



Transforming: Vice-Chancellor Martin Hall and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Adrian Graves

Our transformation has begun with the successful launch of new ways to provide professional services to our three Colleges

A new dawn

A key milestone in our Transformation Programme was achieved at the beginning of September with the successful launch of the Model College structure.

The structure will allow us to better manage our resources and improve the way professional services are delivered to our Colleges. This, in turn, will allow our academic teams to transform the way they teach our students. Its launch brings Phase 1 of the Transformation Programme to a successful conclusion, with all deadlines met.

"The Colleges will find more of our professional services provided from central directorates," said Dr Adrian Graves, Deputy Vice-Chancellor. "It's the culmination of over a year's work that's involved the whole University community, with

the new and improved structures providing more flexibility."

In addition to the Model College structure, Phase 1 has involved the development and launch of our first Service Level Agreements (SLAs), which define exactly the level of service our Colleges can expect from the centre.

"This is a first, with the SLAs laying out in black and white how our professional services teams will provide their specialisms to the Colleges," said Adrian. "They'll play an important part in helping us achieve our upper quartile target by 2017."

With Phase 1 of the Transformation Programme now complete, Phase 2 is following swiftly and will deal with general and programme administration in our Schools.

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Adrian Graves

Meet the challenge

September saw the VC Leadership Briefing and Strategic Planning Conference discuss the changing face of the higher education environment since the Strategic Plan's approval three years ago.

"There's an even more

competitive market for students and higher education services now than there was then," said Vice-Chancellor Professor Martin Hall. "As a consequence there's a greater emphasis on providing a high-quality student journey."

Specific focus was given to Teaching & Learning and Research

& Innovation, together with workshops around Engagement and Internationalisation.

"The sustainability of universities will be predicated on our success in diversifying revenue, and both events showed great creativity with this in mind," said Martin.

"Our School is internationally recognised as one of the key institutions for promoting research into the built environment"

Dilanthi Amaratunga



Quick response: Dilanthi Amaratunga

Professor of Disaster Management **Dilanthi Amaratunga** has helped introduce the UK's first full degree programme with professional accreditation in Sri Lanka

Building bridges

Since graduating from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka in 1994 and completing a PhD with the University of Salford in 2001, Dilanthi has become an international leader in the field of disaster management.

"Disaster used to mean an Act of God, but as the human race has expanded its understanding of the world it has come to encompass terrorism, civil wars and the interruption of technology, in addition to things like earthquakes and tsunamis," she said. "At the Centre for Disaster Resilience in the School of the Built Environment, we promote research that anticipates and responds to disasters that damage or destroy communities and their built, natural and human environment."

Dilanthi has been part of the University for 13 years now. She originally came here in October

1997 after being awarded a prestigious Overseas Research Scholarship, which enabled her to begin her doctoral studies. Since then she has led several international research projects, published over two hundred academic papers and currently supervises 12 PhD students.

"Our school is internationally recognised as one of the key institutions for promoting research into the built environment," she said. "We're partners with some of the world's major disaster management institutions including the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). We also work closely with the Sri Lankan Government and other key stakeholders to reduce disaster risk within Sri Lanka."

"The School of the Built Environment regularly receives top rankings for its research and is

internationally recognised for its expertise. Becoming the first to launch a degree in Quantity Surveying with full overseas delivery and full professional institution recognition was just an extension of this.

"My undergraduate degree was in quantity surveying and I taught it, so you can see that it's one of my key interests," said Dilanthi. "There's a huge demand for construction professionals in Sri Lanka as the country is recovering from the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami and a 30-year-long civil war, but there is only one public sector university running a quantity surveying programme. This new degree will increase the number of qualified quantity surveyors that will be produced and help the country rebuild. The four-year course will be taught by local experts, but be closely supervised by Salford academics."