

Postgraduate Programme Specification

MSc Quantity Surveying

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrates where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's [Quality Assurance](#) processes.

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Programme Title	MSc Quantity Surveying		
Final Award	MSc Quantity Surveying PgD Quantity Surveying PgC Quantity Surveying		
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University		
School	Computing, Engineering and Built Environment		
Department	Construction and Surveying		
Mode of Study	Full-time Part-time Online Distance Learning (Glasgow Campus)		
Location of Delivery	Glasgow Campus London Campus		
UCAS Code	Not Applicable		
Accreditations (PSRB)	RICS, CIOB, CABE		
Period of Approval	From:	September 2025	To: August 2030

EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME
Academic Rationale 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 face-to-face with module documents available within the 'Blackboard Virtual Learning Environment'. It has been shown in the past to be a valuable selling point for our existing distance learning students and this will remain the case for the foreseeable future. Over recent years, the school has developed substantial proven expertise in the delivery of GCU Learn modules for the programme, which in turn has informed and improved teaching in other programmes. 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 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: 1. Construction Economics and Procurement takes a macro-overview of the structure of the construction sector, including materials supply and relationships with the economy.

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.

Patterns of Delivery

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 with construction-related work experience who wish to broaden their career options into the construction arena. Full-time students would normally complete the programme in one year.

PART-TIME

This mode of study can be carried out whilst employed in the industry. All modules attached to the programme are delivered face-to-face with module documents available within the 'Blackboard Virtual Learning Environment' to provide flexible learning sessions designed to embed deep learning for the students. However, the proven value of the face-to-face delivery mode via Blackboard in providing flexible learning means that formal contact time is still a requirement for PT students. In accordance with current practice, it is anticipated that students will attend timetabled sessions a minimum of 1 day per week. However, it is acknowledged that in some cases, 2 days per week would be required. Part-time students would normally complete the programme in two and a half (2.5) years.

DISTANCE LEARNING

All the modules forming the Distance Learning programme are web-enabled. It facilitates the ability of distance learners to shape their study time around the thematic elements of the delivered modules. Since face-to-face and web-based are the adopted mode for module delivery, full-time, part-time and distance learners all have a similar experience of the learning process. Although most distance learners are unable to physically 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.

GCU LONDON

This mode of study is like 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”.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding;

- A1 Principles of projects, quantity surveying, project management, their scope and their implementation utilising the most appropriate tools and techniques used in practice.
- A2 Fundamental principles and theories of quantity surveying.
- A3 The international context of projects, their objectives, strategies, their development, their phases and their control.
- A4 The management of commercial considerations within a construction project context.
- A5 The management of the factors of production (people, money, financial and physical resources) necessary to effectively implement projects.
- A6 Research methodologies and statistical techniques that facilitate a wider understanding of project management ethos in construction.

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

- B1 Apply appropriate theoretical and practical methods to analysis and solution of quantity surveying problems.
- B2 Provide commercial and managerial leadership.
- B3 Plan for effective project implementation.
- B4 Plan, budget, organise, direct and control tasks, people and resources.
- B5 Develop the capabilities of staff to meet the demands of changing technical and managerial requirements.
- B6 Bring about continuous improvement through quality management.

C: Generic cognitive skills;

- C1 Use a combination of general and specialist project management knowledge and understanding to optimise the application of existing and emerging project management tools and techniques.
- C2 Ability to select and apply appropriate project management methods for controlling projects, identifying risks, and managing performance and resources in an international context.
- C3 Analyse projects, systems and processes requiring management and then how to structure them to facilitate effective management.
- C4 Identify potential projects and opportunities, conduct appropriate research, and undertake design and development of possible solutions.
- C5 Plan and implement solutions, taking a holistic approach to cost, benefits, time, sequence and quality within the framework of responsible governance.
- C6 Evaluate the solutions and make improvements.

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills

- D1 Presentation skills
- D2 ICT skills
- D3 Communication skills - written, oral and listening
- D4 Time management (organising and planning work)
- D5 Utilising labour market information
- D6 Cognitive/intellectual skills

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.

- E1 Independent working

- E2 Information retrieval skills
- E3 Key life skills
- E4 Group working
- E5 Critical thinking and problem-solving
- E6 Learning style and orientation to learning

LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module-specific guidance will provide details of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme, the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Web-based materials through a managed learning environment (GCU Learn);
- Online discussion boards and blogs
- Individual coursework and reports
- Computer applications activities
- Self-directed learning
- The use of research-based teaching materials and methods
- Problem-based learning scenarios

The above approaches are delivered in-person or online as appropriate and determined at the module level by the programme team.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides a variety of formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module-specific guidance will provide details of the assessment methods specific to each module.

Across the programme, the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (essays, reports, case studies, dissertation, literature review)
- Oral coursework (presentations, structured conversations)
- Practical Assessment (Placement, VIVA, Laboratory work)
- Group work
- Blogs and Wikis
- Case studies
- Portfolio Presentations
- Formal Examinations and Class Tests
- Dissertation

The above assessments are delivered in-person or online as appropriate and determined at the module level by the programme team.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: www.gcu.ac.uk/study

The following are the campus-specific web pages for the MSc Quantity Surveying programme.

Glasgow Campus

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-quantity-surveying-glasgow2>

London Campus

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-quantity-surveying-london3>

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the [GCU Code of Student Conduct](#).

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS¹

The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:

Module Code	Module Title	Core or Optional	SCQF Level	Credit Size	Coursework 1 (%)	Coursework 2 (%)
MMK226176	Design Economics and Cost Planning	Core	11	15	70%	30%
MMK226174	Construction Economics and Procurement	Core	11	15	40%	60%
MMK226179	Construction Technology (MSc)	Core	11	15	50%	50%
MMK226783	Construction Contracts and Dispute Management	Core	11	15	30%	70%
MMN226319	Risk and Value Management	Core	11	15	50%	50%
MMN326178	Construction Financial Management	Core	11	15	70%	30%
MMN226181	Construction Project Management	Core	11	15	50%	50%
MMK226180	Quantification and Costing of Works	Core	11	15	70%	30%
MMK226789	Masters Dissertation	Core	11	60	100%	

Students undertaking the programme on a full-time basis commencing in September of each year will undertake the modules in the order presented above. It may be subject to variation for students commencing the programme at other times of year (e.g. January) and/or undertaking the programme on a part-time or distance learning mode of delivery.

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme²:

- **Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) in Quantity Surveying** - achieved upon successful completion of a Minimum of 4 Taught Module, 60 credits (excluding the Dissertation)
- **Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) in Quantity Surveying**- achieved upon successful completion of a Minimum of 8 Taught Modules, 120 credits (excluding the Dissertation)
- **Master of Science (MSc) in Quantity Surveying**- achieved upon successful completion of 8 Taught Modules (120 credits) and Dissertation (60 credits), 180 credits in total

Selection of Taught Modules (Programme Structure Table)

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 Programme Structure Table. Furthermore, as part of the requirement for the award of PgD in Quantity Surveying, students must achieve passes in 8 Taught

¹ Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures>

² Please refer to the [GCU Qualifications Framework](#) for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

Modules. As part of the requirement for the award of MSc in Quantity Surveying, students must achieve passes in 8 Taught Modules (structure the same as PgD) plus the master's Dissertation module.

Master's Dissertation

Students are required to complete the 60-credit master's Dissertation, 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 (construction-related) 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. It may require increased technical depth or greater breadth of subject matter relating to previous projects, case studies or dissertations undertaken by the student.

ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at the following link.

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/services-and-facilities/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulations-and-policies>

VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes)

Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure the accuracy of the programme of study being offered.

Version Number	Changes/Updates	Date Changes/Updates made	Date Effective From
1.0	PSP put on new template as part of programme review	March 2025	September 2025