

## Programme specification – MBA

### 1. Overview/ factual information

<b>Programme/award title(s)</b>	MBA in Real Estate and Construction Management
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	College of Estate Management
<b>Awarding Institution</b>	The Open University
<b>Date of latest OU validation</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
<b>Next revalidation</b>	N/A
<b>Credit points for the award</b>	180
<b>UCAS Code</b>	N/A
<b>Programme start date</b>	December and June
<b>Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)</b>	Master's degrees in business and management
<b>Professional/statutory recognition</b>	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Chartered Institute of Building
<b>Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT,DL)</b>	Distance Learning Normally 2.5 years
<b>Dual accreditation (if applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>Date of production/revision of this specification</b>	March 2014
<b>For Students</b>	Continuing in June 2014 and December 2014

### 2. Programme aims and objectives

#### 2.1 Educational aims and objectives

##### Summary of Programme Aims

The MBA in Real Estate and Construction Management is designed to provide students with an advanced academic understanding of Real Estate and Construction industry processes with a particular emphasis on international development activity. The MBA is 'specialised' in that it uses examples and case studies from the property industry whereas a 'generic' MBA uses examples from a range of industries. The programme targets a worldwide market for both professional and aspiring senior managers to reinforce their skills and develop knowledge and new areas of expertise.

##### Educational aims of the programme

The Programme is designed to provide students with an advanced academic understanding of management processes and higher level thinking and problem solving skills. There is emphasis on developing advanced professional skills for those in employment and enhancing ongoing career prospects. In Stage 1 students will advance their knowledge and skills in areas such as finance, marketing, leadership &

management, and personal development. In Stage 2, the management and analysis of the development process is closely considered together with strategic management, managing change and two specialist option modules, enabling students to tailor the programme to suit their individual needs. Stage 3 focuses on the production of a dissertation or work based project, including a related research assignment. Students use research skills and techniques to compile a dissertation or work based project, based upon a programme-related topic. Where students select to undertake a dissertation they are required to study the Research Methods module as one of their options at stage 2.

## 2.2 Relationship to other programmes and awards

(Where the award is part of a hierarchy of awards/programmes, this section describes the articulation between them, opportunities for progression upon completion of the programme, and arrangements for bridging modules or induction)

The MBA is the final award for students who have successfully completed stage 1, Certificate stage, stage 2, Diploma stage, and stage 3 of the Programme.

### 3. Programme outcomes

Intended learning outcomes are listed below.

<b>3A. Knowledge and understanding</b>	
<b>Learning outcomes:</b>	<b>Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods</b>
<p>By the end of the programme students should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:</p> <p>A1) Principles of marketing in a Real Estate and Construction industry context.</p> <p>A2) Principles and application of financial and managerial accounting.</p> <p>A3) Organisations and how they are managed.</p> <p>A4) Techniques and methodologies applicable to sustainable development practice at a senior level.</p> <p>A5) The key principles concerning the management of change and innovation.</p> <p>A6) The principles of risk diversification</p> <p>A7) The role of strategic management within the Real Estate and Construction industry</p> <p>A8) Research methods and their relative strengths and weaknesses.</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Acquisition of knowledge in the modules of the Programme is promoted through distance education resources including customised text material, core textbooks, web based material and communication channels. At least 90% of the case studies, exercises, assignment and examination questions which are set throughout the Programme are presented within the context of real estate and construction. Some refer to `development`, which incorporates both Real Estate and Construction elements. In the dissertation module, self directed learning and problem solving combined with supervisor consultation further enhances knowledge and understanding. Throughout the student is encouraged to undertake independent study and enquiry to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the subject</p> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Students are required to complete extensive pieces of coursework in the modules which are assessed within strict time frames. Modules are also examined using the unseen closed book method. Dissertations and projects are assessed according to strict guidelines and marking scheme.</p>

<b>3B. Cognitive skills</b>	
<b>Learning outcomes:</b>	<b>Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods</b>
<p>By the end of the programme students should be able to demonstrate how to:</p> <p>B1) Integrate theory and practice.            B2) Analyse and interpret.            B3) Select and apply appropriate quantitative techniques of analysis and appraisal.            B4) Write clearly and concisely at a professional level.            B5) Define, solve and advise on problems.            B6) Research, collect and synthesise information from a variety of sources.            B7) Think logically and critically.</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b>            These skills are developed through prescribed reading, seminars, coursework and detailed feedback. The reading includes core texts, papers and relevant web-based material.            Coursework varies across the modules but collectively covers skills 1-8. Feedback includes direct coursework comment, e-mailed advice and web-based answer guides.            Web-based discussion forums between tutors and students are also facilitated.            The dissertation or project process further embraces intellectual skills 1-6.            At least 90% of the case studies, exercises, assignment and examination questions which are set throughout the Programme are presented within the context of real estate and construction. Some refer to `development`, which incorporates both Real Estate and Construction elements</p> <p><b>Assessment</b>            Intellectual skills are assessed through coursework assignments, problems, reports and appraisals plus unseen examinations and dissertation or project report production.</p>

<b>3C. Practical and professional skills</b>	
<b>Learning outcomes:</b>	<b>Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods</b>
<p>By the end of the programme students should be able to demonstrate how to:</p> <p>C1) Locate information sources; and assemble and present information in a variety of contexts.            C2) Collect, record, analyse and present statistical material            C3) Apply appropriate quantitative techniques            C4) Assess and analyse techniques of team building.            C5) Write report standard English.            C6) Successfully apply critical skills and technical expertise when managing in complex and uncertain situations.            C7) Investigate and communicate appropriately, using the Harvard referencing system.            C8) Assess the validity and rigour of a range of published research and assess its relevance to further research</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b>            Skills 1-2 are mainly developed through the Dissertation or Project Module. Detailed guidelines are provided and explained on the VLE and in seminar sessions.            At least 90% of the case studies, exercises, assignment and examination questions which are set throughout the Programme are presented within the context of real estate and construction. Some refer to `development`, which incorporates both Real Estate and Construction elements  <b>Assessment</b>            Relevant assessment of these skills is undertaken mainly through module coursework.            Skills 3-6 are also assessed through unseen examination.            Skills 7 &amp; 8 are assessed mainly through the dissertation or project.</p>

<b>3D. Key/transferable skills</b>	
<b>Learning outcomes:</b>	<b>Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods</b>
<p>By the end of the programme students should be able to demonstrate how to:</p> <p>D1) Develop the capacity to analyse and articulate the complex management issues in the Real Estate and Construction industry            D2) Source material and knowledge from a variety of fields and</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b>            In depth evaluation of ideas and issues through VLE discussion, seminar discussion and problem solving exercises; conducted individually and in groups, plus coursework, provide the mix to internalise these aspects both separately and together through different learning methods.            At least 90% of the case studies, exercises, assignment and</p>

### 3D. Key/transferable skills

effectively judge what can be integrated and applied

- D3) Be confident in applying learning experience to practical management situations
- D4) Assess what knowledge is transferable from other contexts into the management approaches within this working context
- D5) Attain and apply research skills
- D6) Explain and critically evaluate research aims, objectives and methodologies.
- D7) Demonstrate the ability to identify, use, interrogate and critically evaluate available sources of information.

examination questions which are set throughout the Programme are presented within the context of real estate and construction. Some refer to `development`, which incorporates both Real Estate and Construction elements

#### **Assessment**

Coursework provides the main means of assessing how the introduction and development of these skills is progressing. The coursework will assess the skills aspects to a general level of transfer appropriate at Masters level.

The dissertation or project provides the main means to ascertain maturing in some of these areas, at depth, within a focussed topic.

#### 4. Programme Structure

Programme Structure - STAGE 1			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
<u>Semester A &amp; B</u> (students undertake module in their first semester) Induction	0	None	
<u>Semester A</u> International Professional Practice	10		
Management Finance and Science	20		
<u>Semester B</u> Marketing	10		
Leading & Managing Organisations	20		

**Exit award:** Pg Certificate in Management Studies. 60 M level credit points

Programme Structure - STAGE 2			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
<u>Semester A</u> 2 Option modules		Appraising & Financing a Construction Development Investment and Forecasting Methods within Construction Development Real Estate Investment Research Methods	20 20 20 20
<u>Semester B</u> Strategic Sustainable Development Strategic and Change Management in Real Estate and Construction	20 20		

**Exit award:** Pg Diploma in Real Estate and Construction Management. 120 M level credit points.



Programme Structure - STAGE 3			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
<u>Semester A &amp; B</u> None		Dissertation or Project	40

Exit award: MBA in Real Estate and Construction Management 180 M level credit points.

**5. Distinctive features of the programme structure:**

The induction module is taken in the student's first semester.

Students will pick two options from those that are available that semester. Which options will run will be subject to the demand for each option; those with sufficient interest from the student body will be delivered.

## Annexe 1 - Curriculum map

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

Stage	Study module/unit	Programme outcomes																															
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	
1	International Professional Practice										X	A		X							X					X	X						
	Marketing	X	A										X	X	A					X	A							X					
	Management Finance and Science		X	A						X	X	X	A						X	A	X	A					X	A					
	Leading and Managing Organisations			X	A					X	X	A		X					X	A		X	A			X	A						
	Induction															X							X		X								

Stage	Study module/unit	Programme outcomes																																
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7		
2	Strategic Sustainable Development				X A		X A							X								A		X A				X A						
	Strategic and Change Management in Real Estate and Construction					X A		X A						X A									X A	X A						X A				
	Research Methods								X A						X A	X A								X A	X A						X A	X A	X A	
	Appraising & Financing a Construction Development											X A				A X	X A			X A	A	X A												
	Investment and Forecasting Methods within Construction Development						X				X A					X A				X A	A	X A		X A						A				
	Real Estate Investment										A	X A	A				A		X A		A	A						X A						

Stage	Study module/unit	Programme outcomes																													
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
3	Dissertation							X A					A	X A	A		A	A			A		X A	X A					X A	X A	X A
	Project							X A						X A	A						A		X A	X A					X A	X A	X A

Signed by: .....

Sylvia Osborn  
Chair of the Postgraduate Board of Studies

Date: .....