



## Stefan Gabriel

### Visiting Professor

**Stefan Gabriel** was the President of 3M New Ventures, and in this role he built an award-winning global corporate venture unit. In 2013, Stefan was appointed as the Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor of Innovation at the University of Huddersfield.



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“My Visiting Professorship has allowed me to express my passion in supporting students to build their own start-ups and become entrepreneurs within disruptive environments of ecosystems with huge innovation potential.”

## CAREER

Before joining 3M in 2008, Stefan spent 23 years with BMW in engineering roles across manufacturing, assembly, production and planning of motorcycle and powertrain components. He also held innovation R&D roles relating to vehicle concepts and concept cars for BMW and MINI.

As President of 3M New Ventures, he ran a global programme to identify and support new technologies and entrepreneurial activity. This interest in supporting the next generation of ideas and entrepreneurs led him to become a Visiting Professor: “I was motivated to apply because of the extremely high standard of skills at the University of Huddersfield and the huge potential for entrepreneurial projects for corporate venture capital.”

## IMPACT

Working closely with his academic lead, Dr Jess Power, Director of Teaching and Learning at the University of Huddersfield’s School of Art, Design and Architecture, Stefan has helped to develop a programme that inspires innovative engineering students across the university. They have created a bespoke piece of software to accelerate networking and encourage interdisciplinary innovation as part of a project known as HoneyPot, which provides a platform to share, discuss and develop new ideas, and is also supported by the Academy.

“The overarching gain is the development of interdisciplinary working with undergraduate students and staff,” Stefan explains. Their work has expanded over time to involve seven

academic schools at the university: “we have worked together to bring different groups of undergraduate students together whose paths would not have previously crossed. Consequently, this has also brought staff together from different disciplines so the benefits have been far reaching both in teaching and learning.”

Stefan has also coordinated guest lecture programmes about how to develop entrepreneurial ideas in interdisciplinary teams and he recently worked with Dr Power to facilitate a ‘writing proposals’ day to assist second-year undergraduates in moving their ideas from concept to reality, which will be followed up with further support and business advice.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Visiting Professorship enables Stefan to share his insights and experience as an industry leader, business angel and corporate venture capital consultant, with the next generation of innovators. He describes the role as having “strengthened [his] passion for innovation and entrepreneurship” and he hopes to continue the collaboration by overseeing and advising on start-ups coming out of the University of Huddersfield.

## VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professors are an industry-into-academia initiative that aims to use the experience of senior industry practitioners to enhance student learning, as well as the employability and skills of UK engineering graduates.