



Course Specification – Part A

MSc in Construction Project and Cost Management

EECT020 (oncampus)

EECT143 (online)

**Faculty of Engineering Environment & Computing
School of Energy, Construction & Environment**

Academic Year 2021/22

Please 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 full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Coventry University's accreditation with CMI is currently ongoing for the relevant modules and is regularly reviewed and monitored by the CMI through their quality systems. Whilst Coventry University anticipates that these reviews will continue to be successful, if they were to be unsuccessful, the relevant module in this course would no longer be accredited and we would notify applicants and students of this change as soon as possible.

PART A Course Specification (Published Document)
MSc Construction Project and Cost Management

1. Introduction

The UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (UKDBIS, 2016) claims that the construction industry is facing its greatest skills crisis since 1998; with high shortage of quantity surveyors and project managers. Moreover, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyor (RICS, 2016) assert that shortages of quantity surveyors and project managers have hit their highest level with 54% of firms reporting insufficient numbers of quantity surveyors and project managers available to meet the needs of the current rise in construction works.

Construction Project and Cost Management (CPCM) is a multidisciplinary subject involved in all aspects of construction, real estate/property business and civil engineering works; the discipline render services ranging from procurement advise, commercial guidance, measurement of construction items, quantification of resources, valuations, costing/estimating, life cycle costing, value management, value engineering, contract administration/management, project management and other post construction management decisions.

The MSc Construction Project and Cost Management course has been developed in response to a rapid cultural change in the construction industry, towards less adversarial approaches to project management, and the demand for continuing professional development. This has increased the need for high quality courses of study.

The course is unique and practice led for new graduates and mid-career professionals. In adapting the delivery of our current suite of accredited Masters programmes we hope to encourage both new and experienced recruits to the construction industry. The new Master's degree will provide learners with the flexibility to meet both their skills development and their educational requirements whilst either progressing from undergraduate degrees or currently in work.

The course will appeal to a wider range of construction professionals engaged in construction/project management, civil and structural engineering, architectural technology, surveying and building services engineering. Those completing the course will be able to enter the profession and develop to become senior practitioners with a focus on the field of strategic Construction Project and Cost Management (CPCM).

In addition, the course has been developed to provide a link for non-cognate graduates joining the Construction Profession in particular Project Management, Cost Consultancy and Quantity Surveying. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) are continuing to focus their educational strategy increasingly on the attraction of well qualified non-cognate entrants to the profession. This course is a direct response to this as it provides a mechanism for non-cognate students to gain the required educational basis for entry to the Assessment of Professional Competence/ Professional Development Programme.

It is intended that the course will share a core of common modules with the MSc course in Construction Management with BIM, thus forming a linked postgraduate suite of courses with specialisms in construction and within the School of Energy, Construction and Environment. We encourage students to develop the innovation and creativity required to tackle the complex commercial and project management problems currently facing the construction and real estate industry relating to sustainability, life cycle costing, service innovation and value co-creation.

You will be taught by staff with academic and professional experience in quantity surveying, project management, commercial management, civil engineering and the construction industry. We also have a strong portfolio of industry-related research, particularly in the areas of low carbon building technology, sustainable construction materials and engineering education, which ensures you stay informed on modern technologies and contemporary issues. Many of our staff are active researchers and consultants to RICS and CIOB.

- We enjoy excellent links with employers like Balfour Beatty, Laing O'Rourke, and National Grid, many of whom provide direct input into course development as members of our Building Advisory Boards.
- Full accreditation from the RICS and CIOB (Note: due to current course review exercise accreditation of the course is subject to re-approval by RICS), which is a requirement on the path towards membership of both professional bodies.

- Opportunity for students to gain additional professional qualifications as well as a degree – Undertake an activity to enhance their understanding on international perspective of construction and undergo a Building Research Establishment Energy Assessment Method (BREEAM) to become an Accredited Graduate (BREEAM AG unit 1 to 4 included in the course).
- Expert visiting lecturers, who have previously featured professional Quantity Surveyors, Project Managers and Commercial Managers, who delivered sessions on construction, project and cost management practices.
- As part of this course you will undertake a professional development module which is currently accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). Upon successful completion of the module, you will gain the CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice at no additional cost.

Students may study on a full or part time basis and may be studied on campus in Coventry or online. Both modes of study will contain elements of synchronous learning e.g. an on-campus seminar or an on-line class and asynchronous learning via material accessible online 24 hours a day.

As the Construction Project & Cost Management course will be utilising several modern digital tools students will naturally develop additional technical skills in digital fluency. Students will develop critical computer skills as they progress through the guided learning management systems. Students will become familiar with systems such as online learning platforms, online forums, cloud based file sharing, audio and video conferencing and online team communication and meeting systems.

Academic Personal Tutor & Zero credit Modules

The University will also provide additional support to students throughout their study through the Academic Personal Tutor program via two zero-credit modules. Each student will be allocated a personal tutor who throughout their study, will be a direct point of contact to support the student through their academic life and study. Students will have timetabled sessions with their APT which will focus on general study support as well as support through the modules.

Through these zero credit modules students will have the opportunity to enhance critical construction and research skills with the support of online material and academic personal tutor tutorials.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	<u>FHEQ Level</u>
MSc Construction Project and Cost Management	FT 1 year: PT normally 2 years. Maximum 5 years.	Not applicable	7 (M)

3 Awarding Institution/ Body	Coventry University
4 Collaboration	Not applicable
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery	Coventry University Coventry University – online
6 Internal Approval/Review Dates	Date of approval: March 2018 Date for next review: 2026

7 Course Accredited by	MSc Construction Project & Cost Management is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
8 Accreditation Date and Duration	RICS operate an annually renewable partnership arrangement. Accreditation is therefore offered on a perpetual basis. CIOB – 2018-2023
9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors	MSc Construction Project and Cost Management must satisfy requirements of RICS and CIOB. No formal framework exists however this is discussed and agreed during the annual partnership arrangement as identified in section 8 above.
10 Date of Course Specification	April 2021
11 Course Director	Dingayo Mzyece

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

The specific aims of the course have evolved over many years and the MSc Construction Project and Cost Management course has been provided in order to reflect the changing structure of the industry and to equip students to meet the future challenges as well as to take advantage of current thinking as to best practice in education. The specific course aims are as follows:

1. provide an educational experience that meets students' needs and expectations and those of the sectors' employers;
2. provide students with critical skills in project and cost management which will prepare them to enter into a modern construction industry;
3. provide an in depth understanding of accounting and financial principles and use of financial information to analyse problems and assess performance in the construction industry;
4. develop a detailed understanding of theoretical and practical aspects of strategic management in the construction industry and corporate management processes in the construction industry;
5. To provide an up to date curriculum which meets the needs of the Cost Management and Project Management professions to help graduates succeed in their chosen career directions;
6. To facilitate the students enrolling on the course with a wide range of academic attainments to achieve their academic and personal development potential;
7. To satisfy the academic requirements of the RICS and CIOB
8. To satisfy the needs of students wishing or needing to study on a full time, or part time basis and accommodate the changing circumstances of individuals by allowing them to choose their mode of study;
9. To be of benefit to the community at large by providing graduates whose employment in the built environment, as well as other spheres of employment, is to the national and international interest.
10. To provide opportunities for students on postgraduate course to study alongside colleagues from construction management and related disciplines in integrated project work and other common modules which simulate the environment in which they will work upon graduation.

13 Course Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes the MSc Construction Project and Cost Management course will have achieved the following Course Learning Outcomes.

1. Demonstrate an advanced understanding and knowledge of the key concepts, theories and principles used in Quantity Surveying and Construction Project Management.
2. Critical appreciation of the significant factors constraining the effective management and development of the built environment (e.g. physical, legal, economic and technological factors) and Health and Safety precautions and their associated cost implications on construction projects.
3. Critically evaluate and apply modern financial evaluation techniques to development projects in the built environment with underlying analysis being informed by the wider business and capital markets areas; and illustrate advanced research and analytical capabilities to inform decision making at advanced level.
4. Appraise theoretical and practical aspects of strategic management, leadership and consultancy in business organisations.
5. Evaluate and develop objective strategies to examine commercial and business scenarios in the form of case studies and projects related to construction project and cost management profession.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the multi-disciplinary nature of the construction process. The roles and responsibilities of the construction professionals and stakeholders, and a respect for the fellow team members in terms of both diversity and cultural values.
7. Ability to present quantitative and qualitative information, together with analysis, argument and commentary, in an appropriate form to an intended audience, including appropriate acknowledgement and referencing of sources.
8. Demonstrate competence at an advanced level in developing independent, ethical research on an individual area of interest in construction, project and cost management by applying appropriate and ethical research methodologies to produce a dissertation.
9. Critically evaluate the principles for leading and developing people and equality, diversity and inclusion at a strategic level.

14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

On this course, you may be able to switch between studying on campus and studying online at certain points of the academic year, subject to availability. Request processes and restrictions apply. A change in study mode is likely to have visa and/or student finance implications. If you have commenced your studies online after having been refused a UK visa or had a request for sponsorship declined by Coventry University, you will not be eligible to switch between study modes.

The requirements and curricula for the following awards are defined in this document: MSc/PgD Construction Project & Cost Management and unnamed PgCert

Specific requirements for final and fall-back awards are detailed with the curricula structures.

The MSc Construction Project and Cost Management course may be studied via the following modes of attendance: Full-time and Part-time. Part time students study alongside full time students.

Details of modules included with these programmes are listed in table 14.1 below which includes their credit value. A brief rationale and the market focus for the programme is provided in the introduction to this document.

The programmes have been designed to operate over a flexible one year of full-time study but may be taken over a longer period. Part-time participants normally complete an MSc over two years.

Awards:

MSc Construction Project & Cost Management

All the taught modules and the project as listed in the programme of study in table 14.1 (180 CATS credits).

Fall back awards

Requires at a minimum of pass in all taught modules plus 90 additional credits passes in taught modules as defined in the programme of study. (without the research project) - 120 CATS credits in total.

- Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) Unnamed (Any 120 credits in taught modules as defined in the programme of study.)
- Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) Unnamed (Any 60 credits in taught modules as defined in the programme of study.)

Table 14.1

Mandatory Modules for MSc Construction Project and Cost Management				
Module credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Course Learning Outcomes
7	7105EXQ	Pre Contract Management Practice	15	1, 2 & 7
7	7107EXQ	Global Project Management Practice	15	1, 2 & 4
7	7166EXQ	Integrated Project	15	2 & 5
7	7067EXQ	Financial and Asset Management	15	1 & 3
7	7113EXQ	Strategic Management for Construction and Engineering	15	4 & 7
7	7109EXQ	Contemporary Issues & Research Methodologies	15	4, 6 & 8
7	7070EXQ	Contract Management Practice and Law	15	1 & 7
7	7111EXQ	Construction Cost Management	15	1, 2, 3 & 7
7	7049CRB**	Leading Diverse Workforces	10	9
7	7165EXQ	Research Project	50	6 & 8
7	7084EXQ*	Supporting Transition to Postgraduate Study	0	1 & 2
7	7074EXQ *	Preparing to Research	0	6 & 8

* These modules cannot be resat or repeated. They are pass/fail based on attendance, failure will not stop progression or completion, but will be listed as a fail on the transcript.

** Students have the opportunity to undertake the Chartered Management Institute Module Leading Diverse Workforces. Students who successfully complete the module and meet the CMI learning outcomes will gain a Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice based on the following CMI units: Leading

and developing people to optimise performance (unit 702); Strategic approaches to diversity and Inclusion (unit 715).

Students who successfully complete this module will be awarded Foundation Chartered Manager status and be able to use the designation 'fCMgr' after their name.

15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

15.1 General criteria for admission to the postgraduate taught programmes

UCAS entry profiles may be found by searching for the relevant course on the [UCAS website](#), then clicking on 'Entry profile'.

Normally, the entrance requirement is a second classification degree in a relevant discipline. Current requirements are specified on the course page of the university web page.

- Participants whose first language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in verbal and written English language equivalent to IELTS 6.5 or higher (with at least 5.5 in any one component) or equivalent qualification
- Applications from those not possessing the equivalent of an honours degree will be considered on individual merit and decisions will be based on careful evaluation of the capacity of the applicant to complete the programme successfully.
- The programme is subject to the general University admission procedures and access policies.
- Recognition for prior learning (RPL) is in accordance with University regulations for taught postgraduate courses.

15.2 Admission criteria

Details on admission criteria can be found on the University website. <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/>

15.3 Course Availability

The course is available through full time and part time online and campus study modes.

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard [University Regulations](#) Mode R

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The following are key indicators of quality and standards:

- The MSc Construction Project and Cost Management course has been designed in accordance with the QAA benchmark statements for Construction, Property & Surveying and relevant aspects of Construction as appropriate.
- The School has a strong portfolio of industry-related research, particularly in the areas of low carbon building technology and sustainable construction materials, and engineering education.
- All courses in the School are accredited (or are seeking accreditation) from the relevant professional institutions.
- All staff who teach on the course are active in scholarship/research and have a range of professional experience in Quantity Surveying, Project Management, Building Surveying, Civil Engineering, the construction industry and related art and design disciplines.
- The School has excellent links with local employers through our Building Advisory Board. These local employers provide input to course management, delivery and development.
- Within the School the record of students gaining employment in the construction industry is excellent

QAA

- The University's quality procedures were confirmed by a QAA Higher Education Review in 2015.
- There is a diverse and active range of research activities influencing courses in most areas of the Faculty.
- All of the existing courses carry external professional recognition.
- Strong and regular industry input to the subject-base. This is achieved in many ways, for example through the long-standing advisory boards, industry-focused collaborative research initiatives and use of guest speakers from industry.

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including:

- Student Handbook
- Course Handbook
- Module Guides
- Aula Course & Module Webs
- Module Information Directory <https://webapp.coventry.ac.uk/MidWebNext/Main.aspx>
- EEC Student Portal <https://students.coventry.ac.uk/EC/Pages/Home.aspx>
- Coventry University Student Portal <https://students.coventry.ac.uk/Pages/index.aspx>