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## **CONSTRUCTIONSKILLS PARTNERS WITH TOP UNIVERSITIES TO PROMOTE SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME**

ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for the construction industry, has partnered with over 40 top UK universities to promote its Inspire Scholarships scheme to students planning built environment-related degree courses.

The universities will issue information about the Inspire Scholarships to all applicants to relevant courses from January 2006. The information will include details of the funding and work placement opportunities available with leading construction employers, as well as details of where to find out more about the career opportunities in construction.

The UK universities scholarship marketing partnership is part of ConstructionSkills' wider "Positive Image" campaign, which aims to bring higher numbers of graduate- and technically-skilled applicants into the industry.

Institutions that have become part of the marketing activity include: University of Leeds, University College London, University of Portsmouth, Leeds Metropolitan University, Liverpool John Moores University, Edinburgh Napier University, Newport University of Wales and The University of Nottingham.

In addition, the scheme has been promoted directly to over 20,000 students who were registered with UCAS as having an interest in construction and built environment degree courses.

Mark Way, a ConstructionSkills spokesperson, said: "Reaching students early on their paths into the construction industry and supporting them is a key part of this campaign and vital if we are to ensure a flow of professionally qualified young people joining our businesses. Engaging with the universities directly and communicating with their students at the outset takes us a huge way to achieving this.

Students studying construction-related subjects at undergraduate level need the financial support which Inspire Scholarships provide. More than that, however, the scheme offers these students real-world work experience with leading employers, ensuring that when they complete their courses they are more job-ready."

The Inspire Scholarships scheme will offer up to 150 undergraduates up to £9,000 throughout their courses. The programme also provides scholars with on-site experience with top employers, as well as the possibility of a permanent job after graduation.

In addition to funding, the construction employers that have contributed to the scheme have committed to offering 10 week summer placements, as well as the possibility of further placements during students' sandwich years and potential employment post-graduation.

More information about the scheme for students wanting more information is available at: **[www.bconstructive.co.uk/scholarship](http://www.bconstructive.co.uk/scholarship)**. Employers or universities interested in the scheme should contact Karen Patrick at ConstructionSkills on [karen.patrick@citb.co.uk](mailto:karen.patrick@citb.co.uk).

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for Construction is a partnership between CIC, CITB-ConstructionSkills and CITB(NI)

