UCEM

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Project Management in the Built Environment

Module Descriptor

Module Code: PMA7PRM

Version: 1.00

Status: Final

Date: 27/02/2025

Summary Module Details

Module Title: Project Management in the Built Environment

Module Leader: Christine Gausden

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Autumn (UK) and Spring (UK)

Level: 7

Credits: 20

Learning Hours: 200

Contact & Study Hours

Directed Study Time: 60hrs (30%)

Self-directed Study Time: 70hrs (35%)

Assessment Study Time: 70hrs (35%)

Assessment Type

Coursework: 100%

Computer Marked Assessment: 0%

Self-directed Research Project: 0%

Portfolio: 0%

Module summary

This module explores the strategic and organisational challenges of project management within the built environment, with a focus on the management of construction focused projects. The variance of skillsets and the professional disciplines required to manage, plan, and control, the safe, and compliant, delivery of built assets are addressed in the context of key project drivers.

Taken on which programmes

MSc Building Surveying (C)

MSc Construction Management (C)

MSc Quantity Surveying (C)

Master of Business Administration (E)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Project Management in the Built Environment

Module Aims

This module aims to examine:

- The project management process, client needs, key UK drivers, the international landscape, and environmental challenges.
- Risk, health, safety, and welfare, and ethical implications and assessments of construction projects.
- The technical and professional skillsets required of a project manager.

Module Learning Outcomes

LO1. Critically synthesise current knowledge of project management principles and current best practice, and the application within the built environment.

LO2. Critically evaluate project management skillsets, processes, and tasks, across project timelines, and the application of current best practice.

LO3. Critically analyse the duties and role of the Project Manager in relation to the management of change, value, risk, health, safety, and welfare, and ethics, and apply these in the context of the international built environment.

LO4. Critically appraise practical construction challenges and propose sustainable and innovative solutions for the mitigation and management in the delivery of built assets.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- **The Role of the Project Manager in an International Context**

  Provision of procurement strategies which encompass international perspectives and comparisons, the sustainability agenda, international and government drivers, standardisation, policy and directives, ethics, partnering, public and private finance.

- **Managing Change and Risk in Project Programmes**

  Consideration of procurement and tendering methodologies, and the management of change in the delivery of built assets, together with the consideration of key risks, and practical and theoretical perspectives to mitigate risk.

- **Managing Project Programmes**

  Provision of the various tools and techniques used in construction planning and programming, inclusive of Gantt chart and network diagrams (critical path method, precedence networks) together with a critical appraisal of the application of each of these methodologies.

- **Quality, Value Management and Benchmarking**

  Investigation of the concept, and appraisal, of Total Quality Management (TQM) in the context of providing value for the client. Appraisal of quality assurance processes, relative to current international and government drivers, and the concept of comparing performance against competitors, and market-led benchmarks.

Project Management in the Built Environment

- **Partnering and Contemporary Arrangements for Construction**

  Consideration of the adaptation of contemporary methods of project procurement which have emerged in response to the Latham and Egan reports, and current drivers, and the requirements for enhanced collaboration and integration of project teams in construction procurement.

- **Health and Safety**

  Provision of an introduction to health, safety, and welfare, regulations, method statements, and risk assessment, together with a focus on ethical provisions to ensure the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all parties in the delivery of project management.

- **Resource Management**

  Investigation of the resourcing, and balancing, of plant, materials, and labour, the interaction and interdependency in respect of cost, cashflow, and the impact on the management of programme resources.

- **Managing Project Costs**

  Consideration of the importance of cost control, and management, in the delivery of a built asset, and the tools and techniques available to manage expenditure, concurrent the client expectations of time, cost, and quality.

- **Sustainability and Environmental Issues**

  Assessment of the impact of project management in the built environment and the positive contributions to the attainment of sustainability goals (with emphasis on the sustainable development goals) and proactive measures adopted within the project process.

- **The Project Manager Toolkit**

  Investigation of the extracurricular skills project managers within the built environment require to successfully navigate construction projects from inception to completion, including effective communications, managing individuals, and teams, negotiation, decision-making, and leadership.

- **Cultural and Ethical Issues in the Built Environment**

  Consideration of the cultural sensitivities involved in managing diverse and inclusive project teams, encompassing a critical analysis of the core values of ethics.

- **Information Management**

  Investigation of appropriate communication principles, exploration of tools and systems, the common data environment, and the current, and appropriate, use of information modelling, and AI, together with the critical appraisal of the application of a digital landscape.

This content will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the legal, ethical, and financial, challenges, and constraints, of current professional standards and practice.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting
LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4	**Assessment 1** Coursework	2,000	40%
LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4	**Assessment 2** Coursework	3,000	60%

Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 50%

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 UCEM 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 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 website and is updated regularly to ensure materials are relevant and current.