

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

School of Art, Design and Architecture

Programme Specification

BSc (Hons) Building Surveying

Change of Award Title Agreed April 2019:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. C. Smith', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

1. BSc (Hons) Building Surveying

Final award title Level H	BSc (Hons) Building Surveying
Intermediate award title(s) Level I	BSc (Hons) Building Surveying (<i>on satisfactory completion of 80 Stage 3 credits</i>) Diploma of Higher Education (<i>on satisfactory completion of Stage 2</i>)
Intermediate award title(s) Level C	Certificate of Higher Education (<i>on satisfactory completion of Stage 1</i>)
Awarding institution	University of Plymouth
Teaching institution	University of Plymouth
Accrediting body	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)
Appropriate benchmark(s)	Built Environment
UCAS code	K232
JACS / HECoS code	K230 / (100216) building surveying

This Programme Specification details how and where the skills and other outcomes are delivered in this programme. A mapping education of key skills is employed by the CIOB and RICS.

2. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

2.1. Programme features

The distinctive features of the BSc (Hons) Building Surveying programme provide students with an inspiring, enriching and professional experience, preparing them for a successful career as graduates.

The distinctive features of this programme focuses around the degree's industrial context, its professional accreditations, optional placement period and its environmental theme. This environmental themes is integrated in all taught modules and project, and enables the students guide the future construction industry, meeting the stricter environmental and energy based legislation. Broadening activities, such as guest lectures, are also introduced in the programme to enhance learner awareness of global environmental and sustainability issues.

This programme is designed around other Built Environment related programmes in the School of Art, Design and Architecture, including BSc (Hons) Construction Project Management, BSc (Hons) Architecture Engineering, BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying and BA (Hons) Architecture, offering a range of common modules with these other relevant disciplines, as well as specialist modules, projects and tailored dissertations modules.

This programmes is designed around a common first year with the BSc (Hons) Construction Project Management and the BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying, allowing students to transfer to these courses after a successful completion of Year 1.

The distinctive features include:

- *Professional Accreditation:* The course is fully accredited by the leading professional bodies recognised by building surveyors including the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) and the Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE).
- *Lead the way in the industry:* our course focuses on high performance and energy efficient buildings, which will place you at the forefront of the sector and able to embrace the trend towards stricter environmental and energy based legislation.
- *Inspiring Teaching:* The programme is taught by staff with both an industry and research background. Teaching is also supported by industry professionals and an extensive programme of UK and international visiting speakers.
- *Industry Links:* The department sustains good links with many project management consultants, surveying consultants, architects' practices, engineering consultants, leading building contractors, and energy and regulatory authorities in the UK. Industry professionals play an active role in the programme, by participating in guest lectures, workshops and tutorials. These provide opportunities for work-placements to individual students and future employability opportunities.
- *Industry placement year:* Students of this programme have the opportunity to get experience in the construction industry and increase their future employability in the sector with a paid placement following their second

year. The optional year-long placement is with organisations ranging from surveying practices, engineering consultants, building contractors, and energy and regulatory authorities in the UK or abroad and allows the students to experience a professional environment. Students receive advice and guidance to arrange their own placement, and support from the academic staff to ensure that they are receiving a valuable learning opportunity.

- *Site visits:* Off campus, students also enrich their learning through site visits and field trips.
- *Research-informed learning:* The academic staff are also researchers, allowing the latest research findings to be delivered directly to the students. The research covers a broad range of specialist areas, including: building performance analysis, energy efficient building design, construction management, thermography and natural materials.
- *Multidisciplinary Learning Environment:* During the degree, students from this programme benefit from working in multidisciplinary groups with students from other programmes in the School of Art, Design and Architecture, including BSc (Hons) Construction Project Management, BSc (Hons) Architecture Engineering, BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying and BA (Hons) Architecture, replicating a realistic working environment in construction projects.
- *Real assessments:* The course is designed to prepare students for their future career. The assessments reflect the varied world of work, a mixture of coursework, project work, site visit reports, examinations, and presentations. Students work on industry led group projects with real project briefs and clients, and they benefit from guidance from a panel of industrial advisers, which help them to develop the professional skills and networking necessary to successfully progress in the sector.

2.2 Enhancing employability in Building Surveying

Graduates of building surveying gain employment in a wide range of built environment professions, including building surveyors, quantity surveyors, property managers, project managers or building regulators.

Our Building Surveying course works with an industrial advisory panel that actively supports the programme and provides our students with excellent links with future employers as well as opportunities to learn about the cutting edge of industry

practice and thinking. Other activities that will enhance students' employability within this course at University of Plymouth include:

- *One year paid industry placement in a building surveying practice, engineering consultancy or construction company in the UK or abroad*

Students have the opportunity to undertake an optional paid industry placement year with a building surveying practice, engineering consultancy or construction company in the UK or abroad, which occurs between Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the programme. Students seeking to undertake a placement year receive advice and guidance to arrange their own placement, including the preparation for the selection process and the placement itself. The academic staff (on the role of placement tutor) provide students with support on their placement to ensure that they are receiving a valuable learning opportunity. The Employability Service organises pre-placement sessions timetabled in Stage 1 and Stage 2.

- *Careers events, where you will be able to meet and discuss careers opportunities with future employers*

Once a year the Faculty organises a Careers event, where several companies from the building industry take part and students have the opportunity to meet and discuss careers opportunities with future employers.

- *“Preparing for industry” talks by future employers*

Year 2 students are visited by several employers in both disciplines who would like to offer placements to University of Plymouth built environment students. The Year 3 students in both courses also received visits from employers, who, after employing previous graduates from University of Plymouth, are seeking to recruit more.

- *Workshops with industry professionals and guest lectures with industry specialists*

In every stage of the degree, students work on industry led group projects with real project briefs and clients, and they benefit from guidance from a panel of more than 20 industrial advisers, which help them to develop the professional skills and networking necessary to successfully progress in the sector.

- *Advice with the preparation of the CV and interviews*

The Employability Service, Placement Support, delivers pre-placement modules as part of the course, offering support on preparing CV and Covering Letter and managing the cycle for Placement/Work Based Learning activities, providing support and guidance to the students' individual needs. In addition to

the general support provided by the University, students have access to academic staff who, through their professional and academic experience, have insights in to the particular nature of future career development within the built environment industries. This is further supplemented by links maintained with practices, and a register of potential job opportunities.

- *Invitation to talks and social events by professional organisations*

Students are invited to attend to events organised by professional organisations such as Constructing Excellence South West (CESW), Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) and Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers South West (CIBSE). These events are always an excellent opportunity for networking with professionals as well to broaden the students' knowledge.

3. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA Benchmark statements for Construction, Property and Surveying

4. Programme Structure

The duration of the programme is either 6 semesters (3 years), or 8 semesters (4 years) if students undertake an optional industry placement year of 48 weeks, which occurs between Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the programme.

A Stage is equivalent to one year of study for a full time student. Each Stage consists of two semesters. Students are required to complete modules amounting 60 credits per semester, thus 120 credits in total. An outline programme structure, modules, and credits are presented in Table 1-4.

Stage 1 is a common year for BSc (Hons) Building Surveying, BSc (Hons) Construction Project Management and BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying programmes. Stage 2 and 3 of the programme includes specialism modules.

Stage 1 (Level 4) BSc Building Surveying

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Semester	Status	Assessment
BLDG406	Fundamentals of Construction	20	Semester 1	Core Compensatable	50% Test 50% Coursework
CIVL102	Construction Materials and Site Surveying	20	Semester 1	Core Compensatable	25% Test 75% Coursework

BLDG402	Principles of Economics and Management	20	Semester 1	Core Compensatable	40% Test 60% Coursework
BLDG404	ICT for Architecture and Construction Projects	20	Semester 2	Core Compensatable	100% Coursework
BLDG407	Building Physics	20	Semester 2	Core Compensatable	50% Examination 50% Coursework
BLDG405	Built Environment Project 1	20	Semester 2	Core Compensatable	100% Coursework
FAPY100	Stage 1 Placement Preparation	0	-	N/A	N/A

Stage 2 (Level 5) BSc Building Surveying

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Semester	Status	Assessment
BLDG501	Technology of Large and Innovative Buildings	20	Semester 1	Core Compensatable	50% Examination 50% Coursework
BLDG510	Property development and refurbishment	20	Semester 1	Core Compensatable	50% Examination 50% Coursework
BLDG504	Building Surveying Principles and Practice	20	Semester 1	Core Non Compensatable	50% Examination 50% Coursework
BLDG511	Building Services Engineering	20	Semester 2	Core Compensatable	50% Examination 50% Coursework
BLDG506	Contract Procedures	20	Semester 2	Core Compensatable	50% Examination 50% Coursework
BLDG508	Built Environment Project 2	20	Semester 2	Core Compensatable	100% Coursework
FAPY200	Stage 2 Placement Preparation	0	-	N/A	N/A

Optional Industry Placement BSc Building Surveying

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
FAPY602	Industry Placement	N/A

Stage 3 (Level 6) BSc Building Surveying

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Semester	Status	Assessment
BLDG611*	Research Methods in the Built Environment	20	Semester 1	Core	100% Coursework

				Compensatable	
BLDG612*	Dissertation Project	20	Semester 2	Core Compensatable	100% Coursework
BLDG603	Sustainable and Safe Construction	20	Semester 1	Core Compensatable	50% Examination 50% Coursework
BLDG604	Building and Property Law	20	Semester 1	Core Compensatable	50% Examination 50% Coursework
BLDG609	Built Environment Project 3	20	Semester 2	Core Compensatable	100% Coursework
BLDG607	Building Surveying Professional Practice	20	Semester 2	Core Non Compensatable	50% Examination 50% Coursework

** The 40 credits Dissertation Project is undertaken in two parts, involving both BLDG611 and BLDG612 modules.*

Students are expected to pass all modules in order to progress. No optional modules exist, with the exception of the industrial placement.

Pass requirement for each module: $\geq 40\%$ (Note: For CIVL102 there is a pass requirement of $\geq 35\%$ in coursework and examination elements, and ≥ 40 for the overall module). Compensation is permitted in accordance with University of Plymouth regulations. Please note that some modules are non compensatable. See tables above.

Degree Classifications

There are a number of degree classifications which can be granted on undergraduate awards:

- Honours Degree – divided into the following categories: First Class Honours; Second Class Honours, Upper Division; Second Class Honours, Lower Division; Third Class Honours
- Degree with or without Distinction or Commendation.

Following a listening exercise with past and current students, and to reward students for their work in the first year, the University has taken the step to include the best 80 credits of first year students' marks to count for a total of 10 percent towards their final degree classification. This approach was taken so that students who are still finding their feet or struggle with a particular topic early in their University career won't be penalised for this in their final degree classification. While you need to pass, what this means is the lowest 40 credits of your first year do not count. It is also worth remembering that if you do not do well in terms of marks overall in the first year, this does not mean that you cannot still achieve a

good degree, as the second year counts 30 percent, and your final year 60 percent. Doing very well in the first year means you have laid the foundation for your final degree classification.

Details of how your final degree classification is calculated are given in the University of Plymouth Student Handbook.

- For student entries from 2018-19 the best 80 credits from Level 4 (Stage 1) are given a weighting of 0.1 (10%). Level 5 (Stage 2) marks are given a 0.3 (30%) weighting and Level 6 (Stage 3) marks are given a weighting of 0.6 (60%).
- For student entries prior to 2018-19 Level 4 (Stage 1) has a weighting of 0% (Pass/Fail). Level 5 (Stage 2) marks are given a 0.2 (20%) weighting and Level 6 (Stage 3) marks are given a weighting of 0.8 (80%). This is due to specific exceptions to regulations around Level 4 in line with national practice, subject benchmarks, and signature pedagogies.

5. Programme Aims

This programme aims to provide graduates with the flexibility to progress into a professional career in Building Surveying.

The specific aims of this honours degree are for students to demonstrate:

- Ability to apply knowledge and understanding in a broad range of technical, scientific, academic and professional subjects.
- A potential to progress to professionally based employment and/or further academic study.
- An appreciation of the role of construction in society and the environmental aspects of construction.
- Appropriate knowledge of construction and general management.
- A range of key skills and subject specific competencies in preparation for employment.
- An ability to research, synthesise and evaluate data and to formulate solutions.

6. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

6.1 Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- LO1. The fundamental concepts, principles and theories of construction and related technology.
- LO2. A comprehensive understanding of the construction industry.
- LO3. Detailed knowledge and understanding of essential facts, concepts, principles and theories related to building surveying.
- LO4. The professional and ethical responsibilities of building surveyors.

6.2 Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- LO1. The ability to apply appropriate knowledge and skills to solve problems.
- LO2. Recognise and analyse criteria and specifications appropriate to specific construction problems, and plan strategies for their solution.
- LO3. Take a holistic approach to solving building surveying related problems applying professional judgement to balance risks, costs and benefits.
- LO4. Can critically evaluate a range of possible built environment related issues and evidence to support conclusions and recommendations.

6.3 Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- LO1. To communicate effectively in writing and verbally.
- LO2. To manage resources and time.
- LO3. Critique and self-evaluate.
- LO4. Work both autonomously and as part of a team when required.
- LO5. Discuss and debate building survey related problems.
- LO6. Learn effectively for the purpose of continuing professional development and in a wider context throughout their career.
- LO7. To evaluate professional decisions in a sustainability context.

6.4 Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- LO1. Initiative and personal responsibility.
- LO2. Effective communication and debating skills.
- LO3. The ability to make decisions based on in-complete information.

6.5 Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- LO1. The ability to undertake basic land surveying skills.
- LO2. Prepare technical reports.
- LO3. Give technical presentations.
- LO4. Use developmental tools and techniques.
- LO5. Analyse building defects.
- LO6. Undertake building inspections.
- LO7. Devise remediation proposals.
- LO8. Use scientific literature effectively.
- LO9. Be aware of the risks, safety issues, legislation and regulatory requirements when designing/managing construction project.

7. Admissions Criteria

Entry requirements
<p>Stage 1 entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UCAS tariff: 104 – 112• A level: BCC - BBC Including a minimum of 2 A Levels. General Studies accepted• 18 Unit BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma: DMM• UAL Extended Diploma: Merit• International Baccalaureate: 26-28 points

- Irish Highers: 104-112 points
- Scottish Highers: 104-112 points
- All Access courses: Pass a named Access to HE Diploma (e.g. Preferably Construction, Engineering or Combined) however will consider over subjects, (including GCSE English and Maths grade C/4 or above or equivalent) with at least 33 credits at Merit and/or distinction.
- All relevant international qualifications will be considered.
- Equivalent qualifications and industry experience can be considered.

Stage 2 entry and transfer:

- Successful completion of an approved Foundation Degree or completion of Year 1 modules of a relevant course will allow Stage Two Transfer.

Stage 3 entry:

- Through an appropriate admissions process such as an interview, or portfolio of evidence, possible entry onto the final year.

8. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

The University of Plymouth's "Assessment Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes of Study", e.g. Foundation and Vocational Certificates and Diplomas will apply.

9. Exceptions to Regulations

- Degree classification calculation: For student entries prior to 2018-19 Level 4 (Stage 1) has a weighting of 0% (Pass/Fail). Level 5 (Stage 2) marks are given a 0.2 (20%) weighting and Level 6 (Stage 3) marks are given a weighting of 0.8 (80%). This is due to specific exceptions to regulations around Level 4 in line with national practice, subject benchmarks, and signature pedagogies.
- Minimum pass mark: For CIVL102 module, students must achieve a minimum of 35% in all module components in order to pass the module.
- For student entries prior to 2019-20 (inclusive), the award title will be BSc (Hons) Building Surveying and the Environment.

10. Transitional Arrangements

N/A at the time of writing.