

## ZERO Institute shortlisted for CIBSE Awards 2025 in Learning and Development

Oxford, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

The ZERO Institute is proud to announce its shortlisting for the prestigious CIBSE Building Performance Awards 2025 in the Learning and Development category. This recognition celebrates the innovative collaboration between ZERO Institute, three Colleges of the University of Oxford—Wolfson, Exeter, and Lincoln—and the Department of Engineering Science, on the new ZERO teaching and internship programme dedicated to zero-carbon energy systems for buildings.



Launched in the 2023-2024 academic year, this activity represents a groundbreaking approach to education in the Department of Engineering Science. The initiative introduces new courses in Building Services Engineering within the Master of Engineering (MEng) degree program, designed to equip future engineers with the skills needed to achieve zero-carbon energy systems in buildings. Coordinated by Prof Jesus Lizana under the framework of the ZERO Institute, the programme benefits from the expertise of leading academics in the energy sector at Oxford, including Prof David Wallom, Dr Scot Wheeler, Dr Branoc Richards, Dr Zeynep Tekler, and Laurence Peinturier. This collaborative effort places a strong emphasis on hands-on learning,



incorporating real-world case studies while actively supporting Oxford's local transition to net zero.

The collaboration spans across three Oxford Colleges—Wolfson, Exeter, and Lincoln—which provide essential support for the initiative, by granting students access to existing building data that they can use as case studies, facilitating visits to energy facilities and systems, and offering valuable insights into the real-world challenges and constraints faced by the building industry. Key contributors to this ZERO Institute's initiative include Chris Licence, Home Bursar at Wolfson College; Ray Upton, Estates Manager at Wolfson College; Julian Mitchell, Estates Manager at Lincoln College; Michele McCartney, Domestic Operations Manager at Lincoln College; Steven Cunningham, Buildings Manager at Exeter College; Babis Karakoulas, Domestic Bursar at Exeter College; and Juliet Tye, Sustainability Officer at both Lincoln and Exeter Colleges.

The full list of shortlisted candidates for the CIBSE Awards 2025 can be viewed at [CIBSE BPA Shortlist 2025](#). The winners will be revealed during the CIBSE Awards ceremony on Thursday, 27 February 2025, at Park Plaza Westminster Bridge, London.

The nomination for this award underscores the importance of collaboration in driving innovation and education for a sustainable future. It also serves as an invitation for industry leaders to join hands in supporting and funding these transformative activities, ensuring a robust pipeline of skilled professionals ready to tackle the challenges of the zero-carbon transition.

Looking ahead, the ZERO Institute plans to expand these activities into other graduate and postgraduate programmes, incorporating more activities on sustainability and net-zero practices. Future initiatives include summer internships for students funded by different colleges, local institutions, and companies. These opportunities will provide students with invaluable hands-on experience in the net-zero energy sector, both within research groups and in collaboration with external organisations. This effort is being coordinated closely with the University of Oxford's Careers Service.

For more information, please contact [zero@eng.ox.ac.uk](mailto:zero@eng.ox.ac.uk) or consult <https://zero.ox.ac.uk/>.



Figure 1 Teaching sessions with students visiting Wolfson College, drawing on the insights gained from the recent zero-carbon energy intervention, Oxford.

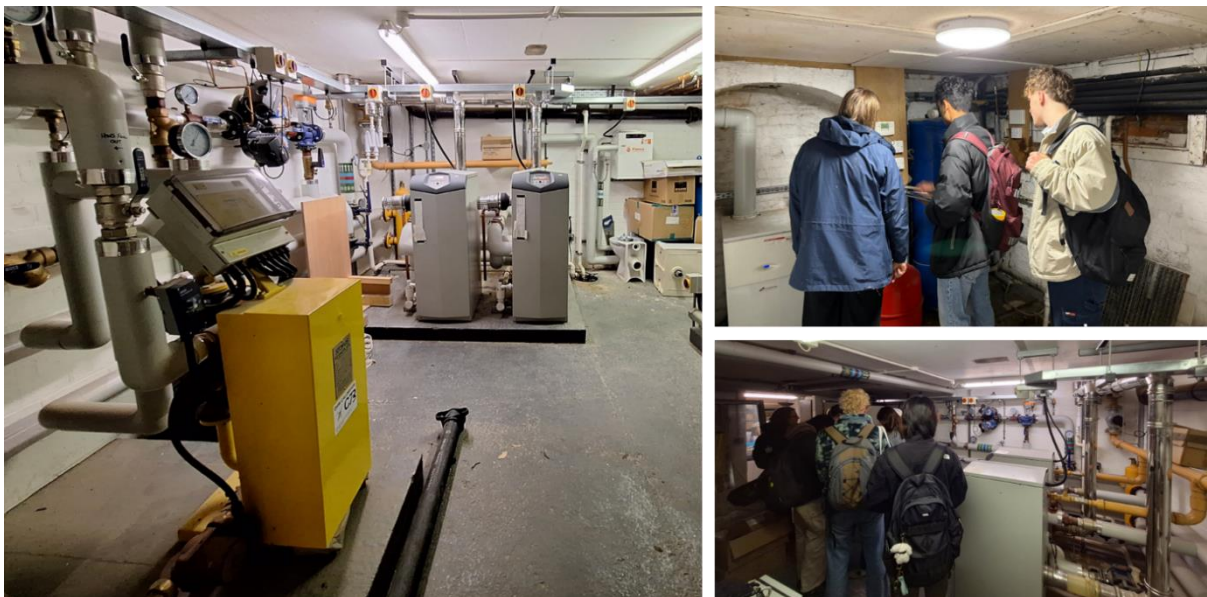


Figure 2 Student visits to building case studies for energy diagnosis at Lincoln and Exeter Colleges, Oxford.

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*About the ZERO Institute*

The ZERO Institute (Zero-carbon Energy Research Oxford) brings together researchers from across the University of Oxford to tackle questions surrounding zero-carbon energy systems, and to accelerate multi-disciplinary research on the zero-carbon transition. The Institute aims to shape the transition to a just and fair global zero-carbon energy system, through research that unifies technology, policy, and people. Based within the University of Oxford but with a global outreach, ZERO's multi-disciplinary



team spans engineering and material sciences, geography and the environment, and mathematical, physical and life sciences. The ZERO Institute was established in 2022 through an investment from the University of Oxford's Strategic Research Fund.

Website: <https://zero.ox.ac.uk/>.

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