

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	MSc Construction Management
Award	MSc
School	School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences
Department or equivalent	School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences
Programme code	PSCONM
Type of study	Full Time Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. 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.

This programme is primarily addressed to civil engineers, architects, and individuals of a related background intended to pursue a management career in civil infrastructure construction activities. The course comprises carefully-chosen management modules from the MSc in Management course of Cass Business School taught delivered by staff members affiliated to Cass Business School, along with construction-oriented modules delivered by selected senior professional engineers heavily involved in the planning, financing, and delivery of large scale civil engineering projects. There are 10 core (compulsory modules). These modules are complemented by a research project/dissertation on a specific topic of interest in construction management.

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

*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 ten 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.

#### **Aims**

The programme aims to:

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

#### **Other awards and exit routes**

Although you can only apply for the MSc route and enrol as an MSc Construction Management candidate, you may exit with a Post Graduate Certificate (PG Cert) in Construction Management or with a Post Graduate Diploma (PG Dip) in Construction Management. To be awarded a PG Cert in Construction Management you must obtain at least 60 credits out of the available 120 credits of the taught part of the programme. 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. To be awarded a PG Dip in Construction Management you must obtain all the available 120 credits of the taught part of the programme.

#### **The learning outcomes for each of these programmes are:**

##### **Postgraduate Certificate**

For all of you completing the Postgraduate Certificate in Construction Management you will be able to examine the theories related to leadership, management, finance and construction management and apply these to the project management process. You will have critical insight into problems related to contemporary issues in project management and be able to solve these using leadership and organisation skills. You will also use a range of techniques to undertake your scholarly work.

##### **Postgraduate Diploma**

For all of you completing the Postgraduate Diploma in Construction Management in addition to the above you will explore advanced knowledge related to management and construction from different perspectives to broaden your expertise and skills. You will also evaluate critically current evidence in team personal and interpersonal skills and learn about appropriate techniques to pursue life-long learning and continuous development in the context of workplace.

##### **MSc**

For all of you completing the MSc in Construction Management you will demonstrate original application of knowledge to **the project management process** and in **the choice of approaches to practice**. You will be engaged in research or scholarly activity that contributes new views and approaches to investigative research including the review, evaluation and selection with justification of appropriate research methodologies and the communication of findings in an objective, coherent and professional manner.

## **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:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the general theory and methods of modern management.
- Appreciate the major issues involved in managing projects within firms and businesses operating in the building/construction industrial sector.
- Recognise the nature, importance, and applicability of academic research and knowledge enabling informed and objective decision-making in a wide range of situations arising in the construction industry.
- Understand the functions of information technology to increase productivity and to communicate effectively results obtained through analysis, design, and management of all resources.

### Skills:

- Formulate, to critically analyse and to 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 use such data and sources to come up with reliable solutions.
- Use 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.
- Work effectively and with self-confidence in a multi-disciplinary professional environment.

### Values and attitudes:

- Formulate rational solutions to problems using a professional approach.
- Work effectively and radiate enthusiasm in a wide variety of conditions encountered in construction industry.
- Advise management on a broad range of issues impacting organisations and businesses.

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark for generic matters level programmes.

## **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 delivered by staff members of the Cass Business School and by visiting

professionals and fellows

- Seminars/ 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
- Work on 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
- Work individually 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.

The in-class contact hours are roughly 20hours per 10-credits module and 30hours per 15-credits 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, students 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. Still, even the 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 student handbook.

With regards to Project assessment, all details are included in the Project handbook which becomes available to the students 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. 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 complete successfully 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 two assessment components (coursework and examination), the aggregate mark of the two components is considered. Further, the weighting rule applied in splitting of the total mark into two components is detailed in the programme handbook.

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 will be retained in the record of marks and your original module mark will be used for the purpose of your Award calculation.

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 (%)
Dissertation	7	60	100
Taught	7	120	100

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 10 core taught modules (120 credits in total). Four of the core modules carry 15 credits each and the remaining carry 10 credit points each. Thus, a student must obtain 120 credits in the taught part of the programme. Four of the modules have written examinations (EPM931, EPM932, EPM936, and EPM940). 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. In addition, MSc students are required to undertake a dissertation (60 credits). Work on 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. The dissertation carries a credit value of 60.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Project Planning and Management	EPM931	15	C	Y	7
Project Funding & Finance	EPM932	15	C	Y	7
Leadership and Management Skills	EPM934	10	C	Y	7
ICT for Construction Management	EPM935	10	C	Y	7
International Construction Contracts and Arbitration	EPM936	10	C	Y	7
Organisational Behaviour and Human Resource Management	EPM937	15	C	Y	7
Operations Management and Information Management	EPM938	15	C	Y	7
Advanced Practice of Management	EPM939	10	C	Y	7
Sustainable Development & Corporate Social Responsibility	EPM940	10	C	Y	7
Corporate Governance	EPM941	10	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.

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.

When necessary, applicants are additionally required to meet the following formal English language requirements:

IELTS: 6.5 (minimum of 6.5 in the writing test component)

Version: 5.0

Version date: July 2016

For use from: 2016-17