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Dr Eujin Pei, Senior Lecturer in Product and Furniture Design at De Montfort University

A look at how our work on campus is raising awareness of standardization and helping to create the standards makers of the future

We believe it’s important to give lectures at UK universities for many reasons. As well as shedding light on our work and raising awareness of standards, students can find out how standardization can fuel innovation and help them in their studies and careers after they graduate.

Another key objective is to inspire students and academic staff to become actively involved in the standards-making process, so that they can help to shape the future. Feedback from students following BSI lectures has shown that many of them would like to be involved in the standards-making process.

Enjoyable and informative

We’ve been delivering lectures on BS 8888 to design students at De Montfort University in Leicester for three years. The standard brings together all international standards that govern preparation of technical product specifications.

“The lectures have been not only enjoyable, but also highly informative. Our students have learned a lot of potentially very useful information – even simple things, such as knowing they can search the BSI website for information about standards, is very useful,” comments Dr Eujin Pei, Senior Lecturer in Product and Furniture Design at De Montfort University in Leicester.

“The BSI BS 8888 lecture is held every year in November and in 2013 we expanded it from just first-year product design students to include a school-wide lecture series. We invited students and staff from other departments, including product and furniture design, design crafts and interior design. The lectures have been very well received – and that’s certainly been backed up by the highly positive feedback students have given.”

Committee member

Partly as a result of the lectures, Dr Pei has become formally involved in the standards-making process. “I’m part of the committee for additive manufacturing technologies, I joined in 2012.

“I knew of the committee through Sarah Kelly and Newell Hampson-Jones from BSI, who deliver lectures here at the university. The committee has a good mix of academics and industrial stakeholder experts. I was encouraged to join because of my research work in additive manufacturing, as well as my background in new product development. Coming from an academic background enables me to contribute a more design-led focus on the technology.

“Essentially, the role of a BSI committee member is to contribute one’s expertise and experience to the committee’s standardization programme, and to represent the committee’s interests and concerns of the organization.

Shaping standards

“I believe that it’s extremely important for academic staff to be actively involved in shaping standards, from a teaching and research point of view. The teaching of standards not only educates students, but also better prepares them for industry.”

Our aim is for standards to be taught at all levels, so that students remain aware of any changes that take place. Ideally, standards should be taught in a broad sense at first and as students progress, the focus could be on more specialized areas, so that students gain specific knowledge that will help them in their careers after they graduate.

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