



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT

# **MSc Quantity Surveying**

---

## Programme Specification

Academic year September 2017 to August 2018

Reference:

Version: 14.00

Status: Final

Author: Malcolm Kirkpatrick

Date: 27/09/2018

## 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:	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:	November 2018
Accrediting body:	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
Accrediting Body	Hong Kong Institute of Construction Managers (HKICM)
Date of last accreditation	April 2016
Date of next periodic review	April 2021
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

# MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

Duration	2 years
Maximum period of registration	9 years
UCAS Code	N/A
Programme Code	PMSCQSS
Other coding as required	N/A

## Programme Overview

### Rationale

This is a postgraduate conversion programme delivered by supported online 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, measurement of construction works (which is included in the Professional Cost Management Module), as a core skill, cost management, contract practice and procedures, procurement and building economics. The programme also includes a postgraduate 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 Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) / Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) / Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE) / Hong Kong Institute of Construction Managers (HKICM) accredited degree, giving access to professional membership.

### 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.

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;

- GCSE Grade C or above in English Language or English Literature (Grade 4 for applicants holding newly reformed GCSEs in England), or an equivalent qualification. For further information on equivalent qualifications please contact: [admissions@ucem.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@ucem.ac.uk).
- 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

# MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

## Entry requirements

Language (TOEFL) test.

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.

## 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 an MSc may enable the student 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.

Assessments are conducted and awards are conferred in accordance with the UCEM Academic and General Regulations for Students. [For UCEM's Academic and General Regulations, please click here.](#)

Details of exit awards are located in Section 6 of the UCEM Single Postgraduate Assessment, Progression and Award Regulations.

## Career prospects

This programme will provide a route for those with a Bachelor's or equivalent into careers associated with membership of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), the Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE), the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Hong Kong Institute of Construction Managers (HKICM).

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.

# MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

## Career prospects

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,
- Commercial management of construction,
- Client quantity surveying,
- Contractor quantity surveying.

## Programme Aims

### Programme aims

The programme is designed for holders of a non-cognate/semi-cognate Bachelor's degree. It focuses 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 PHD level.

### 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	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.
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.

## 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 of Surveyors	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	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	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A
Management of Construction	X	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A
Professional Cost Management	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A
Procurement and Tendering	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A
PG Project	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	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
LAW7LFS	Law for Surveyors	7	20	Core

## MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

Code	Module	Level	Credits	Core /Elective
QSP7CAP	Contract Administration and Practice	7	20	Core
QSP7PCM	Professional Cost Management	7	20	Core
CON7CMC	Management of Construction	7	20	Core
CON7SDC	Sustainable and Innovative Construction	7	20	Core
QSP7BEC	Building Economics	7	20	Core
QSP7SPT	Procurement and Tendering	7	20	Core
PRJ7PRJ	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 Postgraduate Project module is normally studied in the final semester of the programme. However an introduction and preparation advice is provided in the preceding semester.

### Delivery Structure

#### September Entry

#### Year 1

Semester1 (September)	Semester 2 (March)
Sustainable and Innovative Construction	Law for Surveyors
Contract Administration and Practice	Building Economics

#### Year 2

Semester 1 (September)	Semester 2 (March)
Professional Cost Management	Procurement and Tendering
Postgraduate Project	Postgraduate Project
Management of Construction	

*The Postgraduate Project Module is to be delivered both over a 22-week and 40-week delivery time with the 22-week version being phased out during the 2017-18 academic year.*

*Where required, the 22-week Project will run in the final semester only.*



# MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

## Delivery Structure

### March Entry

#### Year 1

Semester1 (March)	Semester 2 (September)
Sustainable and Innovative Construction	Law for Surveyors
Building Economics	Contract Administration and Practice

#### Year 2

Semester 1 (March)	Semester 2 (September)
Procurement and Tendering	Professional Cost Management
Postgraduate Project	Postgraduate Project
Management of Construction	

*The Postgraduate Project Module is to be delivered both over a 22-week and 40-week delivery time with the 22-week version being phased out during the 2017-18 academic year.*

*Where required, the 22-week Project will run in the final semester only.*

## 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 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.

	Weighting
Assessment 1 - Report (2,500 – 3,000 words) A problem based question requiring recommendation of a course of action.	40%
Assessment 2 –Examination 2.5 Hours	60%

## MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

	<b>Weighting</b>
<b>Pass mark</b>	50%

### 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 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.

	<b>Weighting</b>
Assessment 1 - problem based questions requiring reasoned answers comprising 3,000-3,500 word written work	50%
Assessment 2 – problem based questions requiring reasoned answers comprising 3,000-3,500 word written work	50%
<b>Pass mark</b>	50%

### 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 enables students 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.

	<b>Weighting</b>
Assessment 1 – 3,000-3,500 word report The coursework will provide construction management problems for solution	50%
Assessment 2 - Examination – two hours	50%

## MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

	<b>Weighting</b>
<b>Pass mark</b>	50%

### 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 module serves MSc and the MBA awards and topics selected are expected to reflect the students' respective programmes of study. Additionally, MBA students are expected to choose projects which offer evidence of one or more of the following central facets of their programme: reflective practice, leadership and strategic management

The module is to be delivered both over a 22-week and 40-week delivery time with the 22-week version being phased out during the 2017-18 academic year.

	<b>Weighting</b>
Coursework 1 – Research Proposal – 2,500 words	25%
Coursework 2 – Project – 10,000 words	75%
<b>Pass mark</b>	50%

### 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 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.

	<b>Weighting</b>
Assessment 1 - Report (2,500 -3,000 words)	40%
Assessment 2 - Examination (2.5 hours)	60%
<b>Pass mark</b>	50%

### 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.

# MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

## Professional Cost Management

This module enables students to examine:

- 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.

	Weighting
Assessment 1: 3,500 word coursework	50%
Assessment 2: 3,500 word coursework	50%
<b>Pass Mark:</b>	50%

## 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 examine:

- construction principles and technology with reference to sustainability,
- innovative building technology principles,
- sustainability in the built environment context,
- sustainable and innovative construction methods.

	Weighting
Assessment 1 – 3,000-3,500 word report The coursework will link construction technology to sustainable and innovative solutions	50%
Assessment 2 - Examination – two hours	50%
<b>Pass mark</b>	50%

## 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,

# MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

## Building Economics

- 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.

	Weighting
Assessment 1: 3,000 word coursework	40%
Assessment 2: Examination – 3 hours	60%
<b>Pass mark</b>	50%

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### Study support: Induction Module

The purpose of the Induction Module is to;

- begin to prepare the student for studying with UCEM;
- enable UCEM to identify further ways in which the Institution may be able to facilitate and support the student as they progress through their learning journey.

There are a variety of resources which will help the student to get started. These include tutorials regarding how to use the VLE (Virtual Learning Environment), the VitalSource Bookshelf, the UCEM e-Library and information regarding how to join a webinar. All of this information is key to having a successful start to supported online learning with UCEM.

There is a compulsory, 'Writing in Your Own Words' e-learning resource and associated quiz. This resource aims to provide the student with a relevant examples of referencing, and a clear understanding of what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. Additionally, it is essential to complete the 'Readiness for Learning' questionnaire, which will prompt the student to consider the practicalities surrounding their studies. This element of the Induction Module is compulsory, and designed to provide feedback to the institution in order to identify further ways in which UCEM may be able to facilitate and support the student as they progress. Further information relating to study skills support is also included.

# MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

## Student Learning Support:

The programme is delivered via UCEM's VLE, and academic teaching and support is provided online, giving students access to UCEM tutors and other students worldwide.

The UCEM 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 students' learning. Other UCEM teams provide support for assessments, 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.

The Learning & Teaching Enhancement Team work across faculties and departments to promote student retention, achievement and success. This work is achieved through a multi-faceted approach, which consists of:

- identifying students who are at risk of deferring, suspending and/or with-drawing at specific points in the academic calendar,
- working with Faculty Heads, Programme Leaders and tutors to identify ways in which student success can be further facilitated,
- supporting both students and academic staff through timely interventions which may include creating support materials and providing academic study skills support through academic skills surgeries.

Relevant research is also carried out to inform proactive interventions, and to develop policy and practice.

## 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.

# MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

## 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 supported 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 eBook.

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.

### *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 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

## MSc Quantity Surveying Programme Specification

### Assessment Strategy

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

### Assessment Diet.

The University College of Estate Management supported online 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.

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 coursework 1 final assessment (2 <sup>nd</sup> coursework or examination)	20
MSc Quantity Surveying	1 initial coursework 1 final submission (project report)	40