CIOB
The Chartered Institute of Building

Call for Papers: Guidelines

CIOB Academic Summit: Creating an inclusive global community

9 September 2026: Call for contributions

The Chartered Institute of Building

On 9 September 2026, the CIOB will host the annual International Academic Summit. Taking place virtually, the conference brings together academics, policymakers, and practitioners in education, these individuals are today's most influential thinkers and doers. The conference will be a unique opportunity to share experiences, real-world solutions, and knowledge.

The CIOB has launched its corporate plan 2023-28, focusing on Modern Professionalism in construction management. Essential to providing high-quality outcomes is a commitment to professionalism. This is well established in fields such as medicine, accountancy, and civil engineering, but it is not consistent across construction. The concept of professionalism needs to become central, not peripheral. There are new and evolving issues that the industry needs to respond to. Modern professionalism:

- Continually evolves to meet the changing needs of society, responding to new challenges and opportunities.
- Combines accredited competence with ethical conduct, underpinned by a clear moral compass.
- Ensures individuals and companies provide high-quality outcomes, generating personal pride and satisfaction while creating a competitive and successful industry.
- Recognised in a way that is publicly visible, inspiring confidence and trust.

The issues and opportunities are many and need many players in construction to combine and tackle them well. We are inviting research proposals for contributions on important topics.

Your submission should cover one of the following issues:

1. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
2. Ethics
3. Quality & Safety
4. Future of Construction
5. Skills Gap
6. Environmental Sustainability
7. Health and Wellbeing

Proposals for contributions can address more than one of these topics, as we recognise that many opportunities and challenges lie at the intersections between them.

If accepted, a number of selected contributions will be given through short live presentations virtually during the conference. This will include panel(s) and individual presentations during the conference, culminating in 3-5 sessions.

Key Dates:

- Call for proposals open: 17 April 2026
- Paper submission due: 26 July 2026
- Paper review feedback: 05 August 2026 (Abstract review period: Jul 2026)

Event time zones:

The event aims to capture a global audience in time zones including:

- BST, SAST, EDT, Euro Time Zone
- East Asia Time Zone

Contributors

Contributions are welcome from any education establishments within the CIOB education community and from any part of the world. They can be made by academics, policymakers, and practitioners in education. We particularly encourage contributions that are interdisciplinary – proposed and delivered by a collaboration of people and/or organisations from different sectors, and/or from different academic disciplines - recognising complexities and different perspectives and ideas are needed.

Contributions

Contributions should be informed by good, reliable evidence that may come from academic research or from the experience of industry, business, governments, practitioners, or communities. Contributions should explain what issues are being addressed and how those issues are understood, but the focus should be on solutions and learned experiences. Contributions can come from any part of the world and ideally would be relevant to more than one part of the world.

Submitting a contribution proposal

Proposals will be submitted via **our Online form available on our web-page**.

Once the deadline for submission passes, a panel will convene to review all submissions and assess each entry, selecting a cut for the Academic Summit conference.

Proposals should be no longer than 4000 characters (including spaces) and include the following information:*What is the problem/opportunity you're focusing on in relation to at least one of the issues listed under each topic area; what is the solution you are proposing or have experience of; and what evidence do you draw on in understanding the problem and developing or supporting the solution?*

Further details

On submitting a proposal, feedback on material for live contributions will be provided 2-3 weeks ahead of the conference to ensure that the contributions fit well and that the sessions are as effective as possible.

There may be an opportunity to include proposal contributions in publications arising from the summit, which may include edited books, working papers, and articles in academic and industry journals. We will work closely with you after the event to produce published outcomes.

Format of the conference

The main conference venue will be the CIOB online event platform.

All sessions and activities will also be accessible via the virtual platform, with space and opportunity for interaction between participants online (dedicated networking and discussion spaces). The conference will take place over the course of 9 September 2026 and delivered in 2-5 sessions, capturing global time zones, and with panel discussions, workshops, and presentations. Sessions will include invited speakers, identified via this open call.

A panel session will last up to 40 minutes and will be recorded and made available to all registered conference participants. Presentations/workshops will last 30 minutes including a Q&A. We may hold parallel sessions depending on the response received via this open call.

Topic details

1. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Equality, diversity, and inclusion are seen by many as key areas for delivering equitable education. Given the growing student population of 600 million worldwide in 2040 compared to 200 million today, attracting, retaining, and delivering a high-quality student experience requires unique and quantifiable measures for a dynamic global student population.

Construction remains a male-dominated industry across the globe. In the UK, women make up around 15% of the construction workforce, with 2% of those working on-site. This figure is even less for those from a Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background who only make up 6% of the workforce. This stark under-representation points to one obvious solution to the current and ongoing skills shortage in the construction sector. That is why the CIOB is committed to promoting EDI in the sector through its EDI Charter. We understand that EDI is not a 'zero-sum game'. Promoting fair and equitable access to opportunities and inclusive practices will contribute to a stronger economy to everyone's benefit, across and beyond the construction industry.

The sessions within this topic will inspect:

- *Will investigate the place of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion research, strategies and policies in education establishments, and the vision of shared prosperity for all.*

- *Mechanisms to make change happen: a wide range of strategies must be employed to help deliver change and catalyse action. Contributions are sought that provide insights into tools, approaches, and experience in catalysing change in different contexts that help to address equality, diversity, and inclusion inequalities.*

2. Ethics

Ethics is a key part of professional integrity. Most, if not all, professional bodies have a Code of Conduct. The *CIOB code of conduct* is a highly referenced

literature by our members. We believe that ethics is central to what it means to be a professional within the industry and a member of the CIOB. Maintaining ethical principles improves transparency and encourages high-quality construction.

One of the key issues is that operatives in the construction industry, and numerous companies, have a long history of business practices that we deem to be unethical. Therefore, ethical standards are crucial, to laying out the rules for behaviour – and should be a central facet of any company's corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Ethics and ethical behaviour are key qualities expected of all CIOB members. We recognise that the whole industry benefits when projects are completed right the first time, with respect and fairness for all stakeholders in every project and throughout all supply chains.

The sessions within this topic will inspect:

- *Practices, research or policies in education that enhance the early understanding of ethics which promote future talent's ability to become adversaries.*

- *Exploring, reflecting on existing policies, research, and practices within built environment education, furthermore through the lens of an ethicist, what knowledge and tools have been developed to equip learners and practitioners with leading with a high quality of ethics for example, development of ethical frameworks such as codes of ethics, regulations and other standardising instruments informing teaching praxis.*

- *Ethical effective leadership for global challenges; this will involve exploring what is understood by the term 'ethical effective leadership' and how more inclusive leadership can be encouraged in different contexts – from communities to the global level.*

3. Quality & Safety

Approximately 55% of the global population lives in urban areas. By 2050 this proportion is estimated to reach 68%. Good quality buildings should promote health, safety, and well-being as well as address today's many social, cultural, environmental, and economic concerns. The safety of a building should be the top priority for the construction industry as it is vital that all buildings are safe for their intended users.

Quality and safe development of buildings and infrastructure has the potential to improve the well-being of societies, yet also presents a number of development challenges including exacerbation of environmental risks, with exposure determined by a range of social, technological, environmental, and behavioral factors. Key environmental health issues include poor water quality and sanitation, flooding, and the dual risks of indoor and ambient air pollution exposure.

The sessions within this topic will inspect:

- *Understand how to improve attitudes to Quality and Safety in construction and reduce social inequalities through education*

- *Provide evidence and ideas to reinvent cities, build* ***resilience*** *and respond to Quality and Safety issues through planning, economic development, and social innovation.*

4. Future of Construction

The construction industry continues to innovate and use digital technologies in order to improve its productivity and efficiency. We believe this will help to attract a more diverse workforce that will continue to increase social mobility within the industry.

The sessions within this topic will inspect:

- *Social mobility and fair access; construction plays a critical role in reversing the declining levels of economic and social mobility. However, the desirability of a career in the construction industry still needs to be addressed to attract new talent into the sector. How is education addressing this challenge?*

- *Digital technologies are now an integral part of our built environment. The choice is not when or if built assets will use technologies, but rather how much will be used. Building Information Modelling (BIM), augmented reality, drones, 3D printing, and data analytics are all becoming commonplace in the sector. How is the curriculum keeping up to date and maintaining its currency? What challenges and opportunities lie ahead for academics in built environment education? Evidence and analysis on good practice, innovation, and or impact on delivery and experiences for staff and learners are sought.*

5. Skills Gap

The construction industry has long suffered from challenges posed by skills shortages and skills gaps and the cyclical boom and bust nature of construction means workloads and staffing requirements are heavily dictated by the general condition of the economy. Coupled with the threat of an aging workforce, as well as difficulty in attracting new entrants, further heightens the challenge.

Improving quality and access to education and skills is crucial for ensuring a sufficient pipeline of educated qualified and professional workers who are passionate about working in the built environment. Furthermore, technical education is top on the government agenda, as a review of Auger Review, DfES White Paper 2022. Higher Education Qualification (HTQ) is on the horizon.

We want an education system that can help inspire and attract talent to the sector, but also one that is informed by employers; helping their businesses grow. One of the biggest challenges has been ensuring talent is inspired to embark on a career in the sector. Trends show that too many young people never join the industry after taking built environment-related subjects or training, or just drop out altogether.

Education and skills need to have a vision for what the construction industry needs both now and, in the future, and it must work with professional bodies like the CIOB to shape this. There are widespread concerns about the increasing precarity of work, equality of work opportunity, and underemployment, especially for current generations of young people as they grow into adulthood.

This topic aims to generate frameworks for education and employment futures that are inclusive, equitable, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of learners.

The sessions within this topic will inspect:

- *Education establishments are increasingly developing partnerships with industry and government to help shape the supply and demand of skilled workers. Share innovative approaches to educating future construction talent, and redesign academic and apprenticeship programs and courses paving the way to firm employment in the sector.*

- *The COVID-19 pandemic has left its mark on the higher education sector. Increasingly, institutions are challenged to deliver and meet the demand for new approaches to teaching and learning construction, architecture, and engineering education. Since COVID-19, there has been an increasing emphasis on sustainable approaches to delivering the curriculum. Thus, evidence and best practice from the investigation of using digital delivery is being sought*.

6. Environmental Sustainability

Construction has a profound environmental, economic, and social, impact. A framework within which we work and play, access key services, and build relationships. It is therefore important that we address issues of poor productivity within the industry as well as the impact construction has on climate change.

The sessions within this topic will inspect:

- *In an economy reliant on the built environment, construction is central to improving productivity, but construction productivity lags behind that of other industries. Assessment of measures introduced to address productivity insights required.*

- *Climate Change and Sustainability. Today, buildings are responsible for almost 40% of global energy-related carbon emissions, with homes alone accounting for nearly 20% as reported by The Economist. The UK Green Building Council states that the built environment contributes around 40% of the UK's total carbon footprint. Analysis of innovative measures developed or implemented is sought.*

7. Health and Wellbeing

Construction is potentially the most dangerous of working environments. With exhaustion, working from height, slips, and trips, and material handling all common causes of injury, illness, and death, Construction has made significant strides to improve its record on H&S in the last two decades. Optimising physical and mental health and well-being across the construction lifespan is an urgent global priority. It is imperative that we create environments that promote full and equal access to systems, services, and policies promoting mental and physical health and well-being in construction. Further magnified during the COVID-19 pandemic, disparities exist across the board.

This topic aims to support the transformation of environments and societies to promote full and equal access to systems, services, and policies that address inequities with the goal of optimising mental and physical health across the lifespan.

The sessions within this topic will inspect:

- *Evidencing and incentivising the effective management of workplace illness and mental health. There is a wide scope of measures being implemented to produce a positive workplace ecosystem. We seek contributions that evidence and report on approaches to efficiency and the impact of wellness and wellbeing in construction workplace ecosystems. Showcasing and analysis of successes and failures in implementing different approaches.*