

# **Programme Specification**

## **MSc Construction Project Management**

**Date of Publication to Students [2013]**

**NOTE:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found (1) at [\[http://www.bcu.ac.uk/tee\]](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/tee), (2) in the Module Specifications and (3) in the Student Handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

<b>Awarding Institution / Body:</b>	Birmingham City University
<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	Faculty of Technology, Engineering and the Environment Birmingham School of the Built Environment
<b>Interim Awards and Final Award:</b>	PG Certificate, PG Diploma, MSc
<b>Programme Title:</b>	MSc Construction Project Management
<b>Main fields of Study:</b>	Construction management Project management
<b>Modes of Study:</b>	Full & Part time
<b>Language of Study:</b>	English
<b>UCAS Code:</b>	Not applicable
<b>JACS Code:</b>	Not applicable

**Professional Status of the programme (if applicable):**

This programme has been accredited by Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

**Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to inform programme outcomes:**

Master Award of Business and Management

### **Programme philosophy and aims**

The construction industry is extremely dynamic throughout the world supporting regeneration as well as developing economies. Managing a construction project from inception and design right through to occupation requires a wide range of skills and involves many people as a project must be delivered safely, on time, on budget and to the highest possible quality. Clients have become more demanding, the regulatory framework has become more complex, and technology plays an increasingly important role. Furthermore, the construction industry is facing the challenge of globalisation and climate change. The complexity of construction projects requires construction professionals to have expertise in construction project management and can work effectively with people from different cultural background. As construction activities have an imminent and long-lasting effect on the environment, sustainable and environmentally sound construction methods and innovative management practices are needed. Demand for highly skilled, innovative and far-sighted construction project managers is constantly increasing.

This MSc Construction Project Management programme seeks to respond to a changing employment market and to the changing requirements of the construction industry. Its aim is to give the students a broad yet rigorous grounding in the fundamentals of organising and managing construction projects. It seeks to provide the students with the knowledge and skills that will meet the challenges presented by these changes and provides opportunities for cognate graduates from diverse backgrounds including international students, students with limited professional experience, as well as students looking for mid career development in a construction management specialist area. This programme will challenge the students to question their current thinking and the practices adopted in the face of a rapidly changing global construction industry, and develop their abilities to be innovative and creative in solving unique problems. This programme is designed to promote critical thinking and problem solving, and encourage students to engage in life-long learning and become an independent professional learner.

#### **The aims of the programme are to:**

- facilitate students develop a systematic understanding of the knowledge and a critical awareness of the problems, issues and opportunities for the management of construction projects;
- improve students' awareness and appreciation of the conflicting interests within construction projects and the political, social, cultural, economic, technological, environmental, legal and organisational factors involved;
- develop students' problem-solving skills and inter-personal and communication skills and other competences;
- enable students to become more capable, creative, reflective and critical construction professionals;
- help students enhance their career opportunities within a global construction industry.

**Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:**

**Learning Outcomes**

In order to achieve the aims of the course, the learning outcomes are related to each of the following four main areas:

- Knowledge and understanding;
- Intellectual skills;
- Practical skills;
- Transferable skills.

**On successful completion of the course the students will be able to:**

**Knowledge and understanding**

- 1) Identify and define problems in the management of construction projects;
- 2) Understand the principles of managing construction projects;
- 3) Describe the basic methods of managing construction projects;
- 4) Appreciate the different construction project management practices;
- 5) Explain and discuss the process of the management of construction projects.

**Intellectual Skills**

- 1) Critically appraise information collected;
- 2) Debate logically and coherently on issues in the management of construction projects;
- 3) Differentiate the diverse and multiple perspectives involved in the management of construction projects;
- 4) Synthesise theory and practice to design / implement practical solutions;
- 5) Conceptualise new practice through lateral thinking.

**Practical Skills**

- 1) Interpret information in the management of construction projects;
- 2) Apply competently the contemporary technologies used in the management of construction projects;
- 3) Evaluate different options available in the management of construction projects;
- 4) Make incisive decisions through an explicit and systematic understanding of the political, social, cultural, economical, technological, environmental, legal and organisational factors in the management of construction projects;
- 5) Apply research and advanced scholarship skills to inquire into the management of construction projects.

### **Transferable Skills**

- 1) Manage time and prioritise workloads effectively;
- 2) Communicate in various forms coherently and comprehensibly to a diverse range of audience;
- 3) Work professionally and ethically with other people and contribute to team goals;
- 4) Access and make appropriate use of relevant materials and information;
- 5) Show confidence, self-awareness and self-reliance through critical reflection.

### **Learning teaching, and assessment methods used**

#### ***Knowledge and Understanding***

- Face-to-face traditional lecture, seminar, tutorial, self-directed study and peer review sessions.
- Directed independent learning activities are encouraged at all stages of the course.
- Knowledge and understanding are acquired through rich media web based curricula and use of collaborative technologies where appropriate.
- Knowledge and competence assessment is undertaken by tutors and peers. This is both formative and summative and includes seminars, coursework, practical case studies, theory projects, and time constrained examinations.
- Students are supported beyond the traditional face-to-face delivery by appropriate tools and technologies developed to support collaborative working.

#### ***Intellectual Skills***

- Intellectual skills are developed through teaching and learning programme previously outlined.
- Analytical and problem solving skills are further developed using a range of appropriate 'real' and 'theoretical' case-studies and problem based learning scenarios.
- The formative assessments are to be used to monitor progress and to feed this progress back to the students.
- Assessment can include individual written coursework, individual and group presentations, portfolio, reflective journal, and time constrained examinations.

#### ***Practical Skills***

- The acquisition of appropriate and transferable practical skills is central to the learning strategy of the programmes.
- Initiative and independence are fostered throughout and develop incrementally as the course progresses.
- Emphasis is place on guided, self-directed and student-centred learning, with increasing independence of approach, thought and process.
- Learners are encouraged to plan their own work schedules and are required

to meet strict deadlines.

- Learners who go on to do the MSc element of the course are required to plan and execute a related research project.
- The research methods element provides the vehicle for the development of research and learning skill developments.

### ***Transferable skills***

- Transferable skills are core to the learning strategy of the programme. They are pervasive, and are incorporated into work units and assessments as appropriate, for example; team-working skills are fostered through the use of group, task-based practical projects.
- The use of information technology plays an integral role throughout the course.
- A full range of resources are identified including books, journals as well as locally created material.

### ***Assessment***

A range of assessment methods is employed, assessment criteria being published in each assignment brief. Knowledge and skills are assessed, formatively and summative, by a number of methods, which may include coursework, examination, individual / group presentation, portfolio, reflective journal, viva's, online forums, podcasts, and project work.

## **Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards**

There are eight taught Level 7 modules with 15 credits each and one Dissertation worth of 60 credits in this programme. Students who successfully complete four taught modules will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate, and another four taught modules for a Postgraduate Diploma. The final award of the Master's degree follows successful completion of a dissertation.

	<b>Modules</b>			
<b>Master's</b> (60 credits)	Dissertation			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</b> (4x15=60 credits)	People and Organisation	Innovation in Construction	Project Management Methods	Critical Evaluation of Practice
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester</b> (4x15=60 credits)	Construction Law and Contract	International Construction	Sustainable Construction	Business Management

### **Support for Learning including Personal Development Planning (PDP)**

Students are encouraged to identify and, with guidance, to reflect on their own learning needs and are offered the following support as appropriate to meet those needs:

- An induction programme dealing with orientation and the dissemination of essential information including the philosophy of the course;
- An introductory session dealing with writing assignments and referencing;
- A Course Guide, containing information relating to the University, the Faculty and the School, the course and the modules;
- Access to administrative staff and academic staff, including Programme Director and Head of School, at reasonable times;
- Fully resourced Learning Centre available at City Centre Campus;
- A virtual learning environment to support students remotely via collaborative tools and technologies;
- Access to the services of the Faculty librarian;
- Access to Faculty Student Support Tutors;
- Access to the University's Student Services, including those offered by the careers service, financial advisers, medical centre, disability service, crèche, counselling service, chaplaincy and Centre for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching;
- Group tutorials;
- Individual tutorials: face to face, email correspondence and over the telephone;
- A number of the modules have lectures by practitioners which makes the academic programme more accessible and more useful to practice.

### **Criteria for admission**

Candidates must satisfy the general admissions requirements of the programme, which are as follows:

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The current admission requirements can be found under the „Entry Requirements“ tab of the web page for this course

Students who do not possess the above qualifications may, in exceptional circumstances if they have relevant professional experience, be invited to an interview and take a test, at which they will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Overseas students need to demonstrate a good command of English. IELTS 6.0 or equivalent is needed before they can enrol in this programme.

### **Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students**

The following committees and procedures are in place to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of quality and standards, and also to give students a mechanism for effective communication and consultation:

**Committees:**

- Course team
- Board of Studies
- Examination Board
- Faculty Academic Sub-Committee
- Faculty Learning and Teaching Group
- Faculty Board
- Academic Quality and Support

**Mechanisms for review and evaluation:**

- Student representatives
- Review and validation events
- Internal moderation
- Annual Monitoring
- Student feedback questionnaires
- External Examiners' Reports
- Course team meetings and Away Days