

Postgraduate Access Programme podcast with programme leader, David Hunt

Andrew Belt: UCEM recently launched its Postgraduate Access Programme. Joining on the line to discuss this is programme leader, David Hunt. Hi David.

David Hunt: Good morning, Andrew.

AB: How's it all going?

DH: All is well with me. I'm still keeping positive about the situation. I've had almost three months of remote working and I think I'm quite happily settled for the moment.

AB: So, we've launched this new Postgraduate Access Programme. Can you tell me a little more about it?

DH: We identified the need to provide a route into postgraduate study for potential students who did not quite meet the entry requirements for our Master's programmes. So, the idea behind this Postgraduate Access Programme is that successful completion will qualify students to transfer onto one of our MSc degrees.

AB: And in terms of what students will study, can you go into a little bit more detail about that?

DH: Well, it depends on which semester they join us and which is their preferred Master's programme. Students will be offered a Level 6 module that aligns with their field of interest. When I say Level 6, this is the same level as the final year of one of our Bachelor's programmes – the highest undergraduate level of study.

So, applicants interested in pursuing an MSc in Quantity Surveying or an MSc in Construction Management will take a module called Construction Law, and this considers the legal aspects surrounding construction projects.

We maybe don't often think about the complexities of our modern world, but with construction, there is a risk and, therefore, professional liability and this module teaches students how to evaluate this liability and how it extends beyond contractual relationships. Students will also gain an understanding of contractual disputes in construction and how these are resolved.

Those applicants interested in either the MSc in Building Surveying or MSc in Real Estate, will take another module called Commercial Property Management. This module explores the role that commercial property plays for investors with their investment management strategies, as well as how the job of a commercial property manager helps manage and implement those strategies.

[Note: Those interested in MSc Real Estate now study on the Investment Appraisal and Portfolio Management module, more details of which are on the [programme page](#). The information provided by David was correct at the time of the recording.]

So, those are offered this coming autumn and in spring, applicants will be offered alternative modules from the pool of our BSc academic offer.

AB: Great. And who would you say is likely to benefit from the programme?

DH: As I mentioned, this programme is designed to help those applicants who wish to take a Master's, but don't yet quite meet the requirements when we consider academic qualifications, as well as work experience when reviewing applicants' suitability.

So, those students who maybe have an HND, a foundation degree or an ordinary degree but with fewer than the required number of years' work experience, they'll now be able to start studying immediately with us.

AB: And why do you think people should consider signing up to it? What are the benefits in general would you say about studying with UCEM?

DH: First of all, the module which students take benefits from additional support, which has been pioneered through our BSc Access Module programme where we have seen that this approach works. Students receive one-to-one time with our learning support team, as well as me, the programme leader, and as well as the module leaders and, together, we can offer valuable advice and coaching throughout the semester.

The modules encourage students to develop critical thinking and that is something that's vital at postgraduate level. Those students with a Level 5 qualification or a Foundation Degree may have not quite yet come across this so it is perfect training for taking a Master's level programme.

It also benefits potential applicants who are thinking of changing careers to a built environment discipline. This offer is a low-risk route to see if this is the right move for them.

Finally, all applicants will have experience of higher or further education, but some may have reservations or anxieties about online learning. Completing a single module with us, such as that offered with this access programme, is great way to see if this is right for them.

AB: Fantastic. Thank you for your time there, David. As David was mentioning, it is suitable for those who maybe don't have the qualifications right now to go straight onto one of our MSc programmes but this can give you a route onto them.

Also, career changers can apply onto our MSc conversion programmes. So, if you are interested in getting into the built environment, but maybe don't want to fully commit and that can apply to online learning as well, then that's another reason why you might consider it.

Thank you for listening.