

MSc Construction Management

Programme Specification

Reference:

Version: V2.00

Status: Final

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Summary Programme Details

Final Award	
Title of (final) programme award:	MSc Construction Management
Credit points:	180
Level of award (QAA FHEQ):	7
Interim award(s)	
Interim award 1:	Postgraduate Diploma in Construction Management
Credit points:	120
Level of award (QAA FHEQ):	7
Interim 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)
Date of last validation:	November 2013
Date of next periodic review:	November 2018
Professional accreditation	
Accrediting body:	Accreditation from the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Date of last programme accreditation:	n/a
Date of next periodic review:	n/a
Accrediting body:	Accreditation from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Date of last accreditation:	n/a
Date of next periodic review:	n/a
Miscellaneous	
QAA benchmark statement	<i>Construction, Property and Surveying</i> QAA (2008) <i>Masters Degrees in Business and Management</i> QAA (2007)
Start Date	September 2014

Programme Overview

Rationale

The Programme is designed for holders of non-cognate or semi-cognate Bachelor degrees who wish to study a Masters level conversion Programme in order to enter or pursue a career in construction and project management and the property profession with progression by qualification to Chartered Construction Manager, Chartered Builder or Chartered Surveyor status. The Programme is designed to address the essential disciplines underpinning construction management practice.

It is intended that the Programme will provide the academic underpinning for those students wishing to pursue membership of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) and the Programme is presented for accreditation by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). The Programme maps closely to the Education Framework for Master's Degree programmes (2010) of the CIOB and the competencies specified by the RICS in the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) Pathways for the Construction aspect of the Quantity Surveying and Construction field of practice.

Entry requirements

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

- a Bachelor Degree with honours at lower second standard (2:2), or equivalent; or
- a Bachelor Degree, or equivalent, plus 3 years' experience in a related 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 in a senior position; or
- a professional qualification plus 5 years relevant experience in a senior position

Students may apply to enter the Programme in either semester

Accredited prior learning (APL) or accredited prior experiential learning (APEL) routes into the programme

CEM policy and procedures for Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) and Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning (APCL) are set out in CEM *Code of Practice: Accreditation of Prior Learning*. This policy statement takes precedence in any such decision.

Accredited prior experiential learning (APEL) may be used for admission onto this Master's programme in accordance with the entry requirements stated in the section above. However APEL and APCL do not normally enable transfer of credit into a Master's programme nor enable exemption from any component on this programme.

Programme progression

All modules on this Programme are set at QAA FHEQ level 7 (Masters level) and there are no co-requisites or prerequisites in the study programme.

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

Awards

- MSc Construction Management is conferred upon successful completion of 180 credits of study

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- 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 to construction management related careers leading to membership of the Chartered Institute of Building CIOB.

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:

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

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 about referencing 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 VLE and academic teaching and support is provided online giving students' access to CEM tutors and other students worldwide.

The CEM Programme administrator will act as the main point of contact to 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

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issues including ICT. Each student, whatever their location, will have access to a wealth of library and online materials to support their studies.

English language support:

English is the common language for all programmes. It is appreciated that some students will need additional support. Therefore, the VLE provides an interactive 'English for Academic Purposes' learning resource designed to help students whose first language is not English.

Programme Aims

Programme aims

The Programme is designed for holders of a non-cognate or semi-cognate Bachelor's degree to study a Masters' 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.

Learning Outcomes

A: Knowledge and Understanding

Learning outcomes

By the end of the Programme students should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- 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 management

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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 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.

Assessment methods

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.

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B: Cognitive skills

Learning outcomes

By the end of the Programme students should be able to demonstrate how to:

- B1 Synthesis of 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

Teaching/learning methods

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.

Assessment methods

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

C: Practical and professional skills

Learning outcomes

By the end of the Programme students should be able to demonstrate how to:

- 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

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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.

Assessment methods

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 strategies for construction and project management.

D: Key/transferable skills

Learning outcomes

By the end of the Programme students should be able to:

- D1:** Research independently and demonstrate a structured approach to decision making
- D2:** Communicate and collaborate effectively with relevant stakeholders within a construction management context

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Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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 methods

Formative assessment through the VLE provides feedback and support for independent learning as students work through the programme. Communication, collaboration and evaluation and problem solving skills are tested through the range of formative and summative assessments.

Programme Structure

Semester	Module	Core /Elective	Credit points
September	Law for Surveyors	Core	20
September	Contract Administration and Practice	Core	20
September	Management of Construction*	Core	20
September	PG Project*	Core	40
September	Managing and Leading people	Elective	20
September	Strategic Management of Change	Elective	20
March	Sustainable and Innovative Construction	Core	20
March	Procurement and Tendering	Core	20
March	Management Finance and Science	Core	20
March	Management of Construction*	Core	20
March	PG Project*	Core	40

Notes:

* Available in both semesters.

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.

Distinctive features of the programme

- The interactive Induction Module
- The flexibility to choose the start date – two intakes per academic year (September or March Semester)
- Syllabus maps fully to the CIOB Education Framework for Masters Degree Programmes (2010),
- Syllabus maps with the RICS competencies to the Quantity Surveying and Construction APC pathway.
- The flexibility for students to choose the pace of their study
- The ability to interact with students from different Programmes and in varied geographical locations locally and internationally via the VLE
- International professional, personal and academic networking opportunities

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- Accreditation from the CIOB and the RICS
- Availability of interim awards either Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma

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								
Management Finance and Science	X	X A	X	X A	X	X A	X	X A	X A
PG Project	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