

Professor David Richards, University of Southampton, joins Constructionarium Board

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[Constructionarium](#), a unique learning provider for students studying, and employees working, across the built environment sector, is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor David Richards to its Board of Directors.

David, who is a Professor of Ground Engineering at the University of Southampton and Head of the School of Engineering (2018-2023), brings with him an extensive background in geotechnical engineering, sustainable construction practices, and academic leadership. His appointment to the Constructionarium board underscores his commitment to bridging the gap between academic theory and practical application in the built environment sector.

With over 35 years of experience in the field, Professor Richards has made significant contributions to ground engineering research and education. His work has been instrumental in advancing the understanding of soil-structure interaction, foundation engineering, more recently the design and performance of Overhead Line Electrification (OLE) foundations. His expertise will be invaluable in inspiring other academic institutes to participate in the unique site simulator Constructionarium offers.

Professor Richards expressed his enthusiasm about joining the board, stating, "I am honoured to be part of Constructionarium, a not-for-profit organisation that plays a crucial role in enhancing practical learning across the built environment. Having participated in Constructionarium since 2017 with the University of Southampton's first year students, I look forward to working with my fellow board members to develop more innovative programs that will prepare students and professionals for the challenges of modern

construction.”

Constructionarium CEO, Julia Stevens, welcomed Professor Richards’ appointment, saying, “We are delighted to have Professor David Richards join our board. His extensive expertise in ground engineering and his dedication to education will be a tremendous asset to Constructionarium. We are excited to collaborate with him to further our mission of providing experiential learning opportunities for all, that connect theory with practice.”

The University of Southampton’s Head of Department, Professor Tom Cherrett, also praised the appointment, noting, “Professor Richards’ involvement with Constructionarium highlights our university’s commitment to providing the best practical skills to support the academic learning of our students. His role on the board will undoubtedly contribute to the development of further innovative educational initiatives that benefit both our students and those who are studying built environment courses around the world.”

Constructionarium continues to expand its impact by offering unique, hands-on construction projects that enable participants to build scaled-down versions of iconic structures. With Professor Richards on board, the organisation is poised to further its reach and effectiveness in delivering high-quality, practical education in construction and engineering.