

**BSc (External) Degree in Construction Management
For students entering in 2006**

Awarding Institution: **The University of Reading**
Teaching Institution: **The College of Estate Management**
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s): **Building and Surveying**
Faculty: **Faculty of Science (Construction Management)**
Programme length: **4 years for students entering Level 1**
Date of specification: **June 2006**
Programme Director: **Graham Hough**
Board of Studies:
Accreditation: **CIOB**

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide students with a sound understanding of the principles and practices involved in construction management up to degree level standard and to prepare them for progression to Masters level should they so wish.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology. This will be demonstrated in the assignment and project work that the student submits and in the face-to-face sessions where appropriate. The distance learning aspect of the course also encourages self-discipline, self-motivation and good time management.

Programme content

The profile that follows states which modules must be taken (compulsory modules), together with the lists of modules from which students may select their options.

Level 1A (Dec - Sept)	<i>Credits Level</i>		
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
<i>Module Title:</i>			
Economics 1	20	C	HE1
Introduction to Law	20	C	HE1
Building Technology 1	30	C	HE1
People and Information Management	20	C	HE1

Level 1B (Dec - Sept)	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>	
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
<i>Module Title</i>			
Economics of Property & Construction	20	I	HE2
Building Technology 2	30	C	HE1
Managing Products and Finance	20	I	HE2
QS Practice 1	20	I	HE2

Level 2 (Dec - Sept)*Compulsory modules**Mod Code Module Title*

Building Technology 3	30	I	HE2
Principles of Building Structure	20	H	HE3
Construction Site Management	20	H	HE3
Contract Procedures	20	I	HE2

Level 3 (Dec - Sept)*Compulsory modules**Mod Code Module Title*

Integrated Management Project	20	H	HE3
Project	30	H	HE3

*Optional modules:**Two from the following:*

Maintenance Management	20	H	HE3
Property and Environmental Law	20	H	HE3
Construction Law	20	H	HE3
Facilities Management	20	H	HE3
International Construction	20	H	HE3
Construction Planning, Tendering & Finance	20	H	HE3

Progression requirements

Each module is assessed to an overall 40% pass mark with assignments contributing 30% and examinations 70% of the available marks. There is no minimum requirement in either examinations or assignments.

Students who fail one module at Level 1A may proceed to Level 1B at the discretion of the Examinations Board. They may then have a further attempt at that module at the same time as sitting their Level 1B examinations.

Students who fail one module at Level 1B may proceed to Level 2 at the discretion of the Examinations Board. They may then have a further attempt at that module at the same time as sitting their Level 2 examinations.

Students with certain exemption profiles may be allowed to do a combination of modules from different levels (excluding Level 3) in order to balance their workload between years of their course.

Students who fail one module at Level 2 may proceed to Level 3 on the same basis as above.

Students who fail more than one module must pass the failed modules before proceeding to the next level.

Students are allowed three attempts at each module at each level of the course.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is organised in modules that typically involve distance learning study materials supplemented by periods of face-to-face teaching. All modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and examinations with the exception of the project at Level 3. Details are provided in the module specifications.

Only Level 3 contributes towards the overall assessment of the Degree.

Students who leave the course after level 1B with a minimum of 120 credits will be awarded a Certificate of Higher Education in Construction Management, and those who leave after level 2 with a minimum of 240 credits will be awarded a Diploma of Higher Education in Construction Management.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have Grade C or better in English in GCSE or equivalent and achieved at least one of the following:

- 2 or 3 A-Levels (CC or DDD) (2 AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level)
- NVQ level 4 or 5, or GNVQ Advanced
- University degree, diploma or certificate
- Degree or certificate from a recognised technological or other institution
- HNC or HND
- ONC/OND or BTec Diploma
- Professional qualification from an acceptable institution
- Certain armed forces qualifications or relevant work experience
- Scottish Higher
- Irish Leaving Certificate
- Persons deemed to have relevant experience
- CEM Diploma in Surveying Practice

Admissions Tutor: Graham Hough (College of Estate Management)

Support for students and their learning

The University provides learning support for local students through the library, which, across its three sites, holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, and has a range of electronic sources of information. Students currently have no access to the University computers. It is a requirement of the course that students have personal access to a computer with internet facilities, both for the College's website and for the wealth of internet technical information.

Within the College of Estate Management further support is provided by direct email contact with subject tutors, web-based discussion forums through the use of Blackboard, and the provision of lecture notes, assignment answers and the option of submitting assignments on the College web pages. There is a Course Adviser to offer advice on the choice of modules within the programme. The course administrators, Student Services staff and tutors (as appropriate) provide pastoral care. Text books, videos and audio tapes are currently provided to support the study material.

Career prospects

This programme is to run in parallel with already established courses. The students are normally already in relevant employment and are using the Degree as a means of gaining a professional qualification. The course is widely seen as enhancing career prospects but often leads students to further study at postgraduate level.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Not applicable. As the programme is on a distance learning basis students are free to travel whilst they study and examinations can normally be arranged in most countries with sufficient notice.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to provide a thorough Degree level education in Construction Management, with a sound understanding of the principles and practices required by the current profession. It

aims to produce competent construction managers with the ability to progress to Professional status.

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the areas shown on the following pages.

Please note: The specification that follows provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.

Knowledge and understanding

A Knowledge and understanding of:

- 1 the academic and theoretical principles specific for professional expertise in their chosen discipline
- 2 the technology required for constructing a range of buildings and their associated services
- 3 the legal background to working in the construction industry
- 4 the economics relating to construction and property
- 5 the management of construction activities, people and projects

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The knowledge required for each module is contained in the study papers and supported by lectures, workshops and seminars. Study papers contain self assessment questions and answers. Feedback is given on assessed work

only. In the later stages of the programme students are expected to research more beyond the study materials provided. Use is also made of DVDs and audio tapes. The Blackboard VLE will provide any up-to-the-minute amendments.

Assessment

Knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations. The final year project is a piece of individual research work.

Skills and other attributes

B Intellectual skills – able to:

- 1 think logically
- 2 analyse and solve problems
- 3 organise tasks into a structured form
- 4 transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one topic within a subject to another
- 5 plan, conduct and write a report on an independent project
- 6 utilise well developed transferable skills
- 7 demonstrate critical appraisal and synthesis to problem scenarios
- 8 develop integrative skills
- 9 incorporate experiential knowledge.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Logic is an essential part of the skill that those in the planning, executing and managing of construction projects must possess. Analysing and solving problems are related to the entire construction process.

The format of the assignments and examination questions will generally be based around practical situations requiring problem solving. More straightforward problems will be used at the lower levels, but at Levels 2 and 3 students will be required to transfer the knowledge from previous modules and apply it to particular problems. Many construction managers are involved in writing reports. The project will develop independent research and report writing skills.

Assessment

Items 1 – 4 will be assessed during the assignments and examinations, with item 5 being tested in the project module at Level 3. The study material includes the use of self-assessment questions (SAQs) to supplement the learning process.

C Practical skills – able to:

- 1 be equipped with the skills necessary for the management of the construction process
- 2 meet the needs of clients within legal, cost and environmental constraints

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Site construction processes are based around the need to build to time and within budget, whilst maintaining high quality work and taking into account Health and Safety requirements. Building Technology and Management form the core modules. The Introduction to Law provides an outline of the legal system as it affects construction. Economics will cover the economics of the UK construction industry

Assessment

All assessment is in the assignments and examinations.

D Transferable skills – able to:

- 1 communicate effectively including using IT
- 2 work as part of a team
- 3 be self-motivated
- 4 manage time
- 5 develop CPD discipline, including web-based CPD
- 6 develop a capacity for independent thought
- 7 develop personal skills
- 8 communicate using quantitative methods and information systems
- 9 provide personal arguments related to building construction and creatively offer alternative and original solutions.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The use of IT is embedded throughout the course both in communicating with the College as a research means and as a tool for word processing and spreadsheet calculations. The distance learning aspect of the course encourages self-motivation and time management and, due to the fact that most students are already in employment, it encourages the development of good CPD practice. Team working is difficult to encourage with this type of course but local tutor groups are encouraged and group exercises at face-to-face sessions are undertaken. The integrated management project will allow students to work as members of a team regardless of location.

Assessment

Communication in the written form is assessed by assignments and examinations. The ability for independent thought is assessed in the project. The other skills are not directly assessed but their effective use will improve performance in modules.

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.