

Programme Specification

MSc Construction Cost Management (full-time)

PFTZCCMXXXHM

MSc Construction Cost Management (flexible-modular)

PPTZCCMXXXFM

For students entering in 2027/28

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MSc Construction Cost Management (full-time) - 12 months MSc Construction Cost Management (flexible-modular) - 24 months
Accreditation	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Programme Start Dates	September for full-time and flexible-modular February for full-time and flexible modular
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

This programme provides a route for new entrants to the professional practice of Construction Cost Management or Quantity Surveying, who have taken degrees in non-related disciplines.

It provides an introduction to the fundamental topics related to Construction Cost Management and an understanding of the latest academic theories and research, which inform vocational practice in the financial management of construction projects. The purpose is to prepare non-cognate graduates for a career in quantity surveying or financial management in construction.

The distinctive focus is on the principles, tools and techniques of financial and cost management from inception of a project, through to design and construction.

Value of the programme to students

The programme will develop the following transferable skills:

- Critical, analytical thinking in a construction project context
- Research skills
- Reflective practitioner skills
- Inter-professional team working skills

- General professional capabilities, including: time management and managerial skills.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Construction Cost Management (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Appraise and synthesize a range of cost management strategies, financial management and accounting and operational responses in a construction project management environment.
2	Compare and contrast applied strategic management theories in relation to projects and other industries, to analyse construction and cost management strategy and practice.
3	Evaluate risk and generate value in a project management environment.
4	Appraise different construction procurement routes and contracts.
5	Interpret legal requirements of operating in a project environment.
6	Analyse commercial project decision-making and evaluate the cost implications of design decisions.
7	Evaluate the cost implications of construction and operational requirements.
8	Develop effective communication and negotiation skills to ensure efficient professional development.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
CEM10A	Research Skills	20	M
CEM10B	Research Dissertation	40	M
CEM610	Principles of Sustainable Construction	20	M
CEM630	Construction Contract Law and Procurement	20	M
CEM660	Building Information Management and Socio-technical Change	20	M

CEM670	Construction Cost Planning and Economics	20	M
CEM680	Infrastructure Development and Appraisal	20	M

The MSc Construction Cost Management has one optional module.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

This programme may be taken on a flexible-modular basis, normally over 24 months for September and February starts up to a maximum of 63 months.

Placement opportunities

There are no formal arrangements for placements.

Study abroad opportunities

There are no formal arrangements for study abroad.

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery

The programme is delivered face-to-face on campus through a combination of instructor-led and student-led learning and teaching approaches including lectures (by both University staff and guest speakers from industry), site visits, seminars, tutorials, group work and interactive sessions depending on the modules chosen.

Elements of your programme will be delivered in conjunction with the use of University's online learning and teaching platforms (i.e. Blackboard).

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

The MSc Construction Cost Management programme is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB).

Assessment

The general assessment pattern for each module is by coursework. There are no formal examinations in this programme. Detailed assessment regimes are specified in the relevant module descriptions. Each 20-credit module will typically have two major assignments. Assessment is through written term papers and reports, group work, smaller digital deliverables and the research dissertation.

In their work, students are challenged to make clear arguments, question assumptions, form views and support them with evidence from. Written assignments, discussions and group work provide powerful platforms for developing intellectual and critical thinking skills. Dissertation research under supervision provides opportunities for critical thinking and developing the ability to construct arguments from different disciplinary perspectives.

Progression

N/A

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Master's Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%
- (iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits

(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits

(iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

The qualification of PG Diploma excludes CEM10A and CEM10B. Where the conditions for a higher class have been met, the higher class should be awarded.

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

The qualification of PG Certificate excludes CEM10A and CEM10B.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for purchase vary in cost. An allowance of around £50 may be required. A wide range of learning material and resources to support the programme including textbooks, software, and electronic resources are available through the library, computer laboratory, and School-based Resource Centre.

Site visits form an essential component of this programme. Personal Protective Equipment including High Visibility Jackets and Hard Hats may be available to borrow from the School. Students wishing to buy these may incur costs around £5 - £10. Students are expected to purchase their own Construction Boots which may cost around £25 - £40.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MSc Construction Cost Management (full-time) for students entering in session 2027/28
23 July 2026

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