

## **2.10 Annual Report of University of Salford Student Chapter**

### ***2.10.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives***

The University of Salford (UOS) CIB Student Chapter has been always a platform for postgraduate students in the School of Built Environment to enhance their skills and engage in international collaboration and information exchange related to research and innovation. The chapter has played a crucial role in fostering relationships among postgraduate researchers and promoting awareness of CIB and CIB Student Chapters. Over the years, the chapter has facilitated interactions, communication, and knowledge-sharing among PhD students in the Built Environment field. Additionally, it has been actively involved in applying for grants, conducting research projects, and participating in international and national conferences.

The objectives of the UOS CIB Student Chapter are as follows:

1. **Enhancing Relationships:** The chapter strives to create opportunities for postgraduate researchers to improve their relationships with one another, thereby fostering a sense of community and collaboration within the school. This collaborative atmosphere can be instrumental in advancing research and innovation efforts.
2. **Skill Development:** A primary objective is to identify and capitalise on opportunities for developing the skills and capabilities of its members. This likely involves organising events and activities that contribute to skill enhancement, ensuring that students are well-prepared for their research endeavours and future careers.
3. **Expanding Research Networks:** The chapter aims to broaden its research networks within the school and among other CIB Student Chapters. This expansion of networks provides students with the chance to connect with a more extensive academic community, exchange ideas, and collaborate on research projects.
4. **Promoting CIB Awareness:** The chapter places a significant focus on raising awareness of the CIB (International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction) and the CIB Student Chapters. Such awareness is vital for engaging students in the organisation's mission and fostering a global perspective on research and innovation in the built environment.

The University of Salford CIB Student Chapter has a rich history of promoting collaboration and skill development among postgraduate students in the Built Environment field. Its ongoing objectives include building and nurturing relationships, enhancing members' skills, expanding research networks, and increasing awareness of CIB and CIB Student Chapters, thereby contributing to the development of the field and the academic community.

### ***2.10.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year***

The chapter is undergoing an ambitious shift in its vision. The new committee is not solely focused on facilitating and enhancing knowledge exchange among PhD students in the field

of built environment and capacity-building. Instead, the new committee is placing a strong emphasis on nurturing the mental and psychological well-being of the students. As a result, the chapter has made a dedicated commitment to host at least one event per month. These events will cover a wide spectrum, including academic and social activities, all geared towards supporting the holistic well-being of the students.

The List of Completed Activities in 2023:

The Salford CIB Student Chapter had a series of notable activities throughout the year:

1. Thesis Talk by Dr. Ahmed (May): The chapter organised an enlightening thesis talk by Dr. Ahmed AboMoamen, a former CIB member and PhD holder. This event delved into diverse topics related to research and innovation in the built environment, with a focus on sharing real-life experiences and insights to help PhD students overcome challenges in their academic journey.
2. PGR Chat Club (June): the chapter hosted a relaxed picnic at Peel Park in Manchester. This event allowed PhD students to connect with nature, unwind, and engage in conversations. It provided students with an opportunity to socialize and take a break from their rigorous academic pursuits.
3. Astronomy Tech with Dan - How to present scientific content to the non-scientific audience: In June, this webinar took place before the SPARC Conference 2023 at the UOS and aimed to assist SPARC presenters in enhancing their presentation skills, particularly in the context of conveying scientific content to a broader audience. Mr. Dan, an experienced Astrology scientist from the University of Central Lancashire, specialises in a complex field, often referred to as "rocket science" in everyday language. He shared his expertise in simplifying the communication of his scientific work to make it accessible to all.
4. SPARC Conference 2023 Participation (July): The chapter celebrated the active involvement of its members in the SPARC Conference 2023 held at the University of Salford. Beyond merely participating in the conference, chapter members made a mark by earning multiple awards and chairing numerous conference sessions. These accomplishments showcased their outstanding contributions to the field of research and innovation in the built environment.
5. CIB PGR Outing (August): Early in August, the chapter organised an outing to a bowling centre in Manchester city centre. This event was meticulously designed to foster camaraderie among postgraduate researchers. It provided an enjoyable opportunity for students to relax, have fun, and temporarily step away from their academic responsibilities.

These activities demonstrate the chapter's dedication to enriching the academic and social experiences of its members, supporting their holistic well-being, and encouraging their success in the field of built environment research and innovation.

Photos of previous events

PGR Chat Club



SPARC Conference





## CIB Outing



### Upcoming Activities:

We are looking forward to our upcoming orientation week, tailored for new postgraduate students joining the CIB community. As a key component of this orientation, we are organising a welcome event to introduce these newcomers to our dynamic community. Furthermore, the committee will also play a role in the SEE PGR new starter induction and welcome event, with a CIB member addressing the induction and shedding light on the CIB's work and objectives.

- November 2023
  - Thesis Talk
    - This opportunity will give you the chance to tell us the why of your research, practice to grab the audience's attention, give some interesting details about your research, and end by offering what you hope you find as a conclusion. Your takeaway from talking about your research is: Becoming confident in talking about your research, getting advice and help, and making friends and colleagues.
- December 2023
  - Christmas Celebration Outing
    - PhD students' outings- Place and time will be announced based on a prior questionnaire.



### **2.10.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in the Upcoming Year**

- January 2024
  - Using AI in Data Collection and Construction (Part 1)
    - In this engaging and innovative activity organized by our chapter, we delve into the exciting realm of harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) for data collection and construction practices. In an era driven by technological advancements, this activity serves as a dynamic platform for members to explore and understand how AI is transforming the landscape of the construction industry. This activity offers a unique opportunity for you to stay at the forefront of industry advancements, furthering your knowledge and skill set, and contributing to the future of construction through AI technology. Join us in exploring the boundless possibilities AI holds for the construction sector and be a part of this transformative journey towards smarter and more efficient construction practices.
- February 2024
  - Using AI in Data Collection and Construction (Part 1)
    - In this engaging and innovative activity organized by our chapter, we delve into the exciting realm of harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) for data collection and construction practices. In an era driven by technological advancements, this activity serves as a dynamic platform for members to explore and understand how AI is transforming the landscape of the construction industry. This activity offers a unique opportunity for you to stay at the forefront of industry advancements, furthering your knowledge and skill set, and contributing to the future of construction through AI technology. Join us in exploring the boundless possibilities AI holds for the construction sector and be a part of this transformative journey towards smarter and more efficient construction practices.
- March 2024
  - Chatting Club
    - We believe that all PGR students are experiencing to some extent the same problems and life issues such as the cost of living and relationship with supervisors. We believe also that they badly miss their families, especially international students. Speaking out is the most effective way of getting advice or even seeking psychological relief. This session aims to gather all the PhD students in the built environment to talk about their lives, difficulties they have, or any other thing related to their life; to share experiences and seek advice.
- April 2024
  - Spring Food Festival



- Allowing people to gather and bring their favourite food plates to share. This amazing experience is perfect for taking a break, having fun, meeting people, and making new friends. We aim to get all the PhD students in Built Environment to such lovely events where games and lots of fun will be waiting for them.
- May 2024
  - SPARC Abstract Writing Club
    - Writing is a fundamental aspect of our responsibilities, and many of us encounter challenges when it comes to writing on a regular basis. Often, we attribute our perceived lack of productivity or writing skills to ourselves. In this dedicated workshop, we aim to support PhD students in the built environment as they craft abstracts for the SPARC Conference 2024. Our goal is to create a space where students can share their written work with peers and benefit from the collective writing experience. By the end of the workshop, participants will have developed abstracts that are meaningful, focused, and effective in achieving their intended purpose, all while ensuring readability for others.
- June 2024
  - Thesis Talk (Reflection on SPARC)
    - This event will centre on the opportunity to discuss and refine the strengths of your research, building on the insights garnered from the SPARC Conference 2024. Here, you will have the chance to delve into the 'why' of your research, practice captivating your audience's attention, share intriguing details about your work, and conclude with your envisioned outcomes. Participating in these discussions will enable you to gain confidence in articulating your research, receive valuable advice and support, and cultivate meaningful connections with fellow researchers and colleagues.
- July 2024
  - Chatting Club
    - We believe that all PGR students are experiencing to some extent the same problems and life issues such as the cost of living and relationship with supervisors. We believe also that they badly miss their families, especially international students. Speaking out is the most effective way of getting advice or even seeking psychological relief. This session aims to gather all the PhD students in the built environment to talk about their lives, difficulties they have, or any other thing related to their life; to share experiences and seek advice.
- August 2024
  - Outing



- PhD students' outings- Place and time will be announced based on a prior questionnaire.
- September 2024
  - Writing Club
    - Writing is such a central part of our job, that most of us struggle with writing regularly, and then we blame ourselves for a lack of productivity or lack of skill at writing. In the writing club, we will encourage the PhD students in the built environment to represent a piece of their work that will be read by other students. This workshop aims to share the writing experience and ensure that each produced piece of work would be meaningful, focused, achieving its goal, and readable by others.

#### **2.10.4 Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
Alex Mbabu	President	<a href="mailto:a.m.mbabu@edu.Salford.ac.uk">a.m.mbabu@edu.Salford.ac.uk</a>
Esraa Elmarakby	Vice President and Logistics Coordinator	<a href="mailto:e.a.h.i.elmarakby@edu.salford.ac.uk">e.a.h.i.elmarakby@edu.salford.ac.uk</a>
Ali Saad	Event Coordinator	<a href="mailto:a.saad3@edu.salford.ac.uk">a.saad3@edu.salford.ac.uk</a>
Chamara Panakaduwa	Strategic Designer	<a href="mailto:c.s.panakaduwegamage@edu.salford.ac.uk">c.s.panakaduwegamage@edu.salford.ac.uk</a>
Harshi Bamunuachchige	Communications Coordinator	<a href="mailto:h.m.bamunuachchige@edu.salford.ac.uk">h.m.bamunuachchige@edu.salford.ac.uk</a>