

# **MSc Construction Management**

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## Programme Specification

Academic year September 2018 to August 2019

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:	May 2018
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

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Maximum period of registration	9 years
UCAS Code	N/A
Programme Code	PMSCCMS
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 Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)/Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)/Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE) 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.
- 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.

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 programme 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.

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 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 Bachelor's degree or equivalent to study a Master's award that is focused on the core disciplines associated with construction and project management. 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 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	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.

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

## Module List

Code	Module	Level	Credits	Core /Elective
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

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### 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

#### September entry

#### Year 1

Semester 1 (September)	Semester 2 (March)
Sustainable and Innovative Construction	Law of Surveyors
Contract Administration and Practice	Procurement and Tendering

#### Year 2

Semester 1 (September)	Semester 2 (March)
Strategic Management of Change; <i>or</i> Managing and Leading People	Management Finance and Science
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.*

### Delivery Structure

#### March entry

#### Year 1

Semester 1 (March)	Semester 2 (September)
Sustainable and Innovative Construction	Law of Surveyors
Procurement and Tendering	Contract Administration and Practice

#### Year 2

Semester 1 (March)	Semester 2 (September)
Management Finance and Science	Strategic Management of Change; <i>or</i> Managing and Leading People
Postgraduate Project	Postgraduate Project
Management of Construction	



## MSc Construction Management Programme Specification

*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.*

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### 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.

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.

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.

### 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;

### Sustainable and Innovative Construction

- innovative building technology principles;
- sustainability in the built environment context;
- sustainable and innovative construction methods.

### Module Summaries

#### 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

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

**Study support: Induction Module**

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 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.

**Student Learning Support:**

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

The 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 technology (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

**Personal and Professional Development:**

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 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 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 construction management 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.

## 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,
- e-mediated submissions.

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

## MSc Construction Management Programme Specification

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

Signed by Chair's Action.....  
Sylvia Osborn  
Chair of the Postgraduate Board of Studies

Date..... 5th June 2018.....