

Geomatics and Land Management Changing Profile and Career, UK and RICS Experiences

Prof. Richard K. BULLARD, United Kingdom

Key words: education, geomatics, land management.

ABSTRACT

In a changing world there is a need to consider both the academic content of degree programmes of professional education and the career prospects for geomatics graduates. The academic programmes and the employment prospects of the past were ideal for the traditional land surveyor, but times have changed, as have career opportunities.

The future of the dwindling number of land surveying and geomatics departments must be questioned, as too must the employment prospects of their graduates. These may be related to the changes that took place during 2000, for example, concerning the structure of the RICS, in which 7 Divisions became 16 Faculties. It had been traditionally accepted that surveyors would be able to practice in the division in which they qualified. However, since the changes to the structure of the RICS, members are now eligible to join up to four faculties, although only qualified in one. This degree of wider involvement may be used in the design of future degree programmes. It would no longer be appropriate for surveyors to qualify within a single faculty, and therefore, the discipline of degree courses and subsequent expertise gained in practice needs to be broadening in line with the increased number of faculties. One scenario could be programmes that would lead to membership of the key faculty, for example Geomatics, plus up to three others as options dependent upon the interests of the undergraduates and availability of suitable modules in the degree programme. For example, a degree programme could be directed towards four complimentary faculties, such as Geomatics, Rural, Planning, and Environment, which could result in Geomatics being provided as a Land Management style course with rural, planning and environmental specialisations.

This paper will set out a new strategy for professional education and employment in geomatics based upon the above considerations.

CONTACT

Prof. Richard K. Bullard
Department of Built Environment
Anglia Polytechnic University
Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1SQ
Tel. + 44 1245 233 351
Fax + 44 1245 233 751
UNITED KINGDOM
E-mail richard.bullard@cwcom.net

TS2.6 Changes in Curricula
Richard K. Bullard
Geomatics and Land Management – Changing Profile and Career, UK and RICS Experiences