



19 October 2026

To whom it may concern

Supporting the future of surveying apprenticeships

At the University of the Built Environment, we are proud to work in close partnership with employers to develop the next generation of built environment professionals.

For more than a decade, we have supported our students through the Chartered Surveyor apprenticeship, helping thousands of apprentices gain the knowledge, skills and professional foundations needed to build successful careers across the sector. We remain fully committed to that mission.

However, over recent years, a significant challenge has emerged across the Chartered Surveyor apprenticeship standard.

While apprentices continue to perform strongly during their degree studies, too many are ultimately not achieving the full apprenticeship because they do not complete or pass the final professional assessment stage. This issue affects providers across the sector and is significantly below government expectations.

This challenge is reflected in an institution's Qualification Achievement Rates (QAR), the measure used by government and regulators to assess apprenticeship completion. While the University's QAR on the Chartered Surveyor standard is above the national average, achievement rates across the standard as a whole remain significantly below the levels expected for apprenticeship programmes, indicating a broader structural issue that requires attention.

We have worked extensively with employers, professional bodies and other stakeholders to identify solutions. Despite these efforts, we do not believe the current structure is delivering the outcomes that apprentices, employers or providers should expect.

As a result, we have taken the difficult decision to pause future starts on the RICS accredited Project Management pathway of the Chartered Surveyor apprenticeship, with immediate effect. This pathway incorporates our BSc (Hons) Construction Management programme. This decision has not been taken lightly. It reflects our responsibility to ensure our programmes offer the strongest possible route to student success while protecting the long-term sustainability of the provision we deliver.



What does this mean for employers and apprentices and what alternatives are available?

Importantly, this decision does not affect any current apprentices.

The University remains fully committed to supporting all existing apprentices through their programme and providing employers with the high-quality partnership and support they expect from us.

We continue to offer a range of alternative development pathways to meet employers' workforce needs, including our CIOB accredited Construction Site Management degree apprenticeship, which provides a successful route into management careers within the sector. This sits alongside the option for employers to sponsor employees on the non apprenticeship version of the part-time BSc (Hons) in Construction Management.

For employers considering future recruitment and talent development plans, our Business Development team will be available to discuss the most appropriate options for your organisation and employees, ensuring continued access to high-quality professional education and progression opportunities.

Looking ahead

Alongside this decision, we will continue to work with employers, sector bodies and policymakers to advocate for reforms that support better outcomes for apprentices.

We believe there is a shared responsibility across the profession to ensure that apprenticeship routes remain attractive, accessible and achievable for future apprentices. The sector cannot afford to lose talented people because of barriers within the current system, and we remain committed to being part of the solution.

We recognise that you may have questions about what these changes mean for your organisation or your apprentices. We have therefore prepared a set of frequently asked questions which accompany this letter.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to continuing to work together to develop the next generation of built environment professionals.

Yours faithfully

Professor Ashley Wheaton
Vice Chancellor



FAQs

Why has the University taken this decision?

Over recent years, apprenticeship achievement rates across the Chartered Surveyor standard have remained significantly below the levels expected by government and regulators. While students typically perform strongly throughout their degree studies, too many do not ultimately achieve the full apprenticeship because they do not complete or pass the final professional assessment stage.

As one of the largest providers of surveying apprenticeships in the UK, we believe we have a responsibility to take decisions that prioritise student success and ensure the long-term sustainability of our provision. This decision reflects that commitment.

Why is Qualification Achievement Rate (QAR) an issue?

Qualification Achievement Rate (QAR) is the measure used by government and regulators to assess how many apprentices successfully complete their full apprenticeship programme.

Across the apprenticeship sector, providers are expected to achieve strong completion rates. However, the Chartered Surveyor apprenticeship has consistently recorded lower achievement rates than many other apprenticeship standards, creating challenges for students, employers and providers alike.

The challenge is not typically associated with apprentices' performance during their degree studies. Rather, it arises because a significant number who successfully complete the academic element do not ultimately achieve the full apprenticeship through the final professional assessment stage.

This is a sector-wide issue that has been the subject of extensive discussion between employers, providers and professional bodies. While the University's achievement rate on the Chartered Surveyor apprenticeship standard is around 47%, compared with a national average of approximately 28%, we believe the current model is not consistently delivering the outcomes that students, employers or providers should expect.

As a result, we have taken the decision to focus our apprenticeship provision on programmes where individuals have a clearer pathway to successful completion, while continuing to work with industry partners to support reforms that improve outcomes across the profession.



Is this a University of the Built Environment specific issue?

No. This is a challenge that affects providers across the sector.

Nationally, achievement rates for the Chartered Surveyor apprenticeship have remained well below the performance levels expected across apprenticeship programmes more broadly. The issue has been widely recognised and discussed by employers, providers and professional bodies for a number of years.

While the University's performance has been stronger than the national average, we believe there is a broader structural issue that needs to be addressed to improve outcomes for future apprentices.

Which programmes are affected?

The only programme affected by this decision is the Project Management pathway of the Chartered Surveyor apprenticeship, which incorporates our BSc (Hons) Construction Management programme. New starts on this pathway will pause from Spring 2027.

However, subject to the impact of this decision, we may review the position of the Building Surveying and Quantity Surveying apprenticeship pathways in early 2027. Our commitment to surveying education remains unchanged, and we will continue to assess opportunities that support employers, apprentices and the profession as a whole.

Does this affect current apprentices?

No.

All current apprentices will continue to receive the same level of support and will complete their programmes as planned. The decision also does not affect apprentices who joined us as part of the Autumn 2026 intake.

We remain fully committed to supporting every individual studying with the University.

What alternatives are available for employers?

The University continues to offer a range of opportunities for employers seeking to develop talent within their organisations.



These include our Construction Site Management degree apprenticeship, sponsored degree programmes for employers wishing to invest in employee development outside an apprenticeship route, and a broad portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate built environment qualifications covering a range of professional disciplines.

Our Business Development team will work directly with employers to explore the most appropriate route based on workforce needs and recruitment plans.

Does this mean employers should stop investing in apprenticeships?

Absolutely not.

We remain strong advocates for apprenticeships and continue to believe they play a vital role in attracting new talent into the profession. Our decision reflects concerns about the current structure of one specific pathway, not the value of apprenticeships as a whole.

We will continue to invest in, deliver and support apprenticeship programmes that provide positive outcomes for students and employers.

What is the University doing to improve the situation?

The University is continuing to work with employers, professional bodies, sector representatives and policymakers to support reforms that improve apprenticeship outcomes.

We believe there is a collective responsibility across the profession to ensure apprenticeship routes remain accessible, attractive and achievable for future students. We will continue to play an active role in conversations about how the system can evolve to better support both apprentices and employers.

Could the paused pathway return in the future?

We will continue to monitor developments across the sector and remain open to reviewing our position if changes are introduced that improve student outcomes and the long-term viability of the programme.

Any future decisions would be based on student outcomes, employer demand and the long-term sustainability of the programmes concerned.



Who should employers contact if they have questions about QAR, the apprenticeship standard, or these changes?

We recognise that employers may have questions about qualification achievement rates (QAR), the future of the Chartered Surveyor apprenticeship standard, or the implications of these changes for their organisation.

Employers should speak to their usual University contact or our Business Development team, who will be able to discuss the rationale for this decision, provide advice on alternative development pathways, and ensure employers' views and feedback are shared with the University as part of our ongoing engagement with the sector.