

## Case Study: Mentoring

# Edinburgh Napier University – 5<sup>th</sup> Year Students



**Perth Transport Futures Project – Phase One**  
A9/A85 Perth Transport Futures Project

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017**

Ken Brown, Project Manager at the Perth Transport Futures Project, has been mentoring a group of Napier University students through their final year project – to promote a fictitious development in Edinburgh.

*“This project is a huge learning curve for the students who have stated they learn more from this experience than anything else in the year” Ken Brown, Project Manager*

### The Challenge

As an alumni of Napier University, Ken Brown is involved in mentoring students as they work through their degree and masters programmes.

In their 4<sup>th</sup> year, Ken’s cohort had to design a multiuse venue to be constructed at Ocean Terminal in Edinburgh following a specific design brief. For their 5<sup>th</sup> year, they have to produce a brochure promoting the development and complete a presentation similar to that should they be bidding for the tender.

This is the seventh year that Ken has been undertaking the mentor programme, with students from the previous year having to design and promote a new stadium for Edinburgh Rugby.

### The Measures

Each of the three teams is paired with a mentor from industry for the duration of the project. The cohort of seven students have been meeting with Ken regularly on Friday afternoons for advice and coaching on how to best promote their development. Ken has been sharing his vast experience of the construction industry, gained over more than three decades with Balfour Beatty, with the students to give them a competitive edge over the other teams.

On this occasion, Ken shared with them a presentation that was delivered during the bid phase for renovation works at Cathedral Street in Glasgow. It was a great opportunity for the students to get a feel for the real world applications of what they were being asked to do. Craig Hunter, a Section Engineer from the Perth Transport Futures Project and another fellow Napier alumnus, was also on hand to answer questions about the Balfour Beatty Graduate scheme and life as a young engineer.

### The Results

Ken will continue to meet with the students as they complete their preparations and will also take part in the judging panel for the end of project presentations. By volunteering his time in this way, Ken is providing these students with a unique opportunity to learn from someone with a huge wealth of knowledge and experience and is inspiring the next generation of engineers.

**For more information, please contact:**

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