

# SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

**MSc Quantity Surveying** 

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION** 

2023-2024

# **GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY**

# **Programme Specification Pro-forma**

# **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 1. Programme Title:
- 2. Final Award:
- 3. Exit Awards:
- 4. Awarding Body:
- 5. Approval Date:
- 6. School:
- 7. Host Division:
- 8. UCAS Code:
- 9. PSB Involvement:
- 10. Place of Delivery:
- 11. Subject Benchmark Statement:
- 12. Dates of PS Preparation/Revision

MSc Quantity Surveying MSc Quantity Surveying; PgD in Quantity Surveying Glasgow Caledonian University 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment Construction and Surveying Not applicable RICS and CIOB Glasgow Caledonian University and GCU London Not applicable August 2019

# Academic Rationale

The MSc Quantity Surveying programme is targeted through its marketing on the development of distance and parttime student numbers. Its primary selling point in this respect is the fact that its mode of delivery 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 six 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 in the elsewhere in the school.

# **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:

- 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 of: 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 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.

#### 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 a 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 a flexible learning means that less formal contact time is required. In accordance with current practice, it is anticipated that student 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 upon the modules selected. Part-time students would normally complete the programme in two and a half (2.5) years.

#### DISTANCE LEARNING

All of the modules forming the programme are web-enabled. This facilitates the ability for 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 of the 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.

#### 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 are that students should:

- Be provided with the knowledge and skills to equip them for a career as a Quantity Surveying within the industry in the UK and overseas.
- 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 to 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 the transferable skills to prepare them for employment as a Quantity Surveyor.
- 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

# Preamble

The structure of the MSc Quantity Surveying is consistent with most other equivalent postgraduate degrees offered at GCU. The first part of the degree is comprised of taught modules set at Masters level (M) and allocated 15 credit points each and the latter part of the degree is comprised of a Masters Dissertation worth 60 credit points. There are criteria governing which combinations of taught modules are acceptable. Given that these criteria are followed; awards may be made as follows:

# Postgraduate Certificate PgC in Quantity Surveying

Minimum of 4 taught modules 60 credits (any modules excluding the dissertation may be selected)

# Postgraduate Diploma PgD in Quantity Surveying

Minimum of 8 taught modules 120 credits (module selection criteria must be followed)

# Master's Degree MSc in Quantity Surveying

Minimum of 8 taught modules and the Dissertation (60 credits) 180 credits

# Selection of Taught Modules (Table on 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 in the 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 Masters Dissertation module.

#### **Masters Dissertation**

Students are required to complete the 60 credit Masters 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 study. This may require increased technical depth or greater breadth of subject matter relating to previous projects, case studies or dissertation 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.

## 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	В
MMN326178	Construction Financial Management	John Lowe	15	В
MMN226181	Construction Project Management	Nicola Callaghan	15	В
MMK226180	Quantification and Costing of Works	Bridget Eshun	15	В
MMK226789	Masters Dissertation	Kenneth Lawani	60	A,B,C

\* 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 year of entry can be found at: <u>University Assessment Regulations and Policies</u>