



To the Department of Engineering in UK Universities:

**The Subsidence Forum Dissertation Initiative 2016**

I am writing to invite you to participate in this exciting new scheme from The Subsidence Forum.

The scheme is to offer a cash prize of **£500** for the best undergraduate, final year dissertation for 2016. The subject matter must be related to subsidence but it does not necessarily have to be restricted to technical aspects; it may encompass wider issues, such as climate change, social and/or financial impact on communities be they rural or urban and the wider environmental implications.

All Heads of Department of Engineering in UK Universities will be approached and invited to participate. They will be asked to submit their highest rated dissertation. Each Department of Engineering will be restricted to one entry, obviously the highest marked.

The dissertation must be received by the UK Subsidence Forum, duly marked and externally examined, by

**Friday 2 September 2016.**

The Award Ceremony will be held at **The Subsidence Forum`s Annual Training Day held at the BRE at Garston , Watford on 20 October 2016, exact date to be confirmed.**

The participating dissertations should be submitted in hard copy to:

**The Subsidence Forum, Kingsley House, Ganders Business Park, Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire, GU35 9LU**

The accompanying material explains the role of the UK Subsidence Forum in the Construction and Insurance sectors of business. **Further details can be seen on the website – [www.subsidenceforum.org](http://www.subsidenceforum.org)**

I hope you will find this initiative interesting and will sign up to participate. This is the first time the UK Subsidence Forum has undertaken anything of this nature and if you require further information do not hesitate to contact me.

Please complete the reply slip and return via email to [emma.simmonds@subsidenceforum.org](mailto:emma.simmonds@subsidenceforum.org) or by post to the address shown below.

Yours sincerely,

*Rob Withers.*

**Subsidence Forum Chairman**

----- reply slip -----

**The Subsidence Forum Dissertation Initiative for 2016**

We will/will not be participating in The Subsidence Forum Dissertation Initiative for 2016

**Contact Name**..... **University**.....

**Department**..... **email**..... **Tel**.....

## THE SUBSIDENCE FORUM

The Subsidence Forum, represents the full range of professions and companies involved in the subsidence repair process and not only aims to raise public awareness of subsidence issues but also to improve the lines of communication between all parties involved in subsidence.

The Forum is aware of the need to improve quality and standards throughout the industry and encourages the use of competent suppliers. As its name suggests it also provides a centre of shared knowledge and exchange of non-competitive information. Membership is available to any company or organisation that is involved in the subsidence industry.

There are typically 30,000 insurance claims for subsidence damage to properties in the UK every year, and it has affected the lives of over 3,000,000 people since it was first covered by standard buildings insurance in 1976. The total cost to UK insurers is in the region of £5bn so far.

The subsidence of buildings can be both complex and technically challenging, involving a whole spectrum of construction and insurance specialists. Such insurance claims can often take a significant amount of time to resolve properly.

The probability of global warming and associated climate change is likely to cause significant additional problems in the future where trees and shrinkable clays are associated with the problem.

The Forum has the following Specialist Interest Groups to develop common principles and provide a platform for discussion:

- Supply & Procurement
- Training & Education
- Technical & Innovations
- Customer Focus
- Legal & Recovery

