

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

School of Art, Design and Architecture

Programme Specification

BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying

Definitive Document Approved: 3.5.18

Approved by Minor Change: 5.12.18

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

Implementation Date: September 2019

1. BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying

Final award title Level H	BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying
Intermediate award title(s) Level I	BSc Quantity 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 Association of Building Engineers (CABE)
Appropriate benchmark(s)	Built Environment; Building
UCAS code	K240
JACS code	K240 / (100217) quantity surveying

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth
Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth
3. **Accrediting body(ies):** Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS);
Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

4.1 Quantity Surveying at Plymouth University

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

The distinctive features of this programme focuses around the degree's industrial context, optional placement period and a multidisciplinary learning environment. It will

complement existing built environment programmes and allow students to evaluate sustainability, technology and practice on a meaningful value basis.

Applying Quantity Surveying practice and technology to building design and construction, the programme enables learners to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for a successful career as a quantity surveyor. The combination of lectures, site visits, tutorials with industry partners in a multi-disciplinary environment will prepare quantity surveying graduates with the skills and knowledge to enter many other built environment sector including design management, design coordination, project management, and planning.

This programme is designed around other building related programmes in the School of Art, Design and Architecture, including BSc (Hons) Construction Management and the Environment, BSc (Hons) Building Surveying and the Environment, BSc (Hons) Architectural Engineering 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.

4.2 Programme features

The programme sets out to address contemporary and future Quantity Surveying and Built Environment challenges, building on the existing strength of the School. These challenges would include:

- Evaluation of 'Sustainability' on a value basis.
- Ensuring the professionals responsibility to society is developed.
- Create meaningful essential success factors for Clients and Projects
- To create meaningful legal and commercial project structures that addresses risk and value to all stakeholders.

Other distinctive features include:

- *Professional Accreditation:* The course is fully accredited by the leading professional body recognised by quantity surveyors: Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). It is also accredited by 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 quantity 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 architects' 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.
- *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 Management and the Environment, BSc (Hons) Building Surveying and the Environment, BSc (Hons) Architecture Engineering 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.

4.3 Enhancing employability in Quantity Surveying

Our Quantity 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 quantity 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 quantity 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.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA benchmark statement for Land, Construction, Real estate and Surveying October 2016 is the benchmark standard for Quantity Surveying. It is a broad benchmark with twenty-six possible outcomes. It contains generic skills and also subject specific standards.

'Land, Construction, Real Estate and Surveying represent major subjects involved in this process, but it is acknowledged that professionals working in these disciplines need to interact and work with those in related subjects, such as planners, engineers, designers and architects. As such, a key feature of the Statement is its interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary character. Graduates from these programmes have a good understanding of the other subjects that support the process of planning, design, financing, construction, development, use and management of real estate and

infrastructure.’ We believe that the structure of our programme with its shared modules will provide graduates to fully demonstrate this aim of the QAA benchmark.

Further information on the alignment of the BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying programme with this benchmark can be found in Appendix C.

6. 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 (Level 4) BSc (Hons) Quantity 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 (Hons) Quantity 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
BLDG514	Quantity Surveying Principles	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 (Hons) Quantity Surveying

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
FAPY602	Industry Placement	N/A

Stage 3 (Level 6) BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Semester	Status	Assessment
BLDG611*	Research Methods in the Built Environment	20	Semester 1	Core Compensatable	100% Coursework
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
BLDG614	Quantity 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 BLDG601 and BLDG602 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.

7. Programme Aims

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.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1. 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 quantity surveying.

LO4. The professional and ethical responsibilities of quantity surveyors.

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

LO1. 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 Quantity Surveying related problems applying professional judgement to balance risks, costs and benefits.

LO4. Critically evaluate a range of possible built environment related issues and evidence to support conclusions and recommendations.

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

LO1. Communicate effectively in writing and verbally.

LO2. Manage resources and time.

LO3. Work both autonomously and as part of a team when required.

LO4. Learn effectively including self-evaluation for the purpose of continuing professional development and in a wider context throughout their career.

8.4. 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.

LO4. A professional ethos.

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

LO1. Undertake core built environment skills; including land surveys, laboratory experiments and measurement of a variety of construction projects.

LO2. Prepare technical reports and presentations.

LO3. Apply cost modelling techniques to evaluate construction projects and consider them in the broader context of value and risk.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

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. <p>Stage 2 entry and transfer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful completion of an approved Foundation Degree or completion of Year 1 modules of a relevant course will allow Stage Two Transfer. <p>Stage 3 entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through an appropriate admissions process such as an interview, or portfolio of evidence, possible entry onto the final year.

10. 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.

11. Non Standard Regulations

- Minimum pass mark: For CIVL102 module, students must achieve a minimum of 35% in all module components in order to pass the module.

12. Transitional Arrangements

N/A at the time of writing.

Where students do find themselves in a transition situation, appropriate counselling with the Programme Leader, senior administrators and Discipline Head will be sought and an individual solution for each case applied.

Appendices

- A. Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core/elective modules**
- B. Operational Specification: mapping of Award Learning Outcomes**
- C. QAA Benchmark alignment.**

Appendix A: Programme Specification Mapping (UG): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes

CORE MODULES:

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical								
		Knowledge & understanding				Cognitive & intellectual skills				Key & transferable skills				Employment related skills						Practical skills							
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			1	2	3					
Level 4	BLDG406	■		■		■			■					■			■				■				Y	C1, T1	
	BLDG402			■		■			■						■	■	■	■							Y	C1, T1	
	BLDG407	■				■			■							■		■	■	■					Y	C1, E1	
	BLDG404PP	■					■							■			■	■	■						Y	C1	
	BLDG405			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Y	C1	
	CIVL102			■		■		■				■	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■	■	■		Y	C1, T1
Level 4 Los																											
Level 5	BLDG501	■		■		■			■					■			■				■				Y	C1, E1	
	BLDG510	■	■	■		■			■					■			■		■	■	■					Y	C1, E1
	BLDG511	■		■		■			■					■		■		■	■	■					Y	C1, E1	
	BLDG506	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Y	C1, E1	
	BLDG508		■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■					Y	C1
	BLDG514			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■					N	C1, E1
Level 5 Los																											
Level 6	BLDG611			■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■				■				Y	C1	
	BLDG612			■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■				■				Y	C1	
	BLDG603	■	■	■		■			■	■	■	■	■		■				■	■	■					Y	C1, E1
	BLDG604	■			■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Y	C1, E1	
	BLDG609		■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■					Y	C1
	BLDG614			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■					N	C1, E1
Level 6 LOs																											
Confirmed Award LOs																											

Appendix B. Operational Specification: mapping of Award Learning Outcomes. Insert rows and columns as required.

Module Code	Level	Credits	C - core E - elective	Award Learning Outcomes (for more information see Section 8 of the Programme Specification) Please map where a module does one or more of the following: I – ALO is introduced P – ALO is practised (e.g. formative assessment and feedback; basis of tutorial or workshop) A – ALO is assessed																					
				8.1 Knowledge & understanding				8.2 Cognitive & intellectual skills				8.3 Key & transferable skills				8.4 Employment related skills				8.5 Practical skills					
				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3			
BLDG406	4	20	C	I		A		A			P			I				I			A				
BLDG402	4	20	C			A		A			P					P	I	I	P						
BLDG407	4	20	C	I				P			A				P			P			A	A			
BLDG404PP	4	20	C	P					P							A			I	P					
BLDG405	4	20	C			P	P	A	A	A	A		P	P	P	P	A	P	A	A	A	A			
CIVL102	4	20	C			A		P						P	P			A		A	A				
BLDG501	5	20	C	I		A				I	A	A			P							A			
BLDG510	5	20	C	A	A	P		P			A	A	P			P			P	P	A				
BLDG511	5	20	C	A		P		P		P	A			P		P	P	P				A	P		
BLDG506	5	20	C	I	A	A	A		A	A	A	P			P	P	A		I			A	A		
BLDG508	5	20	C		I		P				A	A			P		P	A	P	A			A	A	
BLDG514	5	20	C			A	A				A	A	P	P		P		P		P			A	A	
BLDG611	6	20	C			A		P	P	A			A	A			P						A		

BLDG612	6	20	C			A		P	P	A		A	A			P					A		
BLDG603	6	20	C	A	I	A				A	A	A					P				A		
BLDG604	6	20	C	A			A	P			A	A		P		P	A	P			A		
BLDG609	6	20	C		I		P			A	A			P		P	A	P	A		A	A	
BLDG614	6	20	C			A	A			A	A	P	P		P		P		P		A	A	

Appendix C. Alignment with QAA Benchmark, Land, Construction, Real Estate and Surveying October 2016.

The subjects covered by this Statement are associated with the development of a sustainable built environment. The professions associated with these subjects have a vital role to play in shaping, maintaining and adapting the built environment, the property and buildings that exist within this environment, and thereby in influencing the quality of life and the way people live their lives.

Land, Construction, Real Estate and Surveying represent major subjects involved in this process, but it is acknowledged that professionals working in these disciplines need to interact and work with those in related subjects, such as planners, engineers, designers and architects. As such, a key feature of the Statement is its interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary character. Graduates from these programmes have a good understanding of the other subjects that support the process of planning, design, financing, construction, development, use and management of real estate and infrastructure.

The QAA Benchmark has, in Section 4, Knowledge, understanding and skills set out under:

- Subject-specific knowledge and understanding.
- Generic Skills
- Intellectual Skills
- Practical Skills
- Analytical and data interpretation skills.
- Communication skills
- Digital Literacy
- Interpersonal and teamwork skills
- Self-management and professional development skills

All of which have been considered in producing the learning outcomes within both the programme design and module delivery.

Subject specific knowledge and understanding relating to Quantity Surveying are mapped below against the particular modules of the BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying programme.

QAA Subject Specific for Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management.	L4 Modules	L5 Modules	L6 Modules
demonstrate an awareness of the mainstream technology and the resources it uses for constructing domestic, industrial, commercial buildings and infrastructure	BLDG406	BLDG501	
describe the impact development has on the environment and initiatives to minimise energy, reduce carbon emissions, protect and increase biodiversity, flood protection and increase health and well-being	BLDG407	BLDG511	
demonstrate ability to measure and quantify to support the design process, production of project information and the commercial management of projects	BLDG405	BLDG514 BLDG508	BLDG609
demonstrate an appreciation of time, cost quality and value drivers affecting the design and construction and occupancy of buildings		BLDG509	BLDG614
demonstrate awareness of the legal and regulatory frameworks and systems impacting on the design and construction of buildings, and the principles of procurement and contract administration		BLDG506	BLDG614 BLDG603 BLDG604
demonstrate an awareness of digital technologies that support the construction process and the management of costs	BLDG404PP		BLDG609
recognise the roles of other professionals and parties associated with construction, property and surveying throughout a buildings lifecycle and be aware of the benefits of collaborative practice	BLDG405	BLDG508	BLDG609
recognise the importance of professional ethics, their impact on the operation of the profession and their influence on society, conflict avoidance/dispute resolution, communities and the stakeholders with whom they have contact	BLDG402	BLDG509	BLDG614
demonstrate an understanding of the principles and processes that deliver an inclusive environment recognising the diversity of user needs by putting people (of all ages and abilities) at the heart of the commercial management and quantity surveying process.	BLDG402	BLDG508	BLDG609 BLDG614