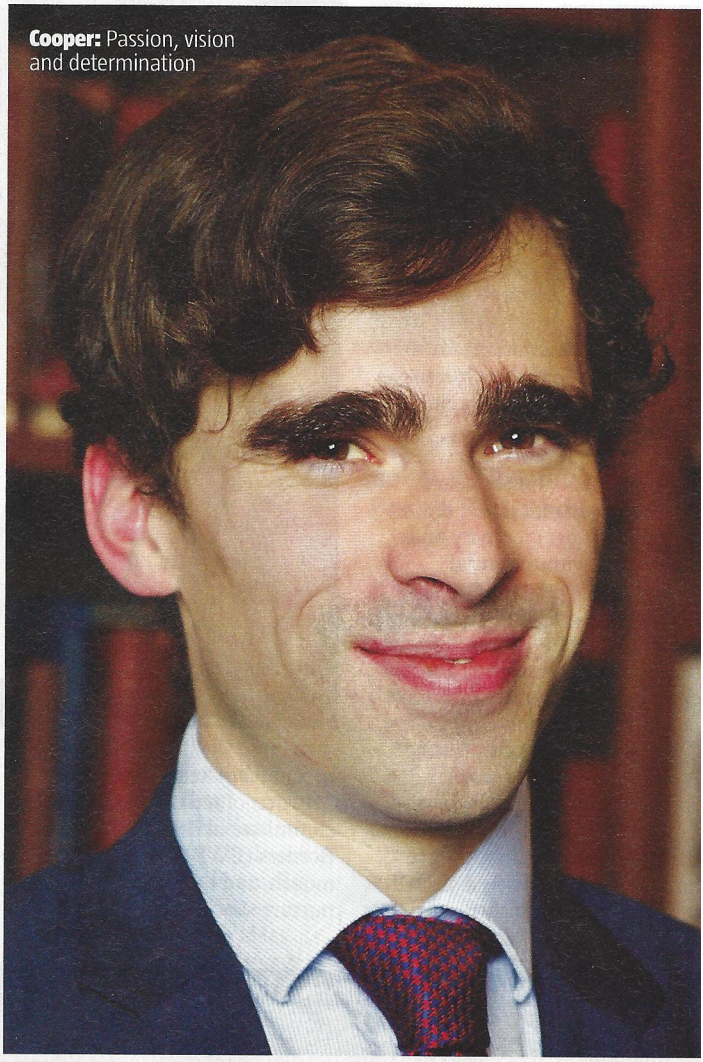

Cooper: Passion, vision and determination

RUNNER UP
Peter Cooper
Arup

"Peter's rare combination of passion, vision and determination has yielded great benefit, reaching far beyond just our students and academics, but to children, both at home and overseas, both now and in the future, and to his subject area as a whole." So said University of Bristol vice chancellor Nic Lieven of Peter Cooper.

A passionate speaker on the role played by civil engineers, at university Cooper quickly found responsibility thrust his way as President of a 1,000-member branch of the international development charity, Engineers without Borders. Under his leadership, the branch doubled its membership and increased attendance to public outreach events twentyfold. As a result around 15,000 children in the Bristol area took part in fairs, workshops and lessons, debunking myths and demonstrating the world-changing potential of a career in civil engineering.

In the same year, in light of his achievements as a rising young engineer, Cooper was invited to give evidence to the House of Lords engineering and technology select committee, with the remit of expressing his views on students' perception of engineering's image, culture and education.

Things have not let up since that whirlwind start. Having interned every summer and undertaken a year in industry, Cooper has completed nearly 36 months of placements across some of the world's leading engineering companies including Arup, CH2M, Expedition Engineering and Mott MacDonald.

In 2014 he graduated with a first, scoring the highest final year grade in his cohort. His fourth year dissertation studied how technology, particularly data, could be used to create smarter, more effective and lower cost infrastructure in urban areas.

This developed into his fifth year project: working with Bristol City Council to design a strategy for spending a portion of its £3M Smart Cities Budget on a new electric-car-supported smart grid system.

This has become his passion and after university he was approached by Arup to take up the role of smart cities engineer. As smart cities is an emerging area, much of his work is classifiable as research, and he is on course to become a doctor of engineering in the next 18 months.

Spreading the word is his passion and so he was proud to be awarded associate membership at the All Party Parliamentary Group for Smart Cities in 2014 and even prouder to be invited back to be a lecturer at the University of Bristol this year.

Cooper says he is "ideally positioned" to be a "vocal proponent" for the profession working in smart cities. It is impossible to disagree.

■ **First Class MEng Civil Engineering, University of Bristol** »