



The Worshipful Company
of Constructors



2020/21 Sustainability Scholarship



Name: Alex Roberts

Current Work Position: Senior Customer Relationship Manager

Experience: I've completed an MSc in Environmental Policy and Management and a Post Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Construction. I am a Chartered Environmentalist. I started my career working in social housing working as an Environment and Sustainability Manager. In 2015 I joined Willmott Dixon Construction as Sustainability Manager. I am still at Willmott Dixon and now working as a Customer Relationship Manager.

Reason for applying for the scholarship: I've been frustrated for a while that as an industry we have all the solutions to respond to the climate crisis by delivering net zero carbon buildings. However, the truly sustainable buildings the industry delivers are the exception rather than the norm. I had a lightbulb moment in 2018 when we completed Bristol's "most sustainable building." I reflected on why the project delivered such high sustainability standards, and my conclusion was it was because it's what our customer asked for. Therefore, I applied for the scholarship to help understand the customer/client community and how we can increase demand for truly sustainable buildings to allow us to respond to the climate crisis.

Research Description: "How can the construction sector become a catalyst for change to achieve a net zero carbon economy?"

My study will help to understand the demand for net zero carbon new construction projects from a client/customer perspective. The aim of my study is to determine how the construction sector can be a catalyst for change to increase demand for net zero carbon new construction projects. To achieve this aim I have set the following objectives:

- Determine to what extent and with what instruments (i.e. policy, procedural, expertise) construction clients/customers are demanding net zero buildings
- Identify barriers that practitioners in construction clients/customers perceive when setting requirements to reduce climate change impact in building construction
- What practices can enable successful implementation of environmental performance requirements to limit the climate change impact of buildings?