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## Reflections on My Academic Journey in the UK

My academic journey in the UK has spanned over 25 years, starting with an intensive English course in Edinburgh before moving to [Loughborough University](#), where I pursued both a Master's and a PhD. This foundational experience was pivotal in shaping my career and personal development, leading to a fulfilling tenure at the [The University of Salford](#), where I spent 20 years. Along the way, I had the honor of serving as the Vice President and then President of the [The Chartered Institute of Building \(CIOB\)](#) (CIOB) from 2010 to 2014. Throughout this journey, the values of support, professionalism, and fairness have been paramount.

At Loughborough, I was fortunate to be immersed in a vibrant academic environment. The university not only equipped me with essential skills but also fostered a culture of support and collaboration. In 2016, I received an honorary doctorate in technology from Loughborough University.

Transitioning to the University of Salford marked a significant phase in my career. Starting as a Research Fellow, I had the opportunity to engage in groundbreaking research and collaborate with esteemed colleagues. Over the years, I ascended through various roles, culminating in my position as Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation. In this capacity, I was able to influence research strategies, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and advocate for the importance of innovation in academia. My proudest achievements there were supervising 24 PhD students who successfully completed their studies.

The support I received throughout my tenure at Salford was invaluable. As someone from an ethnic minority, I experienced firsthand the university's dedication to equality and inclusivity. This environment empowered me to contribute meaningfully to the academic community and champion diversity in all its forms.

My involvement with the CIOB further exemplified my dedication to the construction and building professions. Serving as Vice President and then President provided me with opportunities to advocate for industry standards and professional development. The CIOB's emphasis on ethical practices and support for its members mirrored the values I experienced in academia.

Reflecting on my journey, I am grateful for the experiences and support I received throughout my time in the UK. The academic and professional environments at Loughborough, Salford, and CIOB have shaped my values and aspirations, instilling a deep commitment to fairness, strong work ethics, professionalism, and support for all. As I continue to engage with the academic community at ADU, I remain dedicated to fostering environments where everyone is treated equally and where diversity is celebrated as a strength.

The UK 🇬🇧 will always have a special place in my heart.

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