Professional Masters Programme
for the Built Environment
by Distance Learning

- MSc Surveying
- MSc Construction
The programmes have been designed to meet the needs of both graduates and employers with an interest in the property and construction sectors. The syllabus is designed and delivered by leading academics from the School of the Built Environment at Northumbria University and is underpinned by a comprehensive range of subject expertise and experience relating to the needs of professionals within the Property and Construction sectors.

The School of the Built Environment has entered into a Partnership with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) to promote excellence in teaching and the surveying profession. On enrolling on the programme students will be eligible to begin the RICS Assessment of Professional Competence.

The Professional Masters Programme at the School of the Built Environment, Northumbria University

The School

One of the leading providers of Built Environment education in the UK, the School has grown rapidly in recent years as a consequence of its ability to meet the diverse needs of students in the vital areas of Property and Construction. Its ability to respond to the vocational aspirations of students and the workplace expectations of employers has naturally led to the development and expansion of its Distance Learning provision.

What’s it all about?

This Professional Masters Programme is aimed at graduates who want to pursue a career in the fast-moving business environment of property and construction.

It will provide an opportunity for those wishing to work in these sectors from a non-cognate base.

This programme accommodates a wide range of career opportunity such as:

- Commercial property management, investment and agency
- Property development
- Commercial management of construction
- Quantity surveying
- Building surveying
- Construction management
- Project management

These careers are for people who like working with others and who don’t want to do the same things or work in the same location every day.

The property and construction business provides a wide range of well-paid rewarding career options, working to provide business and communities with one of their essential requirements – the environment in which they live and work. To be successful in the industry, graduates need a problem-solving, teamwork approach and the drive, enthusiasm and determination to get things done.

In return for these qualities, employers will offer good working conditions and salaries. Typically graduates in property will work for commercial property agents, valuers and consultants. Alternatively they may work in the corporate sector, particularly retail and leisure, acquiring and managing property assets.

Quantity surveyors and construction managers work in teams to construct all facilities, be they projects of the proportions of Olympic stadia for 2012 or affordable homes in the inner city. The common element running through all projects is the need for a dedicated team of professionals to ensure the build runs to schedule and budget.

Building surveying graduates work as building ‘doctors’; one of the most important requirements of their role is to employ their analytical skills to identify problems with buildings and provide the remedies.

Employers in this sector want to broaden the range of their graduate intake and recognise the value of staff who can bring wide ranging expertise for example, business skills, languages or IT proficiency to add to their vocational Masters qualification. As a result, employment levels are very high.

Career opportunity and professional recognition

The programme accommodates students who wish to begin employment as soon as possible at graduation and provides a means of efficient access to a career beyond their undergraduate academic subject area. Because of the recognised benefits of recruiting from a high-quality postgraduate base, the programme has the support of employers. In addition to employers, the course also fulfils the longstanding aspiration of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) to attract motivated and high-quality ‘non-cognate’ as well as ‘close-cognate’ graduates into the profession. All of the programmes within the Professional Masters provision are professionally recognised by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).
What will you study and how is the programme structured?

The programme offers two awards, an MSc in Surveying for the Quantity Surveying, Building Surveying and Estate Management pathways and an MSc in Construction.

The Professional Masters Programme allows students to gain a professionally recognised qualification whilst simultaneously achieving the benefits of a Masters qualification. The programme therefore addresses both the professional and academic needs from the perspective of graduates from any academic discipline. Dependent upon the chosen career path students will follow one of the pathways shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathway</th>
<th>Quantity Surveying</th>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Building Surveying</th>
<th>Real Estate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Construction Technology (10 credits)</td>
<td>Construction Technology (10 credits)</td>
<td>Construction Technology (10 credits)</td>
<td>Construction Technology (10 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Introduction to Law (10 credits)</td>
<td>Introduction to Law (10 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Quantity Surveying Professional Practice (10 credits)</td>
<td>Construction Management Professional Practice (10 credits)</td>
<td>Building Surveying Professional Practice (10 credits)</td>
<td>Real Estate Management (10 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sustainable Futures (10 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Economics and Business Environment (20 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Work-based Project (60 credits) (10 weeks study time)</td>
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Programme structure

As the outline shows, some modules are common to one or more pathways and others are dedicated to a chosen discipline. The programme is designed to support new entrants to the property and construction sectors and to enable the development of a body of relevant knowledge and skills needed in a professional career.

The entire programme is drawn together, from the end of the first year to completion, with a work-based project which will be driven by the student’s workplace situation and needs. This innovative approach to the capture and development of professional experience is central to the ethos of the vocational nature of the programme.

Prospects

A recent survey conducted by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and recruitment consultants Macdonald and Company has revealed that salaries in property and surveying (5.5%) are increasing at a faster rate than average salaries (4.5%).

What you need to know

What do I need to enrol?

You need to have a good first degree and be in relevant employment. You also need the enthusiasm and drive to succeed.

For international students, evidence of English Language competence is required in the form of IELTS, level 6.0, or equivalent.

Credit for prior learning

Applicants who can demonstrate previous relevant academic study or work experience may be considered for exemptions from some modules on a case by case basis.

Fees

The current fees for the MSc programme are available at www.northumbria.ac.uk/dl

Fees for the programme are reviewed on an annual basis.

This fee may be subject to adjustment if any credit for prior learning is approved.
When do I start and how is the programme delivered?

Our Professional Masters programmes commence in both September & January and are designed to be completed in two years. They are delivered over the following semester-based structure:

### September Intake

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep - Jan</td>
<td>Sep - Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 week semester</td>
<td>15 week semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb - Jun</td>
<td>Feb - Jun</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 week semester</td>
<td>15 week semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun - Sep</td>
<td>Jun - Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 week semester</td>
<td>10 week semester</td>
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</tbody>
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### January Intake

<table>
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<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan - May</td>
<td>Feb - Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 week semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun - Sep</td>
<td>Jun - Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 week semester</td>
<td>10 week semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct - Jan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 week semester</td>
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There are six semesters in the programme; four are 15 weeks long and two are 10 weeks long. Learning material is delivered in the first 10 weeks of each 15 week semester with the remaining 5 weeks devoted to independent learning and assessment. The two 10 week semesters are termed ‘Study Semesters’ where the learning programme is flexible.

Modules are delivered online, from a series of learning papers which are delivered on a weekly timetabled basis. Each learning paper will comprise learning directions, a topical outline, relevant reference material, self-assessment questions and support. Hard-copy material will be provided wherever necessary.

At Northumbria we make a special effort to make our students feel at home, whether in class or via computer. With this in mind, the programme will be supported by the creation of virtual student cohorts which will engage in discussion board activity with additional network support via both email and telephone.

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What’s special about the distance learning experience we provide?

The School has had involvement with Built Environment education for around 35 years and has built up a good reputation for high-quality learning and teaching support. Our stature as a teaching and learning organisation has been recognised by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, who monitor and assess universities on behalf of the Government, when they awarded the School an excellent teaching quality rating (22 points out of a possible 24 – one of the highest scores).

We have also gained an understanding of the unique characteristics and demands of distance learning education from experience at Masters level and the development of a dedicated distance learning centre within the School. Our distance learning programmes are designed to provide students with access to:

- Structured learning with regular virtual guidance and support.
- Flexible learning opportunity allowing students to work at their own pace, planning their study timetable to best suit their circumstances.
- Comprehensive learning materials delivered online, (and where required by hard copy) designed specifically for distance learning.
- An online student network promoting shared study and academic discussion.

- A staff base of approximately 70 leading, in-house academics with dedicated distance learning admin support.
- An effective and established learning platform accommodating the full range of online provision.
- A professionally recognised qualification.
- A high-quality learning experience through a blend of active web-based learning and experiential learning developed around work-based problems.

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International Support Centre, Real Estate & Construction Academy

The Real Estate and Construction Academy (RECA) was incorporated in February 2010 to focus on nurturing and empowering our graduates to support the delivery of sustainable environments.

This mission was earlier undertaken by the Real Estate and Construction Centre which was established in 1993 to provide an alternative avenue for quality education, consultancy and strategic advice for the industry.

The Academy provides the following services:

* Career Conversions to Real Estate and Facilities Management jobs
* SDF & SRP Funded Skills Upgrading & Lifelong Learning Courses
* Distance Learning Programmes awarded by renowned universities.

Programme Details and Enquiries

Details of the programme can be obtained from:

For enquiries, please contact:

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