



ZERO Institute wins the CIBSE Awards 2025 for Learning and Development

Oxford, 27th February 2025

The [ZERO Institute](#), University of Oxford, won the **CIBSE Awards 2025 in Learning and Development**. This award celebrates the groundbreaking teaching and internship programme launched in 2024 by the ZERO Institute in collaboration with three Oxford Colleges —Wolfson, Exeter, and Lincoln— and the Department of Engineering Science, dedicated to zero-carbon energy systems in buildings.

***CIBSE said:** “The judges were impressed by the ZERO Internship Programme and the potential significant impact on Oxford. They said the model could be scaled up to operate in across more cities and communities. They noted that the programme had received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students highlighting its effectiveness and relevance.”*

The judges also emphasised the ZERO Institute’s innovative approach to training future leaders in the built environment, integrating cutting-edge research, hands-on learning, and novel digital tools, including energy simulation software created in Oxford. They highlighted the strong engagement with real-world projects in Wolfson, Lincoln and Exeter colleges.

Led by Professor Jesus Lizana, Associate Professor in Engineering Science, the programme introduces innovative courses in Building Services Engineering as part of the Master of Engineering (MEng) degree and different MSc programmes at Oxford. These courses equip future Oxford engineers with the expertise to drive innovation and implement zero-carbon energy solutions for buildings. The programme integrates real-world case studies while actively contributing to Oxford’s transition to net zero.

Jointly with Prof. Jesus Lizana, many academics at the ZERO Institute have provided their unique expertise and commitment to shape this new teaching programme, including Prof David Wallom, Dr Scot Wheeler, Dr Branoc Richards, Dr Zeynep Tekler, and Laurence Peinturier. Crucial 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.

Looking ahead, the ZERO Institute plans to expand these activities into other graduate and postgraduate programmes, incorporating more initiatives on sustainability and net-zero best practices.

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/>.



Picture 1: Prof. Jesus Lizana receiving the CIBSE award 2025 at the ceremony held at Park Plaza Westminster Bridge, London, on Thursday, 27 February. Photo credit: CIBSE Building Performance Awards.



Picture 2: CIBSE Award Winners for 2025. Photo credit: CIBSE Building Performance Awards.



Picture 3: Gala dinner during the CIBSE Awards 2025 ceremony. Photo credit: CIBSE Building Performance Awards.