 96%.

HOST  
An innovative, modern student building designed with the community at heart. Southampton Crossings includes spacious, open-plan lounges for students, a private dining suite, onsite gym and two karaoke rooms. With a commitment to sustainability, from October the building has been powered by renewable energy and includes special areas seeded with wildflowers.

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**Health & Wellbeing Initiative**

Apartmento (Hines)

Providing free mental health services 24/7 formed a key part of Apartmento’s response to the pandemic. Team up with online mental health practitioners Koethi, the operator could provide free, safe and anonymous access to drop-in chats, counselling, content and self-help tools for students who needed it.

CODE Student Accommodation

CODE drew on over a decade of knowledge to assess the changes in student wellbeing needs during the pandemic. With 10 welfare-trained staff in each site, it helped students by collecting parcels, hiring a Buddhist retreat to create student-specific meditating classes, set up weekly welfare groups and promote mindfulness.

Collegiate AC

Recognising the changing needs of student accommodation due to the pandemic, Collegiate AC worked hard to help students in and out of term time. During lockdown, online social events such as exercise and cooking classes or quiz nights were essential to promote mental wellbeing and encourage the coming together of a community.

CRM Students

Engaging with students became a central part of CRM’s wellbeing response to Covid-19. With all staff trained to act as mental health first aiders, room inspections were adapted so each staff member visited a flat with a beverage trolley of refreshments. Once checks had been completed, staff would ‘have a brew’ with residents, ensuring face-to-face contact during the pandemic.

Fresh

In 2020, Fresh launched its ‘Be’ wellbeing programme and put residents and their wellbeing at the heart of everything it does. The aim of ‘Be’ is to create a community that thrives, supporting student wellbeing and equipping students with everything they need through a mixture of events, social media content and on-site support.

King’s College London

Aiming to provide physical, mental and social wellbeing to thousands of students, King’s College created the Move Your Mind (MYM) programme, delivering online support with courses, events and workshops focusing on personal development and coping strategies. MYM online is now an embedded strand of King’s sport programme.

LifeProven Wellbeing Property Company

In 2018, LifeProven undertook a world-first academic study to measure building elements most strongly associated with better wellbeing. In 2020, it expanded its groundbreaking wellness research to the PBSA sector, with data insights integrated into its 262-bed scheme in Stratford, east London to enhance quality of life and maximise student experience.

Nurtur Student Living

Developed to promote healthy lifestyles, Nurtur Student Living provides ample social spaces for students and its residences have been designed to maximise natural light. Nurtur also used effective communication to alleviate stress on students during the pandemic and offered free cancellations or delays for those arriving in September 2020.

Study Inn

Recognising that the transition to independent life is hard at the best of times, Study Inn increased its welfare support by delivering a range of virtual events, advice on sexual health and signposting for health screenings. It also aimed to normalise mental health conversations on its campuses and create an inclusive environment.

Yugo

Central to Yugo’s wellness strategy was to keep residents informed and included. It held 545 events, globally over two months, including craft workshops, encouraged mindfulness and launched campaigns to promote skills. The operator also launched a pen pal initiative, matching students in different countries, and a staying safe campaign.

Londonist DMC

Londonist DMC responded to the pandemic by launching its ‘hygiene and wellbeing’ initiative. By combining a free cleaning service worth £1,000 with complimentary airport transfers, it helped reduce the spread of germs. The operator also offered Netflix vouchers for isolated students and had a doctor on call for international students.

**SHORTLIST**

**Innovation Award**

Adventum Student Living and UniAlco

Adventum Student Living (ASL) is an end-to-end service provider in the student ahead domain. Its products include an accommodation platform to help international students pick the right residence and an education loan market that provides reliable loans for popular study destinations. The service provider also offers a platform to help students find scholarships in more than 40 countries.

Lavanda

Lavanda is a technology-driven platform to make accommodation more accessible, flexible and affordable for students – be it primary accommodation during term time, or temporary accommodation when travelling either domestically or internationally – whilst at the same time improving the core economics for owners and operators of student communities.

LifeProven Wellbeing Property Company

Using data science to measureably improve students’ mental health and wellbeing is both challenging and rewarding in equal measure. In 2018, LifeProven undertook its world-first academic study to measure building elements most strongly associated with better wellbeing. In 2020, it took this research into the PBSA sector with a 262-bed scheme in Stratford.

Staykeepers

With innovative technology designed to support PBSA landlords, Staykeepers’ systems include revenue management, market data, property management systems and room-noise monitoring. Distributed across 400-plus channels, Staykeepers has seen a 500% increase in revenue from January to August 2021.
It is important to recognise the residential property sector and celebrate the successes of international operators, and how they offer students a fulfilling and rewarding living experience. As a company who works closely with overseas operators, ASK4 is delighted to be sponsoring this award, and look forward to expanding our partnerships with operators.

**SHORTLIST**

- **CRM Students**
  With student wellbeing at the core of CRM ‘Students’ business ethos, the operator set up a centralised Covid-19 response that included clarity on policies, procedures and protocols for site teams, which were then adapted by in-country experts. The operator aims to create a strong sense of community despite spanning multiple geographies.

- **Nido Student**
  As the Covid-19 pandemic took hold, Nido Student was the first PBSA provider to roll out a comprehensive, international virtual events programme across all residences, generating more than 18,000 total views and with activities ranging from smartphone quizzes, workouts, yoga and meditation, cooking and cocktail classes and live DJ sets.

- **Yugo**
  As an operator that prides itself on its student-centric focus throughout 2020, Yugo implemented several wellbeing initiatives to alleviate the pressures caused by the pandemic. These included offering significant rent reductions and investing in student research and new technology to improve its offering - all while providing industry-leading service to all residents.

- **Curlew Capital**
  With a focus on responsible investment through strengthened ESG commitments, scoring and benchmarking, Curlew has remained resilient despite Covid-19. Over the past 18 months, it has opened properties with 2,100-plus beds across the UK and the Netherlands, achieved planning consent for schemes with a further 900-plus beds and forward-funded assets with an additional 314 beds across the UK.

- **Blackstone**
  By acquiring iQ Student Accommodation in May 2020 for £4.7bn, Blackstone demonstrated its long-term commitment to the UK student sector. It was at the time the largest ever private real estate transaction in the UK. Today, IQ owns and manages properties with more than 29,000 beds in 68 sites across 28 UK towns and cities.

- **Apollo**
  Apollo was the first PBSA provider to roll out a centralised Covid-19 response that included clarity on policies, procedures and protocols for site teams, which were then adapted by in-country experts. The operator aims to create a strong sense of community despite spanning multiple geographies.

- **Equitix**
  Equitix has remained the most active participant in the university PPP sector, closing on schemes with Kingston University to refurbish the majority of its rooms and with Essex University to develop a third phase of accommodation. Equitix’s reach also extended to Europe, where it acquired more than 1,500 rooms across Italy.

- **Global Student Accommodation**
  Known as a forward-thinking investor, Greystar re-entered the regional PBSA market with the acquisition of five assets for £215m from global investment firm KKR in February 2021. The deal added 2,169 units in the world-renowned university cities of Bristol, Coventry, Glasgow and London to its growing European portfolio.

- **Puma Property Finance**
  Puma Property Finance offers stretch senior development loans, pre-development bridge finance and post-development exit finance. In the past 18 months, it provided £10.8m to a new PBSA scheme in Bournemouth, loaned £23m to a second Belfast scheme and loaned £13m for a PBSA development in Brighton.

- **Equitix**
  Showin’s fractional investment model works for both mid-market property developers requiring a consistent and trusted provider of junior finance and individuals seeking potentially lucrative student accommodation projects.

- **Harrison Street**
  Harrison Street’s PBSA strategy is dedicated to making an impact by implementing ESG practices and aligning with universities’ needs.

- **Shojin Property Partners**
  Known as a prevalent operator in Leicester’s student sector, Shojin aims to make access to institutional-grade real-estate opportunities simple and affordable. FCA-regulated with global reach, Shojin’s fractional investment model works for both mid-market property developers requiring a consistent and trusted provider of junior finance and individuals seeking potentially lucrative student accommodation projects.
Scotland. the policy relating to non-domestic rates in presentations and successfully lobbied on throughout 2020 as it was called upon to owner operators, CBRE’s insight was critical. Regularly valuing £30bn of property for universities, JLL is one of the most active in the sector and has completed more than £1bn of transactions, securing £2bn of debt and valuing more than £2bn of assets since September 2020. Highlights include acting for QuadReal on the £580m acquisition of PRS and PRBA assets and valuing a £1.6bn UK portfolio on behalf of UPP Group. CBRE also held more than 75 virtual market presentations and successfully lobbied the policy relating to non-domestic rates in Scotland.

Curtins Curtins is an employe-owned, award-winning engineering consultancy that has worked continuously in the higher education sector since 1860. Working with 42 universities, the firm provides seven specialties, including civils, structures, infrastructure, environment, principal designer and conservation and heritage, across 14 offices in the UK and Ireland.

Osborne Clarke Osborne Clarke is a recognised industry front runner, acting for top student accommodation providers, investors and developers. This year it used its leading sector expertise to help clients navigate the challenges posed by Covid-19 and advised on matters relating to around 100,000 beds in more than 50 cities in the UK and Europe.

JLL JLL’s student housing team is one of the most active in the sector and has completed more than £890m of transactions, secured £288m of debt and valued more than £2bn of assets since September 2020. Highlights include acting for QuadReal on the £580m acquisition of PRS and PRBA and valuing a £1.6bn UK portfolio on behalf of UPP Group.

Pinset Masons Appointed as advisor to deliver around 10,000 student beds at a cost more than £600m, Pinsent Masons rose to the challenge in 2020. Despite Covid-19 issues, it demonstrated exceptional counsel to financially-close University of Essex’s £113m bond-financed student accommodation project in August 2021 and Kingston University’s £109m project in 2020.

CityBlock Building on 20 years of experience, CityBlock encouraged students to engage despite the challenges of Covid-19 by reorganising tenancies, encouraging outdoor exercise and hosting quizzes. CityBlock also offered flexible tenancies, financial concessions and helped students with food and welfare services, wellbeing checks and posting PER tests.

Abdous Living and Wellcome Trust on the £4.66bn sale of iQ student accommodation portfolio to Blackstone as well as a plethora of safe, re-focusing and financing deals.

CRM Students CRM Students operates just under 100 schemes ranging from small boutique properties up to large properties with 800-plus beds. By providing a personal service, the operator helped international students fit in by holding ‘get to know you’ events, as well as quiz nights and zoom parties across its 22,000-bed estate.

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CODE Student Accommodation As an independent student operator, CODE not only survived the pandemic but saw income rise and gained 100% occupancy. During Covid-19, it recruited full-time parcel teams trained in welfare to help students and organised food parcels, prescription collections and daily calls. It also created weekly events and combated ‘zoom fatigue’.

Fresh Fresh created Covid-19 plans for every property, giving self-isolating students shopping and welfare gift packs and producing videos in English and Spanish to encourage Fresh out student welfare front and centre in the past 18 months. The operator also offered refunds to students who couldn’t move into their properties and flexible bookings were introduced.

Gleeds Despite a challenging year, Gleeds continued to operate at the top of the market in terms of deal quality, variety and value. It was instructed by Goldman Sachs and Wellcome Trust on the £4.66bn sale of iQ student accommodation portfolio to Blackstone as well as a plethora of safe, re-focusing and financing deals.

CBRE Regularly valuing £30bn of property for owner operators, CBRE’s insight was critical throughout 2020 as it was called upon to provide evidence-based options for clients. It completed 145 instructions, exceeding its pre-pandemic budget for 2020. CBRE also held more than 75 virtual market presentations and successfully lobbied the policy relating to non-domestic rates in Scotland.

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Rising Star

We’re delighted to sponsor the ‘Rising star’ category at this year’s Student Accommodation Awards, and to see such strong candidates shortlisted for the award. It’s inspiring to witness the rise of new talent that works towards the betterment and further development of the student accommodation (PBSA) sector.

Adam Hinds, LifeProven Wellbeing Property Company
As the co-founder of LifeProven, Adam Hinds has been instrumental in delivering the world’s first data science-based survey platform that measures how building environments influence the health, wellbeing and quality of life. The results have the potential to transform how student residences are both designed and assessed in the future.

Amit Singh, Adventum Student Living
As the founder and chief executive of Adventum Student Living, Amit Singh has built and launched a number of highly innovative tech products for PBSA operators. These include a cross-border proptech student accommodation platform, an online education loan marketplace and an online scholarship programme.

Claire Hutt, Yugo
Bought in to help transform underperforming PBSA sites for Yugo, Claire Hutt managed to take one residence from a -2 to +61 NPS score in six months. With a hands-on and student-centric approach, she is hugely popular with staff and students alike and one of the brightest talents in the sector.

Gina McMorran, CA Ventures
As senior vice-president of sales and marketing, Gina McMorran is the driving force behind the creation of CA Ventures’ PBSA operating platform Novel Student – a pioneering property management platform that prioritises service, design, community and wellbeing. She also operates CA’s portfolio of PBSA assets throughout Europe.

Jamie Harris, Harris Associates
In late-2019, prior to the outbreak of Covid, Harris Associates entered the PBSA market and became an agency disruptor. Through Jamie’s expert guidance as head of student accommodation – capital markets, the firm has become a stalwart of the PBSA sector, with 10m sq ft of development sites transacted in the first half of 2021.

Martina Pardo, A Designer at Heart
Moving to London from Sicily in 2015 with no contacts and poor knowledge of the English language, Martina Pardo worked studiously for three years prior to founding her own consultancy A Designer at Heart. Starting with a single client, the business worked on eight projects in 2021 across a number of European countries.

Mia Thorpe, Abodus Student Living
Since joining Abodus as a fresh-faced school leaver, Mia has navigated a whole host of unexpected challenges in only 11 months. Grappling with a new job and finishing an apprenticeship via remote working, she also honed her sales skills to deliver a fully let building and manage the high demand of enquiries present in Bristol.

Tarek Jumah, Future Generation
The story of Tarek Jumah is one of true grit. In little over 10 years, he has gone from asylum seeker to COO of one of Britain’s fastest growing real estate developers. His hard work and vision have been the heart and soul of Future Generation’s success.

SHORTLIST

Operative of the Year (UK only) Continued

Realstar
Awe of the impact Covid-19 had on students, the Realstar team at Canto Court in Shoreditch implemented extra cleaning services to help keep common areas open as long as possible. Despite lower student numbers, the operator kept staff levels constant and also relaxed cancellation and move-in policies.

Scape
As Covid swept the world, Scape quickly adapted to welcome more than 4,000 residents from 102 countries. It wrote off £5m in rents for the 2019/20 academic year and introduced a flexible start date. Scape also brought in senior carers to advise on Covid-19 symptoms and self-isolation and launched a healthy living initiative.

Study Inn
Study Inn’s student-centric, enhanced product specification and hotel-like services have supported both domestic and international students throughout the pandemic. Study Inn’s rapid response to Covid-19, combined with its investment in mental health, wellbeing initiatives and events, have set it apart from the competition.

Yugo
Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19, Yugo focused on providing a student-centric approach to its accommodation offering. Through its wellbeing programme, financial support and technological investment, it provided a truly differentiated living experience that is environmentally and socially conscious, emotionally supporting and safe.

Continued

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### University Team of the Year

RealPage are delighted to be sponsoring the University Team of the Year award, recognising the teams who have worked tirelessly over the past year to support the students in residential accommodation. Congratulations to the finalists of this year's University Team of the Year Award at the Property Week Student Accommodation Awards 2021.

**AWARDS PARTNER**

King's College London
- When lockdown began KCL’s Residences Team introduced flexible contracts, releasing 4,000 students during term time without charge. For the new scholastic year, flexible contracts allowed students to arrive in September, October, or January - or cancel. From May 2020 to June 2021, more than 3,500 students were helped with contract adjustments and cancellations.

Nottingham Trent University
- The NTU accommodation team adapted to support one of the UK’s largest undergraduate intakes - providing wellbeing and mental health initiatives, and a virtual social programme including quizzes, art competitions and fitness classes. The team also provided house hunting assistance, support for those who were self-isolating and rent waivers.

University of Birmingham
- University of Birmingham’s Living Team wanted to give its students a welcome to remember. It organised a two-week social event complete with outdoor cinema, activities zones and street food. To combat loneliness, a ‘Match Up, Catch Up’ programme introduced students virtually with up to three others from outside their flat.

### Social Impact Initiative

The Future is now and change has to happen today, not tomorrow! Future Generation are elated to be sponsoring this category, as promoting Social Impact that initiates positive real change to society is something worth talking about and everyone needs to play their part.

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Kexgill Group
- At the onset of the Covid-19 crisis, Kexgill created a dedicated tenant hotline team and a hardship fund with student union representation. Always on the front foot when tackling the pandemic, it opened a community kiosk for essentials and food during the first lockdown and partnered with the NHS to create a talk suicide training video.

LifeProven Wellbeing Property Company
- LifeProven offers the world’s first data science-based survey platform that measures how building environments influence the health, wellbeing and quality of life of occupants. This allows for the reporting of assets’ positive social impact, enhances the operation of properties and informs new-build development.

CA Ventures (Novel Student)
- Created to address gaps in the existing student housing market, Novel Student is a premium offering focused on design and wellness. Led by the understanding that university years are truly character defining, its campus locations aim to help students grow and evolve.

Selencky Parsons Architects
- Aiming to stem the rising costs of finding student accommodation in London, Selencky Parsons was appointed to convert a large dwelling into postgraduate accommodation with an accompanying rehearsal room. The now complete Bravura House has space for seven students along with a world-class acoustic space. The scheme has been noted as a template for future projects.

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Hall of Fame

Investec is delighted to be sponsoring the Personality of the Year category at the Student Accommodation Awards. Our industry is full of dazzling talent and it’s great to be able to come together to celebrate all the successes we’ve achieved, despite such a challenging period.

SHORTLIST

Angela Livock, CRM Students
Angela Livock is accommodation manager at CRM’s Aquila Court. Despite the challenge of mobilising a new scheme during a pandemic, which she did to positive feedback from residents, she has also worked to support other sites and become a training buddy for new starters.

Dawn Wilson, Yugo
Sustainability has been central to Dawn Wilson’s stewardship of Yugo’s Park Court in Lincoln. She communicates the importance of recycling and ensures students have metal straws and reusable drinking bottles. During lockdown, the assistant manager provided wellbeing journals and surprised students with a book and chocolate bar to enjoy at their leisure.

Dorene McDavid, Fresh
Foundry Courtyard’s general manager Dorene McDavid and her team work with Glasgow City Council to provide accommodation for young, unaccompanied asylum seekers. This year - Dorene’s first with Fresh - has seen their highest number of clients. Dorene and the team are described as having gone above and beyond.

Gerry Pearce, Abodus Student Living
Gerry Pearce has only been working as facilities & maintenance technician at Hollingbury House Brighton since February 2021 - but such is his popularity that students return just to see him. That is attributed to his amazing knowledge of the building, passion to go the extra mile, and service that’s always delivered with a smile.

Jim Cook, Future Generation
When a JCB was stolen from a Future Generation site in Sheffield, former policeman ‘Big’ Jim Cook tracked it down in 12 hours. Since then, as head of operations, he’s built ties with the Chinese community, brought bickering contractors together and personally got involved in cleaning and sanitising amid the pandemic.

Louise Cant, Host
When lockdown hit, marketing and communications manager Louise Cant shifted focus to provide support for students in Host’s roughly 40 properties - some of which remained 80% occupied. She created a campaign of daily activities and challenges via social media channels to relieve boredom and provide support for both students and employees.

Melissa Cubillos, Chapter London (Greystar)
Colleagues say Melissa Cubillos “does the right thing on a difficult day”. During the pandemic, she trained 50 team members, completed a diploma and was involved in several significant projects. The multi-site community manager also spearheaded the rollout of an annual fundraising initiative for children’s charity Kids, which raised nearly £50,000.

Wendy Lee, Abodus Student Living
She was already described as the beating heart of Glassworks in Liverpool, but when the pandemic hit, housekeeper Wendy Lee stepped up further. On occasions where whole flats have had to self-isolate, Wendy has delivered food and packages and removed waste, as well as always finding time to talk with residents.

Unsung hero

We are proud to be a sponsor of the Unsung Hero. It is a great pleasure to support the industry once again at the Student Accommodation Awards.

Last year in 2020, Property Week launched the Student Accommodation Hall of Fame award.

Each year we will celebrate the legends of PBSA by rewarding them with the accolade of a lifetime achievement award, as nominated and judged by our prestigious panel of judges.

2020 INDUCTEES:

Martin Blakey
Unipol

Rebecca Hopewell
Fresh
90-minutes of actionable insights to drive your business forward

We follow all the hot topics so that you don’t have to.
Comming up: sessions on offices, retail and residential.

A new online event experience:
- Timely & always on ✓
- Exclusive content ✓
- Streamlined format ✓
- Trusted source ✓

*Special Student Accommodation attendee offer: 75% off the 2022 annual membership with unlimited access to events, bonus material and network. Join before 21 December 2021 and pay only £149 + VAT (standard membership rate is £595). Register with voucher code STUDENT75.
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