

Introduction to Construction Practice

Module Descriptor

Module Code: CON4COP
Version: V5.00
Status: Final
Date: 11/08/2025

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Introduction to Construction Practice

Module Leader: James Boothman

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: 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: 70%

Computer Marked Assessment: 30%

Module Summary

This module provides an introductory understanding of the management of construction processes. It explains the management, resourcing and supervision of construction processes and considers the implications of time, cost, quality, and sustainability within a construction project. The module seeks to give an understanding of building costs and budgets, financial controls required and monitoring of financial and project progress against planned schedules.

Taken on which Programmes

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

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Module Aims

This module aims to:

- Provide an introductory understanding of the management of construction processes.
- Investigate the importance of project planning and resourcing that influence the cost of buildings.
- Provide an appreciation of the financial and contractual management of building projects.
- Raise awareness of risk management techniques used in building projects.

Module Learning Outcomes

- LO1. Demonstrate the concepts and principles associated with construction practice and processes that influence building costs.
- LO2. Identify the procurement types, resourcing, project programming and contract provisions used in building projects and evaluate their appropriateness for given examples.
- LO3. Locate, assemble, and evaluate cost data; make sound judgements on cost control in relation to program budget and project progress. Demonstrate an understanding of financial risk and an analysis of cash flow.
- LO4. Apply theory and practice to communicate reasoned advice accurately and reliably in a professional and ethical manner.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- **Project lifecycle, resourcing, programming, and procurement.**

Project planning, programming (schedules and critical path) Gantt charts and network diagrams. Resourcing – plant and equipment, site services and use of specialist subcontractors and supervision requirements. Effects of procurement type on project lifecycle. Understand the importance of time, cost, and resource management to complete projects effectively.

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- **Factors that influence the cost of construction projects.**

Project duration, availability of materials, skilled labour, construction method being used and supporting infrastructure. Assessing how economic and sustainability considerations influence quality and durability of buildings.

- **Cost control, budget monitoring, contract obligations and variation (design change).**

Methods of monitoring budget against planned progress, understanding contractual arrangements and the impact of design changes on time and cost. Identify the financial implications of preliminary items, subcontractors, materials, and plant.

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, LO2	Assessment 1 Computer Based Assessment (CBA)	900 word equivalency	30%
LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4	Assessment 2 Coursework	2,100	70%

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.

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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 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.