

MSc CONSTRUCTION ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

OPTION MODULES

A full time student must choose at least two modules from the economics-based option modules and at least one module from the enterprise-based option modules. The fourth module can be chosen from either project-based, enterprise-based or economics-based modules.

ECONOMICS-BASED MODULES

BCPM0003: Construction Booms and Slumps

This module investigates the cases and effects of the recurrent and relatively strong fluctuations ('booms' and 'slumps') that occur in construction and property markets, both in volumes and prices, placing particular emphasis on the inter-relationships between property and construction markets.

BCPM0004: Construction Clients and the Market for Contracts

This module aims to help students understand contemporary theories relevant to construction procurement. Transaction cost theory and game theoretical thinking will be heavily relied on.

BCPM0005: Economics of Appraisal of Construction Projects – Leading Issues

This module develops and explores some important appraisal techniques commonly used in practice by both the private and public client. The module will equip students with the ability to apply up-to-date appraisal techniques in the evaluation of real-life projects.

BCPM0006: The Economics of Speculative Construction Development

This module focuses on one of the most significant of clients - the speculative property developer. It shows students how property developers operate, embracing strategic decision-making, land acquisition, raising finance, predicting demand and managing risk.

BCPM0008: Construction Industry Development

This module is about the problems of and prospects for the construction industry in developing countries. Three developing countries have been chosen as case studies – Malaysia, Ghana and India.

BCPM0083: Strategic Financial Management of Construction and Infrastructure Projects

The module aims to equip students, beyond individual project cost control, with an understanding of the interactions between the management of construction and infrastructure project and corporate financial strategy.

ENTERPRISE-BASED MODULES

BCPM0007: Managing Professional Practice

This module is for those interested in organisational behaviour and transactions costs as well as functional behaviours such as marketing management, and trust in both theory and practice.

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BPCM0043: Enterprise Management: Relationships Between Firms

This module aims to develop understanding of individual and organisational behaviour of firms which carry out projects. A focus being given to behaviours in the marketplace, especially at the Client-Contractor Interface.

BPCM0044: Capturing and Delivering Value

This module deals with requirements such as solicitation, briefing and core competencies, as well as dynamic capabilities for adding value, bodies of knowledge, capturing value and the role of the systems integrator.

BPCM0045: The Construction Firm

This module includes important themes such as business strategy, national and organisational culture, organisational behaviour and engaging and managing subcontractors.

BPCM0047: Marketing and Project Business Development

This module deals with a strategic approach to marketing and business development and should be selected by those who want to pursue a project- or enterprise-based role concerned with the development of new business.

BPCM0051: Managing Change in Organisations

This module aims to explore how change in modern organisations can be enabled, supported and possibly managed.

BPCM0082: Knowledge Management in a Project Environment

This module provides students with a knowledge of contemporary theories and practices in the area of knowledge management.

PROJECT-BASED MODULES

BPCM0037: Managing the Enterprise-Project Relationship

This module is ideal for those interested in measures of project effectiveness, managing portfolios, programmes and systems, project optimisation, realising project strategy, and interfacing project and facility management.

BPCM0039: The Procurement of Construction, Engineering and Professional Services

This module looks at procurement types and standard forms, tendering, legal position, EU procedures, evaluation criteria, law of contract and documents, letters of intent as well as prime cost contracts, contract administration for project managers and legal liabilities for project managers.

BPCM0040: Organisations and People in Projects

This module concerns organisational structures and their design, effective communications, race and gender issues in organisations, project leadership, case studies in leaders' roles, team formation and conflict and excellence in project management.

BPCM0041: Managing Construction

This module deals with construction productivity, design/construction/procurement/operation and management interfaces, spatial planning, health and safety, and quality in construction and refurbishment.

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BCPM0046: Environmental Sustainability in the Construction Sector

This module looks at climate change and the impact of construction, the costs of 'going green', development of brownfield sites, environmental impact assessments, waste reduction and site waste management plans.

BCPM0028: Supply Chain Management: Principles and Case Studies

This module looks at the increasing importance of supply chains and their management (SCM) in our pursuit of value and efficiency. It deals with concepts, risk management and risk transfer in supply chains; client-driven SCM; a case study of Slough Estates plc with guest speaker; franchising; an innovative application of SCM; and the future for SCM – building for the 21st century.

BCPM0048: The Management of Large Projects and Programmes

This module looks at problems of scale and complexity in large projects, governance, stakeholder engagement, sustainable vision and accountability. It discusses managing benefits, value and risk, configuration management, change control and systems integration. The module also focuses on managing large projects and programmes in practice.

BCPM0049: Social Networks in Project and Enterprise Organisations

This module aims to develop understanding of the emergent interdisciplinary area of social networks by drawing upon social, organisational and management perspectives.

BCPM0050: Integrating Project Information Systems with Building Information Modelling (BIM)

This module aims to provide a sound theoretical basis for the development and deployment of integrated project information systems. It explains the business case for greater integration of project information systems and the role that BIM can play in such systems. The module is supplemented by case study material and guest speakers from practice.

BCPM0053: The Management of Value

The aim of this module is to equip students with the theoretical knowledge, competencies and tools to deliver value management consultancy services in portfolio, programme and project management. It will utilise knowledge from value management (VM) and industrial experience to demonstrate how value-based studies can give direction to projects and integrate multiple stakeholder perspectives on value through planning, design and operation.

ADDITIONAL (NON-ASSESSED, BUT COMPULSORY MODULES)

Management skills aims to develop the management skills of students in relation to decision-making, team-working and the consultancy role. These are addressed with the help of appropriate specialist teachers and games specifically devised for the construction industry. The module is taught in the form of a series of workshops which take place during a weekend in term 1 or term 2.

Research methods helps develop an awareness of research methods. The objective is for students to be able to mobilise theories and concepts for application to information and data collection in the field. The module is conducted in workshop format.