



University for the Common Good

School of Computing, Engineering and Built Environment (SCEBE)

MSc Quantity Surveying

Programme Specification

2024-2025

Programme Specification Pro-forma

1 General Information

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| 1. Programme Title: | MSc Quantity Surveying |
| 2. Final Award: | MSc Quantity Surveying |
| 3. Exit Awards: | PgC Quantity Surveying PgD Quantity Surveying |
| 4. Awarding Body: | Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) |
| 5. Approval Date: | 13th of November 2019 |
| 6. School: | School of Computing, Engineering and Built Environment |
| 7. Host Division: | Construction and Surveying |
| 8. UCAS Code: | Not applicable |
| 9. PSB Involvement: | RICS and CIOB |
| 10. Place of Delivery: | Glasgow Caledonian University and GCU London |
| 11. Subject Benchmark Statement: | Not applicable |
| 12. Dates of PS Preparation/Revision: | August 2019 |

1.1 Academic Rational

The MSc Quantity Surveying programme is targeted through its marketing on the development of distance and part-time student numbers. Its primary selling point in this respect is the fact that its mode of delivery is via the internet on the GCU Learn virtual learning environment system. This has been shown in the past to be a valuable selling point for our existing students and this will remain the case for the foreseeable future. Over the course of the last years, SCEBE has developed substantial proven expertise in the delivery of GCU Learn modules for the programme that, in turn, has informed and improved teaching elsewhere in the school.

The MSc Quantity Surveying programme aims to fill this gap in understanding and provides a mix of learning accessibility and relevant expertise for businesses to develop and educate their staff. The programme has proven to be popular with international students, and the intake has continued to grow in recent years. It is further anticipated that the enhanced quantity surveying skills on offer from the suite of more integrated modules will prove popular with the industry as CPD. These core skills remain significant components of the professional membership criteria of the programme's accreditation bodies, namely RICS and CIOB.

The programme also aims to utilise a range of new and proven modules designed to enhance the skill set of construction professionals. It provides both local and international students with an opportunity to develop their abilities, frame of reference and a common understanding of construction economics and project management to work more effectively within industry, including international clients and organisations. The programme continues to operate in a well-trying and tested format that showcases the competencies of SCEBE to a significantly wider audience.

1.2 Programme Content

The modules included in the programme emphasise the construction project management skills and international perspective visualised for a graduate from the programme.

The online dissertation module is intended to give the student the skills necessary to conduct in-depth research both academically and in industry. Participation in the Dissertation Event also provides an invaluable opportunity for students to informally discuss issues of conducting research for a dissertation and to introduce them to the processes involved.

The programme has 8 core modules as follows:

1. **Construction Economics and Procurement** takes a macro overview of the structure of the construction sector, including materials supply and relationships with the economy as a whole.

2. **Design Economics and Cost Planning** covers 4 main themes: Cost Modelling, Cost Planning, Design Economics and Statistical Foundations.
3. **Construction Technology (MSc)** covers emerging construction and services technologies, techniques and concepts, applied to medium /large residential/commercial & industrial projects. The additional themes of sustainability and efficiency of design & construction shall be embedded throughout the module.
4. **Construction Contracts and Dispute Management** provides an in-depth understanding of contract administration in a modern international commercial environment based on the main standard form contracts. Students will examine the various methods of resolving disputes arising under construction contracts at law.
5. **Risk and Value Management** examines methodologies for risk identification, analysis, acceptance, and transfer are vital elements to the success of a project, as well as value management techniques.
6. **Construction Financial Management** covers all aspects of the financial management of construction companies and projects, with particular attention to capital investment decisions and cash flow management.
7. **Quantification and Costing of Works** will cover measurement conventions, estimating, tendering, and procurement methods, as well as the impact of various factors on pricing strategy.
8. **Construction Project Management** has been designed to include both the process and people elements when managing complex projects.

1.3 Patterns of Delivery

1.3.1 FULL-TIME

This mode serves the needs of fresh graduates from a range of relevant undergraduate programmes wishing to further their studies at an advanced level, mature students undertaking a career change, and international students who wish to pursue further studies. It is envisaged that students are drawn from predominantly construction related (cognate) backgrounds, with scope for accepting non-cognate first-degree holders who wish to broaden their career options into the construction arena. Full-time students would normally complete the programme in one year.

1.3.2 PART-TIME

This mode of study can be carried out whilst employed in the industry. All modules attached to the programme are delivered via the 'Blackboard Virtual Learning Environment' to provide flexible learning means with contact time oriented around face-to-face sessions designed to embed deep learning in the students. However, the proven value of the web-based delivery mode via Blackboard in providing flexible learning means that less formal contact time is required. In accordance with current practice, it is anticipated that students will attend 1 day per week. However, it is acknowledged that in some cases, 2 days per week would be required, which may vary depending on the modules selected. Part-time students would normally complete the programme in two and a half (2.5) years.

1.3.3 DISTANCE LEARNING

All of the modules forming the programme are web-enabled. This facilitates the ability of distance learners to shape their study time around the thematic elements of the delivered modules. Since web-based is the preferred mode for module delivery, full-time, part-time and distance learners all have a similar experience of the learning process. Although most distance learners do not wish to regularly attend the University for a variety of reasons, they are entitled to attend on a voluntary basis. Experience of the distance learning mode shows that the peripatetic nature of the construction industry around the world is leveraging an ever-increasing demand for the distance learning mode. Distance Learning students would normally complete the programme in two and a half (2.5) years.

1.3.4 GCU LONDON

This mode of study is similar to the full-time mode based at our London campus. Students can also study part-time at the GCU London campus by taking 2 modules per trimester. As per the Assessment Regulations, "in the case of an award for which the period of study is specified as 2.5 years or less, the period can be extended by a maximum of 1 year".

2 Educational Aims of the Programme

The general educational aims of the programme include the following:

- Be provided with the knowledge and skills to equip them for a career as a construction project manager within the construction industry in the UK and internationally.
- Develop competence in a range of appropriate specialist areas.
- Develop the critical and analytical powers of the student in relation to the analysis of differing views on emerging concepts and enable them to evaluate these against a background of a constantly changing industry.
- Gain the skills to adapt and respond positively to change.
- Develop critical, analytical, problem-based learning skills and transferable skills to prepare them for employment as a project manager within construction.
- Enhance the development of their communication skills.
- Further develop the skills required for his/her employment.
- Receive a learning experience that promotes and encourages a culture of lifelong learning students for further study in the context of his/her continuing professional development.

4 Programme Structures and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits, and Awards

4.1 Preamble

The structure of the programme is consistent with most other equivalent postgraduate degrees offered at GCU. The first part of the degree is comprised of taught modules set at the Masters level and allocated 15 credit points each and the latter part of the degree is comprised of a Masters dissertation worth 60 credit points.

Given that these criteria are followed, awards may be made as follows:

- **University Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) in Quantity Surveying** for passes in 4 taught modules. Any modules (excluding the dissertation) attached to the programme may be selected - **60 Master's Level credits.**
- **Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) in Quantity Surveying** for passes in 8 taught modules - **120 Master's Level credits.**
- **MSc in Quantity Surveying** for passes in 8 taught modules and a pass in the Dissertation module - **180 Master's Level credits.**

4.2 Selection of Taught Modules (Table on the following page)

As part of the requirement for the award of PgC in Quantity Surveying, students must achieve passes in 4 taught modules from a selection of modules on the next page. Furthermore, as part of the requirement for the award of PgD in Quantity Surveying, students must achieve passes in eight (8) taught modules. As part of the requirement for the award of MSc in Quantity Surveying, students must achieve passes in eight (8) taught modules (structure the same as PgD) plus the Master's Dissertation module.

4.3 Master's Dissertation

Students are required to complete the 60-credit Master's Dissertation/Project module, which is based on a significant piece of individual research. The subject of the research will be an area of special interest to the student and will be based on a proposal written by the student and submitted to the Dissertation Module Leader. The area of research chosen should be of the required subject and intellectual depth and should provide a suitable match with previous studies. This may require increased technical depth or greater breadth of subject matter relating to previous projects, case studies or dissertations undertaken by the student.

Students are also strongly encouraged to attend the Dissertation event, which is held annually. Although not compulsory, it gives everyone currently enrolled on the dissertation module an opportunity to spend some time without various distractions to consider some of the bigger issues of conducting a dissertation at the Masters level. The event includes a series of presentations given by staff on research matters, along with further discussions.

4.4 The Module Table

| Module Code | Module Title | Module Leader | Credit Value | Trimester |
|-------------|---|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| MMK226176 | Design Economics and Cost Planning | John Lowe | 15 | A |
| MMK226174 | Construction Economics and Procurement | John Lowe | 15 | A |
| MMK226179 | Construction Technology (MSc) | Mike Galbraith | 15 | A |
| MMK226783 | Construction Contracts and Dispute Management | Sharon Jatau | 15 | A |
| MMN226319 | Risk and Value Management | Malawi Ngwira | 15 | B |
| MMN326178 | Construction Financial Management | John Lowe | 15 | B |
| MMN226181 | Construction Project Management | Nicola Callaghan | 15 | B |
| MMK226180 | Quantification and Costing of Works | Bridget Eshun | 15 | B |
| MMK226789 | Master's Dissertation | Kenneth Lawani | 60 | A, B, C |

Note: Some modules may not run for a particular Trimester, or alternatively, some new modules may be introduced. Guidelines on modules that will run will be provided at the beginning of each Trimester.

8 Assessment Regulations

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students.

The Glasgow Caledonian University Assessment Regulations, which apply to this programme, dependent on the year of entry, can be found in the [University Assessment Regulations and Policies](#).