

PRESS RELEASE

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Winners of IBE Student Essay Competition in Business Ethics 2015

The two winning essays of this year's **IBE Student Essay Competition in Business Ethics** focus on the diverse subjects of Corporate Social Responsibility and strategy and water poverty in the UK.

The IBE Student Essay Competition in Business Ethics celebrates the best writing and thinking by undergraduates and postgraduates on business ethics. It aims to encourage student interest in business ethics and the integration of discussions on corporate responsibility into the core curricula of business schools.

Philippa Foster Back CBE, IBE's Director said: *"These students have shown the impressive level of debate on these issues taking place in the UK's Universities and Business Schools. We had double the number of entries than in 2014, showing the level of interest in the topic at universities. All those who entered are to be congratulated, and we hope that they will continue to consider and debate ethical issues in their future careers."*



The Postgraduate category was won by **James Peacock** for his essay *Water Poverty - a real threat in the UK?* from Bradford University School of Management.

James said: *"I am delighted to have won the award from the Institute of Business Ethics. I currently work in a specialist role, and I've been pursuing a more general career in business ethics and sustainability. This award will give me a real boost in realising the career I desire, and hopefully raise the profile of the work on water poverty in the UK."*



The Undergraduate category was won by **Harrison Hancock** for the essay *Strategic CSR: Corporate Challenges and Practical Means to Address Them* from Durham University Business School.

Harrison said *"I entered this competition as I wrote the essay genuinely interested in the debate that may be had surrounding strategic CSR. Having finished University now and starting work as a business consultant, it is interesting to keep in mind this debate when looking at different companies. Being invited to the ceremony as a winner provides a great opportunity to discuss with experts in the field and expand my knowledge further."*

The winners were each awarded £1,000, thanks to a donation from the Gordon Cook Foundation.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

1. The **Institute of Business Ethics** (IBE) is a registered charity which promotes high standards of business practice based on ethical values. We help organisations to strengthen their ethics culture through the sharing of knowledge and good practice. www.ibe.org.uk
2. Undergraduate winner: **Harrison Hancock** for the essay *Strategic CSR: Corporate Challenges and Practical Means to Address them* from Durham University Business School, tutor: John Hirst [You can read the essay on the IBE website](#)
3. Postgraduate winner: **James Peacock** for his essay *Water Poverty - a real threat in the UK?* From Bradford University School of Management tutor: Andrew Dakers [You can read the essay on the IBE website](#)

4. Awards Ceremony

The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on 13th October at 5pm, which also includes a panel discussion on 'A Career in Ethics'.

The winners – both post-graduate and undergraduate – will be invited to present their essays and prizes will be awarded by Ivor Sutherland of the prize sponsors, Gordon Cook Foundation.

As part of the event, four ethics practitioners – from Carillion, Balfour Beatty, Serco and ICRS - to talk candidly about their career so far, what inspires them, and what advice they would give those entering this career.

More information and to register <http://www.ibe.org.uk/forthcoming-events/56/48>

5. About the IBE Student Essay Competition in Business Ethics

The competition is in two categories – Undergraduate and Postgraduate. Submissions must be current work from students who are based at Higher Education Institutions in the UK

Submissions may be up to 3,000 words. These can be either a piece of work submitted as an assignment, or an original essay or case study. Group submissions can be made

Essays will be judged using the following criteria:

- Topicality – the extent to which the topic of the essay is subject to contemporary debate and relevance to ethical business practice
- Clarity of expression – the extent to which the essay is fluently written in accessible language, is coherently structured and uses a high standard of referencing
- Analysis - the extent to which the essay presents clear, well organised and well reasoned argument, judgment and opinion or conclusion, with relevant evidence, analysis, illustration, interpretation, evaluation, or application
- Use of theory and research – the extent to which the essay draws on appropriate academic literature and other data and relates it to the topic; and sets out and correctly employs relevant concepts
- Application to practice – the extent to which the essay addresses real-world challenges in business ethics and makes a contribution to the development of thinking and practice

The Lead Academic, Professor Geoff Moore, Professor of Business Ethics, Durham University will co-ordinate the judging process, with first stage and final stage judges made up of academics, business leaders and any competition sponsors.

6. The total prize fund for the competition is £3,500, thanks to a donation from the **Gordon Cook Foundation**. The Foundation was established in 1974 to promote and develop values education in the British education systems.
<http://www.gordoncook.org/>