

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	MSc Construction Management
Award	MSc
School	Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering
Department or equivalent	Civil Engineering
Programme code	PSCONM
Type of study	Full Time    Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

This programme is primarily addressed to civil engineers, architects, and individuals of a related background who intend to pursue a management career in construction. It comprises of eight modules concerned with the management and operation of construction businesses, projects and the people within them. It is delivered by selected senior professionals involved in the management, planning, financing, and delivery of large scale civil engineering and construction projects. The eight taught modules, all of which are core (compulsory), are complemented by a research project/dissertation on a specific topic of relevance to construction management.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is regularly reviewed by the University.

There are two routes for study. The Full-time option and the Part-time option, designed to be attractive to students working full-time within reasonable commuting distance of City, University of London.

*Full-time route* ~ a 12-month full-time option during which students attend all taught modules in two periods (Period 1- Autumn and Period 2- Spring) and complete their Project over the summer months. All taught modules are delivered within two full days per week to provide flexibility for independent study and for group work.

*Part-time route* ~ a 24-month part-time option during which a student attends half the modules in a first year, followed by the other half the second year. Attendance is required for one full day per week during the four teaching periods. The Project is undertaken by part-time students in the second year.

### ***MSc in Construction Management***

For an MSc, you must obtain 120 credits (i.e., pass all eight core modules in the taught part of the programme listed under the “What will I study?” item found below) **and** successfully complete the Dissertation module EPM930 carrying 60 credits.

**Post Graduate Certificate (PG Cert) in Construction Management**

The first exit route is to be awarded a Post Graduate Certificate (PG Cert) in Construction Management. At least 60 credits out of the available 120 credits of the taught part of the programme should be achieved. Credits from any combination of modules listed under the “What will I study?” item found below can be considered as long as they add up to 60 credits or more.

**Post Graduate Diploma (PG Dip) in Construction Management.**

The second exit route is to be awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma (PG Dip) in Construction Management. You must obtain all the available 120 credits of the taught part of the programme.

**Aims**

The programme aims to:

- Provide a broad foundation in various aspects of theory and practice in the field of general management
- Develop the practical management skills required for a rewarding career in construction management of civil/structural facilities
- Demonstrate a range of skills and knowledge in the practice of planning, financing, and delivering large scale civil engineering, infrastructure, and construction projects

**WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

**On successful completion of the MSc programme, you will be expected to be able to:**

**Knowledge and understanding:**

- Assemble and critically evaluate the scientific principles relevant to construction management
- Critically evaluate the general theory and methods of modern management in the context of real construction projects.
- Formulate an overview of the major issues involved in managing projects within firms and businesses operating in the building/construction industrial sector.
- Critically evaluate and apply academic research and knowledge in decision-making to a wide range of situations arising in the construction industry.
- Propose information technology solutions to increase productivity and to communicate effectively results obtained through analysis, design, and management of all resources.

**Skills:**

- Critically analyse and test concepts and hypotheses for innovative solutions to problems occurring in businesses and organisations.

- Collect relevant information/data from a wide range of sources, and to have the analytical skills to evaluate and organize such data and sources to come up with reliable solutions.
- Plan the use of appropriate information technology tools for the effective communication of data derived in the various stages of analysis, design and management of projects undertaken by industrial businesses.
- Problem solve, retrieve information and make effective use of general IT facilities
- Critical appraise the skills required to work effectively and with self-confidence in a multi-disciplinary professional environment.

Values and attitudes:

- Solve complex problems using a professional approach.
- Examine the interpersonal skills necessary for effective working in the construction industry.
- Evaluate and plan a broad range of issues impacting organisations and businesses.
- Plan self-learning and improve performance, as the foundation for lifelong learning/CPD
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This programme has been developed in accordance with Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**

The rationale for learning, teaching and assessment strategies is predicated on the modelling of an active approach to convey the necessary technical knowledge and to develop the appropriate skills required for a managerial post in the construction industry. Thus, the learning and teaching strategies for each module will encompass a range of methods which support this objective, including:

- Lectures, seminars and presentations delivered by visiting practitioners and specialists.
- Case studies prepared in groups, presented and debated in class
- Personal reading of additional references, academic, and professional journal articles in management and in construction
- Various individual and group assignments ranging from essay writing to preparing group in-class presentations
- Hands-on exercises using specialist software such as MS Project and Project Management Simulator
- Individual work on a specific project under the supervision of a programme lecturer for at least a four month period of time which includes delivering a final dissertation/report.
- There is a significant amount of independent study within each module and this time for you to read literature related to the modules you are studying.

The in-class contact hours are 30 hours per 15 credit module. The general

expectation is that for every hour of contact students should spend 3 to 4 hours (depending on their entrance level and prior experience) of self-directed study and group work. The work outside class includes the time spent on coursework and the time involved in preparation of final examinations when applicable.

## **WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

### Assessment and Assessment Criteria

In general, you are assessed via

- Invigilated final written examinations;
- Coursework assignments (individual or in groups);
- Case studies involving in-class presentation and discussion;
- Oral presentation of Project proposals and final Project dissertation.

Given the nature of the programme and its intended learning outcomes, the majority of the taught modules are assessed via coursework assignments only. These are designed to promote individual critical thinking (e.g. individual essay writing assignments, etc) and to promote group work skills and collaborative group spirit (e.g. group essay writing assignments, group in-class presentations, etc). The modules assessed via final examinations are, in principal, the more “technical” ones requiring specific knowledge of important topics in the construction industry with an ability to use this acquired knowledge in fast decision-making. Even those modules assessed via final examinations include a coursework component which is used either to complement the material assessed via the examination, or to prepare students for the final examination. The particular marking schemes for the various assessed components for each module of the programme are included in detail in the programme handbook.

The research project is assessed through a dissertation, which is a significant written report on an independent piece of research that will enable you to apply knowledge, critical thinking and analysis to a topic which has either not been covered in the taught modules or not in such depth. With regards to Project assessment, all details are included in the Project handbook which becomes available to you by the end of Period 1.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

### Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer and is confirmed in the programme handbook. The full policy can be found at:

[https://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/68921/assessment\\_and\\_feedback\\_policy.pdf](https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf)

### Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should successfully complete or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. You also need to pass each Part of your Programme in order to progress to the following Part.

The pass mark for each module is 50%.

For modules with more than one assessment component, the aggregate mark of the two components is considered. This mark is calculated as specified in the relevant module specification

If you fail a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of 20 credits at first or resit attempt (15 for a Postgraduate Certificate), you may be allowed compensation if:
  - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the What will I Study section of the Programme specification), and
  - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Part, and
  - A minimum overall mark of no more than 10% below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
  - An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

Where you are eligible for compensation at the first attempt, this will be applied in the first instance rather than offering a resit opportunity.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you will be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks shall be retained in the record of marks and the greater of the original module mark and the minimum pass mark for the module shall be used for the purpose of calculation towards the Award.

2. Resit: Where you are not eligible for compensation at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award, as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:  
[http://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc](http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc)

### WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

#### Master's Degree:

Part	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	67
Dissertation	7	60	33

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

#### Postgraduate Diploma:

Part	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

#### Postgraduate Certificate:

Part	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	60	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The programme is structured into 8 core taught modules (120 credits in total) and a dissertation (60 credits). All of the core modules carry 15 credits each. Thus, a student must obtain 120 credits in the taught part of the programme. Four of the modules have written examinations (EPM955, EPM932, EPM958, and EPM960) with the examinations being worth 50% of the final module mark. The remaining modules are assessed by coursework only. For the Full-time option, these modules are taught over two terms in one year. For the Part-time option, these modules are taught over four terms in two years. Work on the dissertation starts early during the final term (second term for full-time option, fourth term for the part-time option). Most of the work is carried out during the period of June-September following the final term.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Project Planning and Management	EPM955	15	C	Y	7
Project Funding & Finance	EPM932	15	C	Y	7
Leadership and the Advanced Practice of Management	EPM956	15	C	Y	7
Information Management and BIM in Construction	EPM957	15	C	Y	7
International Construction Contracts and Arbitration	EPM958	15	C	Y	7
People Management and Human Behaviour	EPM937	15	C	Y	7
Corporate Governance and Operations Management	EPM959	15	C	Y	7
Health & Safety, Sustainable Development & Corporate Social Responsibility	EPM960	15	C	Y	7
Dissertation	EPM930	60	C	N	7

## TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

Graduates have a variety of employment opportunities as project managers in construction and engineering consultancy firms and as managers/leaders of construction business units both public and private. Potential employers include general contractors, real estate developers, sub contractors, construction management firms and architectural engineering firms. Recent graduates have joined firms including Laing O'Rourke, Jacobs Engineering UK, Arup, Mace, Balfour Beatty, VCL Group and WSP.

Furthermore, graduates have the opportunity of seeking employment with prominent global architectural, engineering, and construction firms based in London through the well-established links of City with the industry.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

### **WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?**

#### **Accrediting Body**

The course is accredited by the Joint Board of Moderators (JBM) which is the accreditation body for Civil Engineering related programmes in the UK. JBM includes:  
ICE (Institution of Civil Engineers),  
IStructE (Institution of Structural Engineers),  
IHE (Institute of Highway Engineers),  
CIHT (Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation)

#### **Nature of Accreditation**

The course is accredited under the "Further Learning Scheme for Chartered Engineer"  
More details can be found on-line at the URL:  
<http://www.jbm.org.uk/>

### **HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

Applicants are normally expected to have at least a lower second class honours degree in Civil Engineering, Architecture, Surveying or other construction related/ build environment disciplines. Applicants with a different academic background will be considered provided they have adequate documented work experience in the construction industry.

For those overseas applicants, whose first language is not English or their country has not been exempted from the English language requirement by the UK Home Office, they will need to provide one of the following English test qualifications:  
IELTS: 7.0 overall with a minimum of 6.5 in Writing.  
TOEFL 100 (with a minimum of 24 in Writing)

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