

MSc Construction Management

Programme Specification

Academic year September 2015 to August 2016

Reference:

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Status: Final

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Summary Programme Details

Final Award	
Award:	MSc
Title of (final) Programme	Construction Management
Credit points:	180
Level of award (QAA FHEQ):	7
Intermediate award(s)	
Intermediate award 1:	Postgraduate Diploma in Construction Management
Credit points:	120
Level of award (QAA FHEQ):	7
Intermediate award 2:	Postgraduate Certificate in Built Environment Studies
Credit points:	60
Level of award (QAA FHEQ):	7
Validation	
Validating institution:	The College of Estate Management (CEM)
Faculty	Construction
Date of last validation:	November 2013
Date of next periodic review:	November 2018
Professional accreditation	
Accrediting body:	The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Date of last programme accreditation:	May 2014
Date of next periodic review:	November 2015
Accrediting body:	The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Date of last accreditation:	November 2014
Date of next periodic review:	November 2019
Accrediting body:	Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)
Date of last accreditation:	August 2015
Date of next periodic review:	August 2020
Miscellaneous	
QAA benchmark statement	<i>Construction, Property and Surveying</i> QAA (2008) <i>Master's Degree in Business and Management</i> QAA (2015)
Date of commencement of first delivery	September 2014
Duration	2 years (standard route) or 18 months (accelerated route)
Maximum period of registration	9 years

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UCAS Code	n/a
Programming Code	n/a
Other coding as required	n/a

Programme Overview

Rationale

Construction Management is the essential link between the expression of a client's wishes and the occupation of a completed building project. This distance learning programme will help develop the skills required for a smooth transfer from design to completion and occupation of a building. Providing advanced knowledge and management skills required to become a leader in Construction Management, this programme is well respected internationally.

This is one of a suite of MSc conversion programmes that enable graduates from disciplines unrelated to Real Estate and Construction to obtain a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) / Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) accredited degree, giving access to professional membership.

- Develop technical and leadership skills in the development and delivery of innovative construction projects.
- Explore the financial, legal and management solutions to complex construction problems at both strategic and operational levels.
- Obtain a professionally recognised and accredited degree with progression to membership of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB).
- Achieve ambitions for a Master's Degree with a leading provider of Construction Management education that allows students to work and study through a fully supported online programme.

Entry requirements

Entrants to this programme normally are required to have attained one of the following:

- a Bachelor Degree with honours at lower second standard (2:2), or equivalent; for MBA entry, a Bachelor Degree with honours at lower second standard (2.2) and three years' experience are required; or
- a Bachelor Degree, or equivalent, plus experience in a relevant field or
- a Level 5 qualification as defined by Framework for Higher Education Qualifications for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) plus 5 years relevant experience (for MBA entry, two of which should be at appropriate senior management level); or
- a professional qualification plus 5 years relevant experience (for MBA entry, two of which should be at appropriate senior management level)
- International Students English language Requirements:

All CEM programmes are taught and assessed in English. You will therefore be required to demonstrate adequate proficiency in the language before being admitted to a course:

- Grade B or above in English (Language or Literature) at GCSE or its

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equivalent

- Grade 6.0 or above, with at least 6.5 in the reading and writing modules, in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test administered by the British Council in the Social Sciences academic module
- 88 or above in the Internet option, 230 or above in the computer-based option or 570 or above in the paper-based option, of the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test
- Grade C or above in Use of English at A/S Level

Note: applicants with a Bachelor's degree that has been taught and examined in the English medium can be considered for entry in the absence of the qualifications detailed above.

Students may apply to enter the Programme in either semester.

Recognition of prior certificated learning (RPCL) or recognition of prior experiential learning (RPEL) routes into the Programme

CEM policy and procedures for Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) and Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning (RPCL) are set out in the CEM Code of Practice: Recognition of Prior Learning. This policy statement takes precedence in any such decision.

RPEL may be used for admission onto a level 7 programmes in accordance with the entry requirements stated in the section above. However RPEL and RPCL do not normally enable transfer of credit into a level 7 programme nor enable exemption from any component on these programmes.

Programme progression

Successful completion of your MSc may enable you to take a PhD/ MPhil or to conduct research.

Award Regulations

- MSc Construction Management is conferred upon successful completion of 180 credits of study
- Postgraduate Diploma in Construction Management is conferred upon successful completion of 120 credits of study
- Postgraduate Certificate in Built Environment Studies is conferred upon successful completion of 60 credits of study

Awards are conferred in accordance with the CEM General and Academic Regulations for Students and the CEM Postgraduate Programme Assessment, Progression and Award Regulations.

Career prospects

This Programme will provide a route for both non-cognate and semi-cognate graduates, into careers associated to membership of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), the Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

This programme equips students with the essential subject knowledge and postgraduate skills and expertise to enable them to enter and work within the Construction and Project Management areas of practice within the construction industry. The opportunities available are fairly extensive and include the following areas of professional practice:

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- Property management
- Construction management
- Project management
- Maintenance and refurbishment sector
- Property development
- Environmental manager.

Programme Aims

Programme aims

The Programme is designed for holders of a non-cognate or semi-cognate Bachelor's degree to study a Master's award that is focused on the core disciplines associated with construction and project management and it develops students' ability to integrate interdisciplinary theory and practice and to research and evaluate data in order to solve complex problems. The Programme also aims to provide students with a foundation for further professional development and extension of their knowledge in preparation for further academic study at level 8.

Market and internationalisation

This programme is aimed at a UK and broad international audience; however, it has as its basis UK law and regulatory controls. The programme aims to utilise international case studies to further understanding and where possible, international construction and surveying is considered along with international codes and conventions.

Learning Outcomes

Having successfully completed the Programme, you will have met the following learning outcomes.

	Level 7	Relevant modules
A – Knowledge and understanding	A1 Comprehension of the wider business context and the integration of the role of construction management within it A2 A critical awareness and systematic understanding of issues in the construction management sector as informed by research and practice A3 Selection and evaluation of the theories and techniques appropriate to construction	See Curriculum Map

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B – Intellectual skills	management	
	B1	Synthesise a range of information and solve complex problems involving the creative application of construction management knowledge together with further research and enquiry
	B2	Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and its relevance to construction management issues
C – Subject practical skills	C1	Acquire, analyse and evaluate data and judge its relevance and validity to a range of construction management situations
	C2	Conduct research into construction management situations using appropriate methodologies to develop and interpret knowledge in the field of construction management
D – Key / Transferable skills	D1	Research independently and demonstrate a structured approach to decision making
	D2	Communicate and collaborate effectively with relevant stakeholders within a construction management context

Curriculum Map

This table indicates which study units assume responsibility for delivering (X) and summatively assessing (A) particular programme learning outcomes.

Module	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2
Law for Surveyors	X A	X A	X A	X A	X	X A	X A	X A	X A
Contract Administration and Practice	X A	X	X	X A	X	X A	X	X A	X A
Sustainable and Innovative Construction	X	X	X A	X	X A	X	X A	X	X A
Procurement and Tendering	X A	X	X A	X A	X A	X A	X	X A	X A
Management of Construction	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A

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Management Finance and Science	X	X A	X	X A	X	X A	X	X A	X A
Postgraduate Project	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A
Strategic Management of Change	X A	X A	X A	X A	X	X	X A	X A	X A
Managing and Leading People	X A	X	X A	X A	X A	X	X A	X A	X A

Programme Structure

Module List				
Code	Module	Level	Credits	Core /Elective
	Law for Surveyors	7	20	Core
	Contract Administration and Practice	7	20	Core
	Management of Construction	7	20	Core
	Sustainable and Innovative Construction	7	20	Core
	Procurement and Tendering	7	20	Core
	Management Finance and Science	7	20	Core
	Postgraduate Project	7	40	Elective
	Managing and Leading People	7	20	Elective
	Strategic Management of Change	7	20	Elective
Notes:				
Credits are part of the Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS). Two UK credits are equivalent to one European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credit.				
The Project module is normally studied in the final semester of the programme; however an introduction and preparatory advice is provided in the preceding semester.				

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Delivery Structure

Standard route (part-time)

	SEMESTER 1 (autumn UK)	SEMESTER 2 (spring UK)
Year 1	Law of Surveyors	Sustainable and Innovative Construction
	Contract Administration and Practice	Procurement and Tendering
Year 2	Strategic Management of Change or Managing and Leading People	Management Finance and Science
	PG Project if last semester otherwise Management of Construction	PG Project if last semester otherwise Management of Construction

Accelerated route (full-time)

	SEMESTER 1 (autumn UK)	SEMESTER 2 (spring UK)
Year 1	Law for Surveyors	Sustainable and Innovative Construction
	Contract Administration and Practice	Procurement and Tendering
	Strategic Management of Change or Managing and Leading People	Management Finance and Science
Year 1.5	Management of Construction	Management of Construction
	Postgraduate Project	Postgraduate Project

Module Summaries

CORE MODULES

Contract Administration and Practice

This module covers the administration of construction contracts from contract commencement through to final certification. The various standard forms of construction contracts are investigated.

The module aims to examine:

- various standard forms of contract and sub-contract such as JCT, NEC3 and FIDIC
- the common conditions of contract and the interaction between the conditions of contract and the other contract terms
- the practicalities of contract administration.

Law for Surveyors

This module enables students to develop a systematic understanding of aspects of the

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English legal system pertinent to the real estate and construction sectors.

Within this sector-specific context, this module aims to examine:

- an overview of the English legal system
- the importance of the fundamental principles of contract law
- the importance of the law of tort
- important aspects of land law
- principles of dispute avoidance and analysis of the various methods of dispute resolution.

Management Finance and Science

Finance defines the resource potential for, and the constraints on, exploiting business opportunities. An understanding of budgets and budgetary control mechanisms is therefore a necessary requirement of all management activity. A wider understanding of the organisation's financial performance and current position is also required both by managers for professional reasons and by stakeholders in general. In determining the availability of resources this financial management module is therefore relevant for the function of decision-making in all the course modules. Management science combines a platform for the development of quantitative skills with the introduction of tools to support operations management and to gauge risk.

Management of Construction

This module considers both the personnel and organisational aspects of construction management, with a focus on the managers of construction projects. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the skills required in managing, planning and controlling the safe implementation of a construction project.

The module aims to examine:

- the construction management environment
- the implications of health and safety for construction
- the personnel skills required of the construction manager
- construction management in practice.

Postgraduate Project

This module requires students to hone their research skills whilst providing them with a vehicle to conduct a self-directed research project that reflects the culmination of their studies in the relevant programme.

This is a dual-use module serving MSc awards and the MBA. For those students studying the MBA programme, the project should demonstrate leadership through strategic management. For those students studying the MSc programmes, the project requires students to demonstrate strong conceptual and theoretical understanding as applied within a business context.

Procurement and Tendering

Students will consider the various ways in which construction projects can be procured and the consequent effects of procurement strategies on tendering.

The module aims to examine:

- the effects of project risk allocation on the procurement process and how the choice of procurement method can impact on the subsequent phases of the project cycle
- procurement theories, together with examples of past and current practices
- how construction procurement is affected by, and can be used to affect, the wider

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economy.

Sustainable and Innovative Construction

This module develops the principles of construction technology, including modern, innovative and traditional construction. It enables students to critically assess appropriate innovative construction technology within the framework of a sustainable built environment, taking account of relevant codes and regulations.

This module aims to examine:

- construction principles and technology with reference to sustainability
- innovative building technology principles
- sustainability in the built environment context
- sustainable and innovative construction methods.

ELECTIVE MODULES

Managing and Leading People

This module seeks to develop understanding of what a manager is and what managers do; and to distinguish leadership from management. It requires students to interrogate issues and contexts relating to managing people, and learn how to get the best out of people, in an environment of constant change.

The module aims to examine:

- the way that organisations - and the people who comprise them - behave, the tasks that they perform and the structures and methodologies that have evolved in attempts to understand and lead them
- management theories
- different schools of thought on leadership and the major strategies and approaches for the effective leadership of contemporary organisations and projects.

Strategic Management of Change

The rationale for this module is to provide an integrated approach to corporate strategy and the management of change and innovation in a complex and uncertain business environment in construction and real estate. Part one considers frameworks to manage the long-term strategic direction of organisations within a construction and real estate setting. Part two focuses on enhancing students' understanding of, and response to organisational change. The determination of appropriate policies and strategies to meet stakeholder interests is explored within different cultural contexts.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Study support

Induction module:

All students are expected to complete the non-credit bearing Induction Module before the Programme commences. The Induction Module is designed to equip students with the skills they need to study at CEM. The topics covered include:

- Studying at a distance
- Understanding your learning style
- How to manage your time
- Reading actively and critically
- Introduction to the e-library
- Developing academic writing
- Writing in your own words - a guide to how to reference your work.

The induction topic 'Writing in your own words' prepares students for the online test in referencing and citation that must be completed and passed prior to commencement of their studies.

The resources within the Induction Module are available to students throughout the duration of their study with CEM.

Student learning support:

The Programme is delivered via the College virtual learning environment (VLE) and academic teaching and support is provided online giving students access to CEM tutors and other students worldwide.

The CEM Student Central will act as the main point of contact for students throughout the duration of their programme. The academic team will guide and support students' learning. Other CEM teams provide support for assignments, exams and technical issues including information and communications technology (ICT). Each student, wherever their location, will have access to a wealth of library and online materials to support their studies.

English language support:

For those students whose first language is not English, or those students who wish to develop their English language skills, additional support is provided through online resources on the VLE in the resource 'Developing Academic Writing'. The resource includes topics such as sentence structure, writing essays and guidance for writing at master's level aimed at developing students' study skills.

Personal and professional development:

Students are undertaking vocational courses that are intrinsically linked to the accrediting professional bodies. Students are encouraged and supported to understand the need for the recognition of these bodies and guided as to how to meet the professional membership requirements. More generally, CEM has a dedicated careers advisor to ensure students have appropriate access to careers education, information, advice and guidance.

Programme Specific support:

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Each programme has a minimum of a Programme Leader, Module Leader and Module Tutor to support the students throughout their time with the Programme. The CEM staff are accessible during normal UK working hours, during which they also monitor the 24/7 forums asynchronously and provide encouragement, assistance and necessary tutor and student feedback services. Access to the CEM e Library is on a 24/7 basis and CEM has a full time librarian during normal UK working hours.

Learning & Teaching Strategy

Knowledge and understanding

Module delivery follows a standard format incorporating a range of subject appropriate resources suitable for the online distance learner. This may include, but is not limited to, audio visual presentations, interactive case studies and online journals. Modules will usually be supported by a core e-book.

In the Project module, self-directed learning and problem solving combined with supervisor consultation further enhances knowledge and understanding, focusing on students' own chosen research topics.

Throughout the programme, students are encouraged to undertake independent study and enquiry to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Intellectual skills

Students are encouraged to develop and apply their knowledge and understanding through a range of online activities and exercises. These require students to apply research and analysis to construction and project management issues.

Subject practical skills

Students are encouraged to share knowledge and ideas in relation to construction management. A range of online activities require students to analyse given information and make reasoned decisions.

Key/Transferable skills

The learning activities require students to undertake research, evaluate their findings and develop solutions. Teaching of module topics will require students' engagement with a range of online activities that develop research and evaluation skills and cultivate a systematic approach to problem solving. Engagement with the CEM learning community develops communication and collaboration skills.

Assessment Strategy

Knowledge and understanding

Module delivery follows a standard format incorporating a range of subject appropriate resources suitable for the online distance learner. This may include, but is not limited to, audio visual presentations, interactive case studies and online journals. Modules will be supported by a core e- book.

In the Postgraduate Research Project module, self-directed learning and problem solving

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combined with supervisor consultation further enhances knowledge and understanding, focusing on students' own chosen research topics.

Throughout the programme, students are encouraged to undertake independent study and enquiry to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Intellectual skills

Intellectual skills are assessed through a range of coursework artefacts, examinations and a research project report.

Subject practical skills

Students are encouraged to share knowledge and ideas in relation to construction management. A range of online activities require students to analyse given information and make reasoned decisions.

Key/Transferable skills

The learning activities require students to undertake research, evaluate their findings and develop solutions. Teaching of module topics will require students' engagement with a range of online activities that develop research and evaluation skills and cultivate a systematic approach to problem solving. Engagement with the CEM learning community develops communication and collaboration skills.

Assessment Diet.

The College of Estate Management distance-taught postgraduate programmes consist of a variety of assessment modes:

- assessed assignments (in essay, report, problem or short question format)
- written examination papers
- project or dissertation submissions
- work-based learning portfolios and other e-mediated submissions.

The exact combinations of assessment vary from programme to programme and from module to module.

Programme	Assessment pattern	CATS credits per module
MSc Construction Management	1 assignment 1 final assessment (2 nd assignment or examination)	20
MSc Construction Management	1 initial assignment 1 final submission (project report)	40

Signed by Chair's action:



Sylvia Osborn

Chair of the Postgraduate Board of Studies

Date:

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