

Introduction to the Built Environment 1

Module Descriptor

Module Code: INT4BE1
Version: V4.00
Status: Final
Date: 11/08/2025

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Introduction to the Built Environment 1

Module Leader: Hazel Lobo / Sukhi Lidher / David Fagan

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Autumn (UK) and Spring (UK)

Level: 4

Credits: 20

Learning Hours: 200

Contact & Study Hours

Directed Study Time: 90 hrs (45%)

Self-directed Study Time: 50 hrs (25%)

Assessment Study Time: 60 hrs (30%)

Assessment Type

Coursework: 90%

Computer Marked Assessment: 10%

Module Summary

This module provides an overview of the built environment sector and the role of the construction industry within the UK economy. Students will gain an appreciation of how legal, political, and social issues have shaped and continue to influence the sector. Students will gain an understanding of the project lifecycle and the development process with reference to the RIBA Plan of Work. The module introduces the key stakeholders and professions within the industry. It will enable students to identify with their chosen profession and understand that profession's key responsibilities in meeting the client objectives.

As this is the first module students will study regardless of their programme, it will provide signposting to future modules where the knowledge and skills introduced by this module will be examined in further depth. It will also introduce the opportunities for wider learning provided at University of the Built Environment, through the cross-portfolio guest lecture events and the academic skills development provision. Students will also be encouraged to enrol as student

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members with the appropriate professional body. The content described in this paragraph is not assessed.

Taken on which Programmes

BSc (Hons) Building Control (C)

BSc (Hons) Building Surveying (C)

BSc (Hons) Construction Management (C)

BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying (C)

BSc (Hons) Architectural Design Technology (C)

BSc (Hons) Real Estate Management (C)

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Built Environment Studies (C)

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Construction and Built Environment (C)

BSc Access Module (C)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Module Aims

This module aims to:

- Provide an overview of the built environment sector and its impact on legal, political, and social issues.
- Provide an understanding of the role and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the property lifecycle.
- Introduce students to the specific roles and responsibilities of their discipline with reference to the RIBA Plan of Work.
- Support the students understanding of the subjects covered within their programme of study.
- Signpost the academic studies resources and the Study Skills programme needed to be successful in online learning.

Module Learning Outcomes

- LO1. Outline the influence of legal, political, and social issues on the construction industry.
- LO2. Describe 'clients' and their objectives.

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- LO3. Identify the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the property lifecycle.
- LO4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of their discipline specific role within the context of the development process.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- **The UK Construction Sector**

An understanding of the construction sector and an appreciation of its scale, structure, output, and political and economic influence. An overview of how supply and demand impact on the sector. The industries historical background and how legal, social, global issues influence industry practice. An overview of the sector with statistics, such as the economic, labour, climate change and accidents.

- **Clients**

Defining the client and the diversity of clients within the sector. An appreciation of the motivation of the client to 'construct' and how this reflects the client's objectives. An understanding of the key drivers that affect the feasibility, design, construction, and demolition of buildings.

- **The property life cycle**

An understanding of the property lifecycle from inception to recycling with specific reference to the RIBA Plan of Works as a framework. Students will gain an understanding of the eight stages and the core project strategies.

- **Roles and responsibilities within the built environment sector**

An overview of the core responsibilities of each of the key built environment professionals. The information processes and the digital technologies needed to support collaboration.

A more in depth understanding of the core discipline specific responsibilities.

- **Developing as a professional**

Benefits of student membership of professional bodies and wider networking opportunities. An understanding of the programme of study and how to succeed in studying online.

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This content will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the legal, moral and financial changes in professional standards and practice.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting
LO1	Assessment 1 Computer Marked Assessment (CMA)	300 word equivalent	10%
LO2, LO3	Assessment 2 Coursework	1,200 words	40%
LO4	Assessment 3 Coursework	1,500 words	50%

Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 40%

Key Module Learning Resources

Core Sources and Texts

The core reading resources within each module will be provided via the specific Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) module pages and within the e-Library.

Additional reference material and supplementary resources to support your studies are available through the University e-Library.

Module tools

Students will have access to study materials, dedicated academic support, student forums, and learning activities via an online learning platform (VLE).

The module page on the VLE is broken down into structured study weeks to help students plan their time, with each week containing a mixture of reading, case studies, videos/recordings and interactive activities to go through. Online webinars/seminars led by the Module Leader can be attended in real time and provide opportunities to consolidate knowledge, ask questions, discuss topics and work through learning activities together. These sessions are recorded to support students who cannot attend and to enable students to recap the session and work

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through it at their own pace. Module forums on the VLE provide further opportunities to discuss topics with other students, complete collaborative work and get extra help from the module team.

Professional online resources

The e-Library provides access to trusted, quality online resources, selected by subject specialists, to support students' study. This includes journals, industry publications, magazines, academic books and a dissertation/work-based library. For a list of the key industry specific and education resources available please visit [the VLE e-Library](#).

Other relevant resources

Access is also provided to further information sources that include the British Library and Open University UK catalogues, as well as providing a monthly current awareness service entitled, **Knowledge Foundations** - a compendium of news, research and resources relating to the educational sector and the Built Environment.

The module resource list is available on the module VLE page and is updated regularly to ensure materials are relevant and current.