

MSc Quantity Surveying

Programme Specification

Reference:

Version: 2.00

Status: Final

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Summary Programme Details

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

Programme Overview

Rationale

This Programme provides students who have a diverse range of non-cognate and semi-cognate degrees the opportunity to embark on a career in quantity surveying and to pursue membership of a professional body. The Programme is designed to address the essential disciplines underpinning quantity surveying practice.

It is intended that the Programme will provide the academic underpinning for those wishing to pursue membership of the RICS as it maps closely to the core and optional competencies specified by the RICS in the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) Pathway for Quantity Surveying and Construction. It will also satisfy the requirements of the Education Framework for Master's degree programmes of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB).

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 the 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 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 these programmes

Programme progression

All modules on this Programme are set at QAA FHEQ level 7 (Master's 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 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.

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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 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:

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

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 support is provided, 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 fully support students' learning. Other CEM teams provide support for assignments, exams and technical

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issues including ICT. Each student, wherever 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 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.

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** 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 appropriate strategy selection and evaluation

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** 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

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 within commercial and contractual situations.

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 commercial and contractual situations
- C2** Conduct research pertinent to quantity surveying using appropriate methodologies to develop and interpret knowledge

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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.

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 commercial and contractual solutions.

D: Key/transferable skills

Learning outcomes

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

- D1** Research independently and reflect on its application to construction and quantity surveying

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D2 Think critically and creatively in solving complex commercial and contractual management issues

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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 methods

Formative assessment through the VLE provides feedback and support for independent learning as students work through the Programme. Communication, collaboration, 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 | Professional Cost Management | Core | 20 |
| September | Management of Construction* | Core | 20 |
| September | PG Project* | Core | 40 |
| March | Sustainable and Innovative Construction | Core | 20 |
| March | Building Economics | Core | 20 |
| March | Procurement and Tendering | 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 preparation 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 Semesters)
- Syllabus maps fully to RICS competencies in Quantity Surveying and Construction APC pathway
- Syllabus maps fully to the CIOB Education Framework for Master's Degree Programmes 2010

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- 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
- Recognition and accreditation from the RICS and the CIOB
- 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 of 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 A | X A | X A | X A |
| Building Economics | X A |
| Management of Construction | X | X A |
| Professional Cost Management | X A |
| Procurement and Tendering | X A |
| PG Project | X A |