

## Programme Specification

**BSc Quantity Surveying with International Foundation  
Year**

**For students entering Foundation year in September 2027**

**UCAS Code:  
K241 K242**

**UFQSURVFF**

**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            | 4 years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Accreditation                  | <p>This programme is not accredited by the CIOB or RICS.</p> <p>Students who successfully complete Part 0 and meet the progression requirements, which include the course admission criteria, will be transferred to the accredited BSc Quantity Surveying.</p> |
| QAA Subject Benchmarking Group | Land, Construction, Real Estate and Surveying                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

### Programme information and content

BSc Quantity Surveying provides students with the potential to develop a career as a consultant in construction cost management or financial managers of construction organisations. It achieves this aim by the means of learning outcomes which will provide to students a broad education in the academic disciplines related to building design and construction, the management of property, built facility procurement and construction operations. Upon completion students will have acquired a knowledge and understanding of the latest techniques and skills related to construction cost and financial management, and will give to students a potential for the acquisition in practice of an ability to manage the cost and finance of development projects, on behalf of a developer, and manage the financial administration of construction operations.

This programme begins with a foundation year (Part 0) provided through the International Foundation Programme (IFP) which provides access to higher education in Britain to international students who do not possess the normal entry requirements of GCE Advanced level qualifications or the equivalent. Through the Part 0 you will be equipped with subject specific and general study skills which will enable you to cope with the demands of undergraduate study. This is achieved through the provision of high quality teaching which is sympathetic to the needs of students from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Foundation year: | In the Foundation year you will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills through the provision of two compulsory 20-credit modules: Academic Literacy and Skills, and Academic Communication and Inquiry. If your level of |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         | <p>English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, these modules will ensure those English Language Entry Requirements are met.</p> <p>The key skills in these modules relate to Critical Thinking, Academic Writing, Research, Referencing and avoiding plagiarism, Group Work and Projects, Presentations, and Assessment and Examination techniques. You will also take a further 80 credits of subject modules as specified in the module information. These modules are aligned to the 'A Level' entry requirements for the degree and provide the knowledge and skills required for further undergraduate study at Part 1.</p> <p>Students starting Part 0 in January will join Part 1 in September of the same year.</p> |
| Part 1: | Introduces students to the fundamental principles of economics, law and management and the scientific and technical principles of building design and construction that provides a foundation of core knowledge for Parts 2 and 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Part 2: | Provides students with the opportunity to build on the key concepts with greater emphasis on the economics, law and management and their application to the construction and property industries. A balance is struck between understanding theoretical principles and the application of knowledge to real issues in the profession and construction industry. The aim is to develop competencies that can be used to show the students thinking for Part 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Part 3: | Gives students the opportunity to undertake study in a chosen area of specialism including selecting elective modules which are related to the particular expertise and research activities of the School. At the end of their studies, students should be able to develop their skills for their career in the profession and the industry.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

### Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Quantity Surveying with International Foundation Year

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 | <b>Analyse</b> the structure, roles and interrelationships of the property development and construction industries, and the implications of these in practice.               |
| 2 | <b>Evaluate</b> the processes of design, construction and servicing of buildings, considering technical, regulatory and client requirements.                                 |
| 3 | <b>Apply and critically assess</b> environmental, legal, economic and managerial principles in the context of construction and property development.                         |
| 4 | <b>Evaluate and apply</b> approaches to procurement, planning, management and costing in construction projects, justifying the selection of methods for different contexts.  |
| 5 | <b>Apply and appraise</b> cost management and accounting techniques relevant to property development, construction procurement and project delivery.                         |
| 6 | <b>Apply</b> problem-solving and decision-making skills to plan, organise and manage construction-related tasks, and <b>evaluate</b> the effectiveness of chosen approaches. |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7  | <b>Integrate and synthesise</b> knowledge and methods from across subject areas to address construction management challenges.                                                                                                                                                             |
| 8  | <b>Interpret, evaluate and communicate</b> graphical, numerical and written information to support decision- making.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9  | <b>Plan and conduct</b> research using appropriate methodologies, and <b>critically evaluate</b> evidence to produce a structured and coherent report.                                                                                                                                     |
| 10 | <b>Communicate</b> design and specification information clearly in drawn and written form, using manual and computer-aided techniques, appropriate to technical and professional contexts.                                                                                                 |
| 11 | <b>Prepare and critically evaluate</b> key outputs expected from a quantity surveyor, including cost plans, bills of quantities generated through both traditional and computerised methods, life cycle cost analyses, and informed recommendations on appropriate procurement strategies. |
| 12 | <b>Quantify and value</b> building work from design information, <b>evaluating</b> assumptions, uncertainties and risks.                                                                                                                                                                   |

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.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

| Additional Learning outcomes |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| N/A                          |  |

| Module information                                                                                                                          |                                       |         |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed. |                                       |         |       |
| Foundation modules:                                                                                                                         |                                       |         |       |
| Module                                                                                                                                      | Name                                  | Credits | Level |
| IF0ACI                                                                                                                                      | Academic Communication and Inquiry    | 20      | 0     |
| IF0ALS                                                                                                                                      | Academic Literacies and Skills        | 20      | 0     |
| IF0EC1                                                                                                                                      | Foundation Economics - Microeconomics | 20      | 0     |
| IF0EC2                                                                                                                                      | Foundation Economics - Macroeconomics | 20      | 0     |
| IF0FDA                                                                                                                                      | Foundation Data Analysis              | 20      | 0     |
| IF0FIS                                                                                                                                      | Foundation Information Systems        | 20      | 0     |
| Students entering the programme in January will take the following compulsory modules:                                                      |                                       |         |       |
| Module                                                                                                                                      | Name                                  | Credits | Level |
| IF0ALSJ                                                                                                                                     | Academic Literacies and Skills        | 20      | 0     |
| IF0ACIJ                                                                                                                                     | Academic Communication and Inquiry    | 20      | 0     |
| IF0EC1J                                                                                                                                     | Foundation Economics - Microeconomics | 20      | 0     |

|         |                                       |    |   |
|---------|---------------------------------------|----|---|
| IF0EC2J | Foundation Economics - Macroeconomics | 20 | 0 |
| IF0FISJ | Foundation Information Systems        | 20 | 0 |
| IF0FDAJ | Foundation Data Analysis              | 20 | 0 |

### Part 1 Modules:

| Module  | Name                                    | Credits | Level |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| CE1CCS  | Construction Science                    | 20      | 4     |
| CE1CCT  | Construction Technology                 | 20      | 4     |
| CE1CEL  | Introduction to Economics and Law       | 20      | 4     |
| CE1CIC2 | Information and Communication           | 20      | 4     |
| CE1ESE  | Empirical Studies and Site Engineering  | 20      | 4     |
| CE1IMP  | Introduction to Management and Projects | 20      | 4     |

### Part 2 Modules:

| Module | Name                                                       | Credits | Level |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| CE2BPS | Building Pathology and Surveying Practice                  | 20      | 5     |
| CE2CPD | Projects and Digitalisation                                | 20      | 5     |
| CE2CTQ | Introduction to Quantification and Computerised Taking Off | 20      | 5     |
| CE2EST | Building Environment Systems and Technology                | 20      | 5     |
| CE2MCP | Management of Construction Projects 1                      | 20      | 5     |
| CE2PCL | Construction Procurement and Contract Law                  | 20      | 5     |

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

### Part 3 Modules:

| Module | Name                                                  | Credits | Level |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| CE3CPQ | Project QS                                            | 20      | 6     |
| CE3QBC | Quantification and Costing: Buildings and Civil Works | 20      | 6     |
| CE3RSD | Research Skills and Dissertation                      | 40      | 6     |

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of the Built Environment.

### Placement opportunities

N/A

### 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:**

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, tutorials and seminars, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work. Some elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The International Foundation Programme will include at least 18 hours of classroom-based teaching each week.

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.

A mixture of the following teaching and learning methods are used to achieve the programme learning outcomes. The proportions vary depending upon the specific modules. For the student, the proportion will also be determined by the pathway and options chosen in the final year.

### **Lectures and tutorials**

Formal lectures are typically one to two hours in length. Academic staff and guest lecturers deliver subject content in creative and innovative ways to achieve active participation by the learner students. Substantive problems are illustrated in lectures and discussed in smaller tutorial groups for selected modules. The students are expected to undertake independent self-directed study to extend and deepen their understanding.

### **Project work**

In all years of the programme, students undertake project-based modules. Students are provided with real-life and simulated scenarios and practical exercises which apply the theory and concepts that they learn from the programme. These projects involve substantial amounts of group work and help build both technical and interpersonal skills. They often use enquiry-based learning techniques which help deepen students' understanding and also help them develop problem-solving skills. Peer assessment is an important element of this group work.

### **Field trips / industry visits**

Throughout the three years of the programme, students have opportunity to go on field trips, site and industry visits. This is part of our industry-orientated approach that underpins our programme. Field trips are organised by the programme director, module convenors or the career development advisor. Career events are organised on-campus where small, medium and large consultancies and construction organisations talk to students, display their placement offerings and job opportunities for all year groups. These events take place twice a year and typically involve 20+ firms coming to the UoR.

### **Online learning**

We use the University of Reading's Virtual Learning Environment (Blackboard) to give students all their module and programme materials. This online tool is also used for classwork, questions and answer forums and other related work. We also use Teams for online classes and meetings with students. Students' assignments are submitted and graded via Turnitin or Blackboard and feedback is also given online. We use some subject specific e-learning, such as the teaching of Revit for production of drawings and CostX for taking-off and other technology-enhanced learning techniques. Students have access to the Building Cost Information Service through the digital library, with digital access to all current International (ISO) and British Standards.

### **Accreditation details**

N/A

### **Assessment**

Knowledge and understanding in Parts 1 and 2 is assessed primarily by unseen examinations and coursework which takes various forms. Intellectual skills in Part 1 are assessed by laboratory reports, tutorial presentations, essays and unseen examination papers. In Parts 2 and 3, these skills are assessed by group project working, individual project reports and a dissertation. Assessment of practical skills is via coursework and the submission of project reports. Unseen examinations are also used where students are encouraged to display knowledge of techniques and skills. Part 3 projects are designed to test students' competence in exercising practical skills. Transferable skills are assessed through coursework and presentations. The types of assessment include: (i) Summative assessment – generally carried out towards the end of a module or project, contributes towards results; and (ii) Formative assessment – generally carried out throughout a module or project to aid learning; this does not contribute towards results. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

### **Progression**

#### *Foundation Year*

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

- (i) obtain an overall weighted average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 0; and

(ii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all individual modules.

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 and be eligible for transfer to BSc Quantity Surveying, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iii) and 50% in each of Academic Literacies and Skills (IF0ALS) or (IF0ALSJ) and Academic Communication and Inquiry (IF0ACI) or (IF0ACIJ).

### *Part 1*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

(i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and  
(ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and

(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

### *Part 2*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

(i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and  
(ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and  
(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

## **Classification**

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class  
50% - 59% Lower Second class  
40% - 49% Third class  
35% - 39% Below Honours Standard  
0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

*Three year programmes:*

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

*Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:*

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study abroad: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

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

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

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

### **Additional costs of the programme**

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £300 to £500 a year. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost starting at £0.05 (A4, black and white) per page. Costs will depend significantly on your working practices. Most assignments are submitted electronically although occasionally hard copy submission may be required. This is typically when hand drawing or writing is required.

You will be required to buy on arrival a drawing kit which will cost in the range of £50 - £100.

There are a range of field trips included in the course which are usually provided at a low cost 0 - £20 per trip. It would be sensible to budget for at least two of these trips per academic year.

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.**

BSc Quantity Surveying with International Foundation Year for students entering Foundation year in session 2027/28

10 June 2026

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