

MSc Quantity Surveying

Programme Specification

Academic year September 2015 to August 2016

Reference:

Version: 1.00

Status: Final

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Summary Programme Details

Final Award	
Award:	MSc
Title of (final) Programme	Quantity Surveying
Credit points:	180
Level of award (QAA FHEQ):	7
Intermediate award(s)	
Intermediate award 1:	Postgraduate Diploma in Quantity Surveying
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
Profession	
Accrediting body:	The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Date of last programme accreditation:	May 2014
Date of next periodic review:	Novemeber 2015
Accrediting body:	The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Date of last accreditation:	November 2014
Date of next periodic review:	Novemeber 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 QAA (2008)</i> <i>Master's Degrees in Business and Management QAA (2015)</i>
Date of commencement of first delivery	September 2014
Duration	2 years (standard route) or 18 months (accelerated route)
Maximum period of registration	9 years
UCAS Code	n/a

MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

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

Programme Overview

Rationale

This is a postgraduate conversion programme delivered by distance learning which is designed to align students' skills to the educational requirements of the industry's professional bodies. The programme gives an informed view of the key areas of knowledge required to develop quantity surveying (QS) skills including cost management, contract practice and procedures, procurement and building economics. The programme also includes a research project which will provide an in-depth assessment of each student's chosen topic.

This is one of a suite of MSc conversion programmes that enables 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.

- Study an RICS accredited programme whilst working towards the APC (for those in relevant employment).
- Access to RICS Graduate Route 1.
- Allows entry to CIOB Chartered membership
- Enriches CVs with MSc designatory letters
- Builds students' careers by specialising in quantity surveying and contract cost management.

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 equivalent
- Grade 6.0 or above, with at least 6.5 in the reading and writing modules, in the International English Language Testing System

MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

(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 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 Quantity Surveying is conferred upon successful completion of 180 credits of study.
- Postgraduate Diploma in Quantity Surveying 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 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 quantity surveying areas of practice in the built environment. The opportunities available are extensive and include diverse career specialisms for students to pursue after completing this programme. Students typically find employment in the private and public sector firms, contracting companies and developers. In addition, students have opportunities to work in an international environment.

The following provide a range of the types of work that students undertake whilst/after completing this Programme:

MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

- Cost consultancy
- Project management
- Contract administration
- Contractor surveying
- Commercial management of construction
- Facilities management.

Programme Aims

Programme aims

The Programme is designed for holders of a non-cognate/semi-cognate Bachelor's degree. It focusses on the core disciplines associated with quantity surveying. 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 prepares students 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	The wider business context within which construction projects are located and the role of the quantity surveyor
	A2	Relevant, contemporary and critical issues in the built environment as informed by research and practice
	A3	The theories and techniques relevant to the procurement, contractual and financial management of construction projects for

MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

		appropriate strategy selection and evaluation	
B – Intellectual skills	B1	Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and its relevance to a range of pertinent issues in quantity surveying and the built environment	
	B2	Synthesise a range of information and solve complex problems involving the creative application of quantity surveying and construction knowledge together with further research and enquiry	
C – Subject practical skills	C1	Acquire, analyse and evaluate data and judge its relevance and validity to a range of commercial and contractual situations	
	C2	Conduct research pertinent to quantity surveying using appropriate methodologies to develop and interpret knowledge	
D – Key / Transferable skills	D1	Research independently and reflect on its application to construction and quantity surveying	
	D2	Think critically and creatively in solving complex commercial and contractual management issues	

Programme Structure

Module List				
Code	Module	Level	Credits	Core /Elective
	Law for Surveyors	7	20	Core
	Contract Administration and Practice	7	20	Core
	Professional Cost Management	7	20	Core
	Management of Construction	7	20	Core
	Sustainable and Innovative Construction	7	20	Core
	Building Economics	7	20	Core
	Procurement and Tendering	7	20	Core
	Postgraduate Project	7	40	Core
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 preparation advice is provided in the preceding semester.				

MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

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	Building Economics
YEAR 2	Professional Cost Management	Procurement and Tendering
	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 of Surveyors	Sustainable and Innovative Construction
	Contract Administration and Practice	Building Economics
	Professional Cost Management	Procurement and Tendering
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.

MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

Law for Surveyors

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

Professional Cost Management

This module explores a range of issues and challenges which contribute to the development of the cost management aspects of the quantity surveying profession. It develops the knowledge, understanding and skills in cost management required to operate in a dynamic and contemporary construction environment.

This module aims to examine:

MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

- complex problems and how to provide added value in the area of professional management of costs
- underlying concepts and theoretical principles in the measurement and quantification of construction projects
- the future requirements of a professional cost manager working in the construction industry.

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.

Building Economics

This module provides students with a comprehensive understanding of commercial aspects of a construction project during the pre-contract phase including costs, financing, value management and cost control and, where applicable, the profitability of development opportunities.

This module enables students to:

- critically appraise development opportunities
- comprehensively examine the provision of cost advice provided during the pre-contract phase of a construction project
- evaluate the cost impact of sustainability on projects.

ELECTIVE MODULES

None

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

MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

- 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 technologies (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:

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

MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

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 Postgraduate Research 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 within commercial and contractual situations.

Subject practical skills

Students are encouraged to share knowledge and ideas in relation to simulated commercial and contractual situations. 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 requires students' engagement with a range of online activities that develop research and evaluation skills and cultivate a systematic approach to problem solving. Communication with the CEM learning community develops communication and collaboration skills.

Assessment Strategy

Knowledge and understanding

Formative assessment opportunities and feedback are provided throughout the Programme. These vary in format and may include self-assessment quizzes and tutor guided discussion. All are designed to motivate and support the student.

Summative assessment methods and formats vary across the modules and are appropriate to the module and its stated learning outcomes.

Intellectual skills

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

Subject practical skills

A range of formative assessment activities are utilised to help develop the ability to analyse problems and provide reasoned advice.

Summative assessment tests that the students have formulated appropriate commercial and contractual solutions.

Key/Transferable skills

Formative assessment through the VLE provides feedback and support for independent learning as students work through the Programme. Communication, collaboration,

MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

evaluation and problem solving skills are tested through the range of formative and summative assessments.

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 Quantity Surveying	1 assignment 1 final assessment (2 nd assignment or examination)	20
MSc Quantity Surveying	1 initial assignment 1 final submission (project report)	40

Signed by Chair's action:

Sylvia Osborn

Chair of the Postgraduate Board of Studies

Date: