

# **MSc Construction Management**

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## Programme Specification

Academic year September 2016 to August 2017

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:	University College of Estate Management (UCEM)
Faculty	Construction
Date of last validation:	November 2013
Date of next periodic review:	November 2018
Professional accreditation	
Accrediting body:	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Date of last programme accreditation:	November 2015
Date of next periodic review:	At next partnership meeting, due academic year 2016/2017
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 Degrees in Business and Management</i> QAA (2015)
Date of commencement of first delivery	September 2015
Duration	2 years (standard route) or 18 months (accelerated route)
Maximum period of registration	9 years

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UCAS Code	n/a
Programme Code	PMSCCMS/F (standard/accelerated)
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 supported online 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) / Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE) accredited degree, giving access to professional membership.

This programme enables students to:

- 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 affiliated professional bodies;
- 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; 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; or
- a professional qualification plus 5 years relevant experience.

International Students English language requirements:

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All UCEM programmes are taught and assessed in English. The student will therefore be required to demonstrate adequate proficiency in the language before being admitted to a programme:

- 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 (IELTS) academic test administered by the British Council;
- 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

UCEM policy and procedures for Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) and Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning (RPCL) are set out in the UCEM Code of Practice: Admissions and 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 the MSc may enable the student 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 UCEM Academic and General Regulations for Students and the UCEM Postgraduate Programme Assessment, Progression and Award Regulations.

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## 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:

- Property management,
- Construction management,
- Project management,
- Maintenance and refurbishment sector,
- Property development.

## 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, the student 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 management.
B – Intellectual skills	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. In Autumn 2020 a new, updated curriculum will begin. To prepare you to succeed with this new curriculum, we have made some changes to the modules and the order of modules that you take. These changes depend on when you started your studies with us. Due to these changes, the structure and module information below is out of date. For up to date information, please view the relevant Module Information Sheet [on your programme page of the VLE](#). You will still meet the same programme learning outcomes as outlined in this specification.

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
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

In Autumn 2020 a new, updated curriculum will begin. To prepare you to succeed with this new curriculum, we have made some changes to the modules and the order of modules that you take. These changes depend on when you started your studies with us. Due to these changes, the structure and module information below is out of date. For up to date information, please view the relevant Module Information Sheet [on your programme page of the VLE](#). You will still meet the same programme learning outcomes as outlined in this specification.

Module List				
Code	Module	Level	Credits	Core /Elective

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LAW7LFS	Law for Surveyors	7	20	Core
QSP7CAP	Contract Administration and Practice	7	20	Core
CON7CMC	Management of Construction	7	20	Core
CON7SDC	Sustainable and Innovative Construction	7	20	Core
QSP7SPT	Procurement and Tendering	7	20	Core
MAN7MFI	Management Finance and Science	7	20	Core
PRJ7PRJ	Postgraduate Project	7	40	Core
MAN7MLP	Managing and Leading People	7	20	Elective
MAN7SMC	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 Postgraduate Project module is normally studied in the final semester of the programme; however, an introduction and preparatory advice is provided in the preceding semester.

### Delivery Structure

#### Standard route (part-time)

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

#### Accelerated route (full-time)

	SEMESTER 1 (autumn UK)	SEMESTER 2 (spring UK)
Year 1	<b>Law for Surveyors</b>	<b>Sustainable and Innovative Construction</b>
	<b>Contract Administration and Practice</b>	<b>Procurement and Tendering</b>
	Strategic Management of Change <i>or</i> Managing and Leading People	<b>Management Finance and Science</b>



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Year 1.5	<b>Management of Construction</b>	<b>Management of Construction</b>
	<b>Postgraduate Project</b>	<b>Postgraduate Project</b>

## 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 enables students to understand:

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

Within this sector-specific context, this module enables students to understand:

- 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 programme 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.

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The module enables students to understand:

- 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.

For those students studying the MSc programmes, the Postgraduate 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 enables students to understand:

- 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.

## **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 enables students to understand:

- 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 enables students to understand:

- 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 UCEM. 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 UCEM.

### Student learning support:

The programme is delivered via the Institution's virtual learning environment (VLE) and academic teaching and support is provided online, giving students access to UCEM tutors and other students worldwide.

The Academic Programme Leader will act as the main point of contact for students throughout the duration of their programme. The academic team will guide and support

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students' learning. Other UCEM teams provide support for assessments, 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 programmes 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, UCEM 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 Programme Leader, Module Leaders and Module Tutors to support the students throughout their time with the programme. The UCEM 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 UCEM e-Library is on a 24/7 basis and UCEM 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 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 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.

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## *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 UCEM 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 strategies for real estate study.

### *Key/transferable skills*

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.

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### Assessment Diet.

The University College of Estate Management supported online -taught postgraduate programmes consist of a variety of assessment modes:

- assessed coursework (in essay, report, problem or short question format),
- written examination papers,
- project or dissertation submissions,
- e-mediated submissions.

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

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Assessment pattern</b>	<b>CATS credits per module</b>
<b>MSc Construction Management</b>	1 assessment  1 final assessment (2 <sup>nd</sup> coursework or examination)	20
<b>MSc Construction Management</b>	1 initial assessment  1 final submission (project report)	40