MSc in Construction Management　　　　　　　　　　**UCAS code:**
For students entering Part 1 in 2012/3

Awarding Institution:　　　　　　　　　　　　University of Reading
Teaching Institution:　　　　　　　　　　　　University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):
Faculty:　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Science Faculty
Programme length:　　　　　　　　　　　　　1 years
Date of specification:　　　　　　　　　　　　17/Aug/2012
Programme Director:　　　　　　　　　　　　Prof Roger Flanagan
Programme Advisor:
Board of Studies:　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Post-graduate Programmes in Construction
Management
Accreditation:　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Not applicable

Summary of programme aims

The aims of the programme are:

1. To develop students' understanding of how to manage a construction project from inception through to completion, from the perspective of the client, design team and contractor;
2. To provide an overview of how the construction sector operates in the developed and developing world, including the macro-economic and micro-economic factors that influence the work of the sector;
3. To develop students' understanding of the management of the firm, including human resource issues, finance and accounting, and organisational issues;
4. To provide a view of procurement methods and contractual arrangements for the design and construction of facilities;
5. To develop students' understanding of the role of information and communication technologies in the construction sector; and
6. To develop students' understanding of the expectations of clients, developers, financiers, and investors in a project.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Students are expected to acquire an ability to think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between good and bad arguments. They will be able to research a variety of sources in libraries and on the internet, and, in particular, to research and assess academic literature. Particular elements of the programme expose students to the use of information technology and encourage the development of general professional capabilities including recognition of deadlines, time management and communication skills

Programme content

The following qualification is available:
MSc (180 credits at level 7)
Compulsory modules:

Code	Module title	Credits	Level
CEMFCAS	Case studies	30	7
CEMFMA	Financial and Management Accounting	10	7
CEMRPM	Project Management	10	7
CEMFIT	Information and Communication Technology	10	7
CEMFOBM	Organisation & Business Management	10	7
CEMFHR	Human Resources	10	7
CEMFIC	International Construction	10	7
CEMFCE	Construction and the Economy	10	7
CEMFCL	Construction Contract Law	10	7
CEMFEE	Environmental Engineering	10	7
CEMFDS	Dissertation	60	7

Dissertation
The 60 credit MSc dissertation involves independent research work for approximately four months, and presentation of the work as a dissertation.

Part-time or modular arrangements
There are no part-time arrangements for this programme.

Progression requirements
N/A

Assessment and classification
Teaching is organised in modules that involve lectures, discussions, tutorials and visits to industry. Coursework may include essays, seminars and group presentations. The dissertation is supported by series of seminars on research skills, which is followed by personal supervision.
The programme will use the University's classification scheme:

Mark Interpretation:
70 - 100% Work of distinction standard
60 - 69% Work of merit standard
50 - 59% Work of good standard

Failing categories:
40 - 49% Work below threshold standard (BTS)
0 - 40% Unsatisfactory Work

For MSc
To pass the MSc students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 in examinable modules (CEMFCAS, CEMFMA, CEMRPM, CEMFIT, CEMFOBM, CEMFHR, CEMFIC, CEMFCE, CEMFCL, CEMFEE, CEMFDS).

In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be awarded eligible for a Merit.

Students who fail to obtain the minimum mark in any one paper are required to re-sit in September. Such students are, however, permitted to proceed through the summer course and dissertation phase of the course whilst preparing to re-sit any papers.

For PG Diploma (PGDip)
To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more and have no mark below 40 in all taught modules (120 credits). In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

For PG Certificate (PGCert)
To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more and have no mark below 40 in modules to the value of 60 credits. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

Re-assessment arrangements are;
1. Resit of any exam paper failed in September,
2. Students undergoing re-assessment are allowed one month's extension to submit their dissertation,

3. A failed dissertation should be re-submitted within one year from the original submission date.

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have a good first degree (first class or second class upper) and preferably some relevant experience.

Admissions Tutor: Professor Roger Flanagan

Support for students and their learning
University support for students and their learning falls into two categories.   Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SEECC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme.   Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

Resource Centre - 2n19
This room is intended to provide students with an area within the School where they can study. It contains a wide range of current literature on the construction industry not available in the Library. A photocopier is available for student use at a charge.

Computing facilities
The School's computing facilities are in Room 2n20 and there are several other computer laboratories available to all students on the campus. In addition to the computers available for use in the School, students have access to computers in many other parts of the University. The campus has a high-speed network to which a large number of computers are linked. Some computer laboratories are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is also access to the campus network for most Halls of Residence. All students will be given a computer username and password on registration with which they can access the computers on the campus network, email and the World-Wide Web. IT Services run informal courses and seminars on practical computing topics.

Library and computing facilities
The University's library is next to the School's Building. It contains about a million books and pamphlets, subscribes to about five thousand periodicals and holds many databases on compact disc. The computerised cataloguing system (UNICORN) gives rapid access to information on the Library's stock and its availability. A Short Loan Collection contains books most in demand by students. Books which are not in stock may be obtained on inter-library loan, on completion of a form that must be signed by the course director. There are also several self-service photocopiers. The Library provides booklets giving details of its services and arranges guided tours for new students during Freshers Week.

Career prospects
Students who have completed the MSc in the past have found their career prospects have broadened significantly. The MSc Construction Management provides students with a broad vision of the construction sector. It enhances both the professional and business skills. Students have followed careers in architectural and engineering design, project management, construction management, general business management, investment appraisal and in the public sector. Some students find that the challenge of research takes them towards pursuing a career in research.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Programme Outcomes
Students will become proficient in communicating ideas to a technical and non-technical audience. They will understand and embrace the potential of information and communication technologies. The programme will help students to think laterally, to solve problems in a structured logical way.

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

Students will become proficient in communicating ideas to a technical and non-technical audience. They will understand and embrace the potential of information and communication technologies. The programme will help students to think laterally, to solve problems in a structured logical way.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Tutorials
- Group work
- Project based teaching Assessment
- Examination
- Group project assessment
- Dissertation

Assessment

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

- Solve complex problems
- Use quantitative and qualitative tools
- Communication skills
- Analytical skills
- Think laterally
- Use IT skills to plan, programme, and manage
- Interpret codes and standards
- Understand another viewpoint from the perspective of negotiating with and managing labour

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- Group work
- Personal development
- Individual tuition

Assessment
- Examination
- Coursework

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

- Communicate
- Negotiate
- Interpret clients requirements
- Focus on challenges
- Meet deadlines
- Manage a project
- Manage and motivate a workforce
- Manage the design process

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- Lectures from industry based personnel
- Company visits
- Site visits

Assessment
- Use of spreadsheets, internet, software packages in assignments
- Interaction with companies on practical issues
- Observation in group discussions

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

Students are expected to acquire an ability to think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between good and bad arguments. They will be able to research a variety of sources in libraries and on the internet, and, in particular, to research and assess academic literature. Particular elements of the programme expose students to the use of information technology and encourage the development of general professional capabilities including recognition of deadlines, time management and communication skills

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- Group work
- Personal development
- Individual tuition

Assessment
- Examinations (test the students' research skills, problem solving skills, time management)
- Dissertation

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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.