

**BSc (External) Degree in Quantity Surveying**

UCAS code: N/A

Awarding Institution:	<b>The University of Reading</b>
Teaching Institution:	<b>College of Estate Management</b>
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	<b>Surveying</b>
Faculty:	<b>Faculty of Science</b>
Programme length:	<b>4 years for students entering Level 1</b>
Date of specification:	<b>April 2011</b>
Programme Director:	<b>Balkees Noor-Mohamed</b>
Board of Studies:	<b>CEM Board for the Undergraduate Courses</b>
Accreditation / recognition:	<b>RICS, HKIS (recognition), Board of QSs Malaysia (BQSM)</b>

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to provide students with a sound understanding of the principles and practices involved in quantity surveying 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 the student may select their options.

It can be seen that in total there are 360 credits; 120 at FHEQ level 4, 110 at FHEQ level 5 and 130 at FHEQ level 6.

**Level 1A (Dec - Sept)***Compulsory modules*

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Formerly	FHEQ
F101ECO	<i>Economics 1</i>	20	C	4
F102LAW	<i>Introduction to Law</i>	20	C	4
F103TEC	<i>Technology 1( Low rise )</i>	30	C	4
F107MAN	<i>People and Information Management</i>	20	C	4

**Level 1B (Dec - Sept)***Compulsory modules*

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Formerly	FHEQ
F104TEC	<i>Technology 2 ( High rise )</i>	30	C	5
F105ECO	<i>Economics of Property and Construction</i>	20	I	4
F108MAN	<i>Managing Products and Finance</i>	20	I	5
F109QSP	<i>QS Practice 1</i>	20	I	5

**Level 2 (Dec - Sept)***Compulsory modules*

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Formerly	FHEQ
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F201TEC	<i>Technology 3</i>	30	I	5
F202QSP	<i>QS Practice 2</i>	20	H	6
F204ECO	<i>Building Economics</i>	20	H	6
F207CP	<i>Contract Procedures</i>	20	I	5

### **Level 3 (Dec - Sept)**

*Credits Level*

#### *Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>		<i>Formerly</i>	<i>FHEQ</i>
F304LAW	<i>Construction Law</i>	20	H	6
F317PRO	<i>Project</i>	30	H	6

#### *Optional modules:*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>			
	<i>(One from the following)</i>			
F311PTF	<i>Construction Planning, Tendering and Finance</i>	20	H	6
F312PDS	<i>Project Development and Strategy</i>	20	H	6
F319CON	<i>International Construction</i>	20	H	6
F320FM	<i>Facilities Management</i>	20	H	6
	<i>(One from the following)</i>			
F301QSP	<i>Building QS Practice</i>	20	H	6
F305QSP	<i>Civil Engineering QS Practice</i>	20	H	6
F308QSP	<i>Building Services QS Practice</i>	20	H	6

### **Progression requirements**

Each module is assessed to an overall 40 % pass mark. 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 who fail one module at Level 2 may proceed to Level 3 on the same basis as above.

Students with certain exemption and progression profiles may be allowed to do a combination of modules from different levels in order to balance their workload between years of their course.

Students who fail more than one module must pass the failed modules before proceeding to the next level, notwithstanding the balancing referred to above.

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.

The overall classification of the Degree is based upon Level 3 results. Level 2 results can be taken into consideration in appropriate circumstances.

Final awards will normally be based upon results at Level 3 according to the following criteria:

**First Class**

At least 60 credits at Level 3 with marks of at least 40  
and  
no credits at Level 3 at a mark below 30  
and

[An overall weighted average at Level 3 of at least 70

**or**

An overall weighted average at Level 3 of at least 68, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark in the range 70-100]

**Second Class Division 1**

At least 60 credits at Level 3 with marks of at least 40  
and  
no credits at Level 3 at a mark below 30  
and

[An overall weighted average at Level 3 within the range 60.0-69.9

**or**

An overall weighted average at level 3 of at least 58, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 60 or more]

**Second Class Division 2**

At least 60 credits at Level 3 with marks of at least 40  
and  
no credits at Level 3 at a mark below 30  
and

[an overall weighted average at Level 3 within the range 50.0-59.9

**or**

An overall weighted average at Level 3 of at least 48, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 50 or more]

**Third Class**

At least 60 credits at Level 3 with marks of at least 40  
and  
no credits at Level 3 at a mark below 30  
and

[ An overall weighted average at Level 3 within the range 40.0-49.9

**or**

An overall weighted average at Level 3 of at least 38, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 40 or more]

**Pass**

At least 60 credits at Level 3 with marks of at least 35  
and

[ an overall weighted average at Level 3 within the range 35.0-39.9

**or**

An overall weighted average at Level 3 of at least 33, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 35 or more]

In addition, any requirement to retake a module at Level 3 disqualifies students from Honours classification.

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

**Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained Grade C or better in English in GCSE or equivalent. In addition the College has undertaken to comply with the RICS threshold of 230 UCAS points or equivalent for 75% of entrants at Level 1A as from 1 December 2008. UCAS point equivalents can be attained through a range of qualifications including HND/HNCs, certain armed forces qualifications, professional qualifications from acceptable institutions, and partially completed degrees.

The College's Diploma in Surveying Practice is an automatic entry qualification as is any prior completed university degree.

Admissions Tutor: Pauline Makepeace (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. Students currently have no access to the University computers. Since the majority are based overseas, this is not really relevant. It is a requirement of the course that students have personal access to a computer.

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 a VLE and the provision of lecture notes and assignment answers on the College Web pages. There is a Course Adviser to offer advice on the choice of modules within the programme. The course administrators or tutors (as appropriate) provide pastoral care. Text books, DVDs and CDs are currently provided to support the study material.

### **Career prospects**

The students are normally already in relevant employment and are using the Degree as a means of gaining a professional surveying 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 while 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 Quantity Surveying, with a sound understanding of the principles and practices required by the current profession. It aims to produce competent surveyors 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 following areas:

## ***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 organisations and products

### **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 video and the VLE.

#### *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.

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Logic is an essential part of a QS's skill in breaking down the sequence of constructing, measuring and evaluating work. Analysing and solving problems, both of a financial and contractual nature, are common activities in the day to day employment of a surveyor. The format of the assignments and examination questions will generally be based around practical situations requiring problem solving. More straight forward 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 surveyors are involved in writing reports for clients either at feasibility stages or on completion. 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.

**C. Practical skills – able to:**

1. give advice regarding appropriate procurement routes and understand the pricing of tender documents
2. measure and evaluate construction work
3. understand the factors influencing the viability of a project from inception to completion
4. appreciate the methods to be used when resolving disputes under construction contracts

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Procurement, measurement and evaluation are taught in the QS Practice modules and the Contract Procedures module. The Introduction to Law provides the legal background to contracts, which is reinforced in the Construction Law module. The QS practice modules develop the more technical skills from Level 1B and 2 to more critical and analytical skills at Level 3. The viability of projects is covered fundamentally in the Finance and Development module and further expanded in the Project Development and Strategy module. Disputes arise at all stages of construction contracts and the legal modules build from a theoretical approach to problem solving at the higher levels.

*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
6. develop a capacity for independent thought

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

The use of IT is embedded throughout the course. 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 study groups are encouraged and group exercises at face-to-face sessions are undertaken.

*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 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 the Student Handbook and on the VLE.