

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award	BSc (Hons) Building Surveying BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management BSc (Hons) Construction Management BSc (Hons) Property and Planning BSc (Hons) Real Estate <i>This programme specification details only the foundation year of the above courses. Final award is dependent on the student's chosen pathway</i>
Name and level of intermediate awards	Foundation Certificate in Property and Construction
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Marylebone
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month	1 year full-time for Foundation year (level 3) +3 years (minimum) further (level 4, 5 and 6) for completion of BSc award.
<a href="#">QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</a>	Land, Construction, Real Estate and Surveying
Professional statutory or regulatory body	On completion of honours degree: BSc (Hons) Building Surveying RICS & CABE BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management RICS and CIOB BSc (Hons) Construction Management) CIOB BSc (Hons) Property and Planning RICS BSc (Hons) Real Estate RICS
Date of course validation/Revalidation	December 2019

Date of programme specification approval	February 2020
Valid for cohorts	2020/21
Course Leader	Onur Demirci
UCAS code and URL	<a href="http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate">westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate</a>
Westminster course code	BSc (Hons) Building Surveying FT - BSPOC03F BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management FT - BSPOC06F BSc (Hons) Construction Management FT - BSPOC04F BSc (Hons) Property and Planning FT - BSPOC05F BSc (Hons) Real Estate with Foundation FT - BSPOC07F
HECoS code	100150

### Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

A decision will be made on the basis of your application form. However, the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: [westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply).

### Recognition of Prior Learning

Applicants with prior certificated or experiential learning at the same level of the qualification for which they wish to apply are advised to visit the following page for further information: [westminster.ac.uk/recognition-of-prior-certified-learning](http://westminster.ac.uk/recognition-of-prior-certified-learning).

### Aims of the course

The aim of this Foundation year is to develop and prepare students for study in the area of Property and Construction. During the Foundation year you will get a chance to develop in your chosen field, working with leading academics who will encourage you to become a confident and creative thinker within the Property and Construction subject areas.

Our Foundation year gives you the opportunity to explore new ideas, providing new perspectives on the key debates within your chosen field. The core modules are designed to accelerate your academic and professional development, bringing together like-minded students to think about the 'key themes' within your discipline. By working with students from a range of backgrounds and disciplines, you will develop important teamwork skills which will enable you to solve problems with added confidence.

The Foundation year will draw upon the School's subject area expertise within the areas of Property and Construction, preparing students for progression to degree programmes from

one of the BSc pathways highlighted above. The students will have an opportunity to network and learn from peers. The network groups are available through the property and construction societies.

The Property and Construction content within the foundation year will be delivered through four core modules, Property People and the Economy; Construction Methods, Materials and Technologies; Design and Development; and Sustainable Environment. Academic skills will be developed through two core modules, Introduction to Academic Practice and Critical Thinking for Academic and Personal Development.

The Property, People and the Economy module aims to investigate both the residential and commercial markets.

The Construction Methods, Materials and Technologies module will provide students with an introduction to the construction methods, materials, and technologies used when designing, constructing and operating built environment assets. It will look at new build, refurbishment and infrastructure projects, traditional and modern construction techniques across a wide range of sectors, including the residential, commercial, educational and hotel sectors.

The Design and Development module will introduce students to the building lifecycle, including the design, development and operation stages.

The Sustainable Environment module aims to introduce the basis of sustainability and sustainable development in the light of planning, land and land use.

You will have the opportunity to explore all that London offers, including trips which will allow you to engage with a range of cultural industries and organisations. You will be inspired to think imaginatively and critically about your chosen subject, with our core modules giving you the chance to develop the key skills for academic and professional success. There will be an opportunity for site visits.

### **What will you be expected to achieve?**

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement and the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding** you will gain from your course (KU).
- **Graduate attributes** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA).
- **Professional and personal practice learning outcomes** are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)
- **Key transferable skills** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

### **Level 3 learning outcomes**

Upon completion of level 3 (Foundation year) you will be able to:

- L3.1. Demonstrate Foundational understanding of some of the different disciplinary areas that make up the Property and Construction Industry; (KU, PPP)
- L3.2. Identify the key academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of Property and Construction; (KU, PPP)

- L3.3 Exhibit awareness of your own strengths and weaknesses as a student, and feel confident that you have the capacity to work independently as well as a member of a team; (PPP, KTS)
- L3.4 Show confidence in your ability to understand and formulate basic arguments, and to begin to think critically, creatively and ethically; (KU, GA, PPP)
- L3.5. Engage with and be curious about key topics, debates, and theories in Property and Construction; (KU)
- L3.6. Demonstrate a range of employability and study related skills and knowledge and have an understanding of you own identity in learning and professional contexts. (KTS, GA)

### **How will you learn?**

The Foundation year is constructed around a clear and rigorous sense of the skills required for success in Higher Education and the Property and Construction sectors. In keeping with this, innovative and inclusive methods of learning and teaching will engage you and inspire in you a keen sense of the lively and changing nature of your subject. These methods are focused particularly in developing in you a critical self-reflexivity and an awareness of your own learning experience throughout the modules, not just when engaging in summative assessments. A distinctive feature of the degree is that it encourages you to make connections between the various modules and subjects you are engaging with in your Foundation year. The modules will provide the foundations in the Property and Construction subject area, which are then further explored with modules that will help you enhance your academic and professional skills.

Our Foundation year has been designed to place supported independent learning at the heart of the curriculum. Our learning environment is structured to enable students to address key issues and themes in their broad discipline in a way that is both relevant and creative. Our active learning sessions are concerned with learning to critically evaluate the skills required for studying a Degree in one of our Property and Construction Pathways. We provide a learning environment that encourages students to reflect on key concepts, issues and debates beyond the formal classroom environment. We encourage our students to 'own' the classroom and this is reflected in the fact that we have adopted a model of learning which values student partnership and student enquiry as the primary focus on all our modules.

A number of innovative and distinct learning environments and experiences are offered to students on one of our Property and Construction Foundation years, including:

**Lectures:** *Lectures involve presentations by academic staff, practice-based professionals, and/or external speakers. Many lectures involve an interactive and/or 'blended learning' element and we encourage students to participate fully in lectures, either by responding to questions or posing their own questions.*

**Workshops:** *Many modules will offer interactive workshops that allow students to explore a topic, theme or subject through their own knowledge and informed analysis of a problem.*

**Seminars:** *Seminars are informal teaching/discussion sessions in smaller groups and involve greater interaction with the lecturer and with small peer groups.*

**Tutorials:** *In a tutorial a student meets with their tutor either individually or as a part of a small group. Tutorials provide an opportunity to discuss problems and issues, providing a pastoral ethos to support learning.*

**Fieldtrips/Site visits:** *Students may undertake fieldwork or visit relevant organisations or research establishments as part of their studies to view current practice and engage with industry. These visits have been embedded in the core modules within Property and Construction to help you provide context to your academic studies.*

### **How will you be assessed?**

The course offers a variety of assessment to students which aim to foster creative and critical thinking through an awareness of their chosen subject in Property and Construction. The course offers a variety of assessment to students in order to nurture as well as assess your academic development.

We have adopted a mixture of assessment types to reduce over-assessment and ensure that students develop a broader range of skills for professional success than would be transferred by traditional assessment methods alone. The assessments have been designed to offer a more flexible method of meeting the course/module learning helping to prepare them for future study and professional development.

Where possible “real world” problems are used as a basis for assessment, giving the opportunity for students to draw upon their own experiences and interest.

In designing the assessment strategy for the Foundation year, your course team has sought to ensure a balance between traditional and innovative forms of assessment. We have mapped our assessment on the modules to ensure a good balance between formative and summative assessment. We are also preparing you for the types of assessment you will encounter later in your studies within this programme (at level 4 to 6).

In this regard, students would typically be exposed to the following forms of assessment:

- Essays
- Examinations
- Blogs/Wikis
- Individual Presentations
- Group Presentations
- Video compilations
- Debates
- Roleplays
- Project Work
- Critical Reflections
- Learner Journals and logbooks
- Self-assessment
- Peer assessment
- Oral Debates
- Reports
- Book reviews
- Posters
- Simulations/Games

## **Employment and further study opportunities**

Employability is embedded in all our Programmes and as a school we pride ourselves on the opportunities for employment available to our students. We work closely with industry to provide our students with invaluable exposure to organisations within the Property and Construction fields. Delivering client presentations in an industry setting, with assessments intertwined with real life projects, are an example of the activities you will be able to engage with thereby enhancing your own personal employability. Our close association and accreditation by leading professional bodies such as the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), is another example of how you have an opportunity to build a network with your peers and leading experts within the Property and Construction industry.

After completion of the Undergraduate studies, University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinkers
- Literate and effective communicator
- Entrepreneurial
- Global in outlook and engaged in communities
- Social, ethically and environmentally aware

Upon successful completion of the Foundation year, you will progress to Level 4 of one of the following BSc pathways: -

- BSc (Hons) Building Surveying
- BSc (Hons) Construction Management
- BSc (Hons) Property and Planning
- BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management
- BSc (Hons) Real Estate

As the Foundation year (level 3) content is common across all the Property and Construction foundation pathways it may be possible to transfer to any one of the Degree pathways above and this should be discussed with your course leader.

University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students.

## **Course structure**

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students' study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

<b>Credit Level 3</b>				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credit	ECTS
3ACHE003W	Introduction to Academic Practice	Core	20	10
3ACHE004W	Critical Thinking for Academic and Professional Development	Core	20	10
3PROP001W	Property, People and the Economy	Core	20	10
3CNMN001W	Construction Methods, Materials and Technologies	Core	20	10
3BUIL001W	Design and Development	Core	20	10
3PLAN001W	Sustainable Environments	Core	20	10
<b>Progression to level 4 or award of Foundation Certificate in Property and Construction.</b>				

### **Professional Body Accreditation or other external references**

Not applicable for level 3 provision. However, should the student continue onto one of our BSc Degree pathways, they will be undertaking a course of study which is approved by the following Professional Bodies: -

- BSc (Hons) Building Surveying - RICS and CABE
- BSc (Hons) Construction Management - CIOB
- BSc (Hons) Property and Planning – RICS
- BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management - RICS and CIOB
- BSc (Hons) Real Estate - RICS

### **Academic regulations**

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations).

### **How will you be supported in your studies?**

#### **Course Management**

Your course is managed through the Westminster Business School, School of Applied Management. The Course Leader and the teaching team will meet you in the orientation week programme and will help you with enrolment, registration, and orientation to the university, its processes and the culture of higher education. The Course Leader is responsible for development and management of the course in conjunction with the Associate Head of College (Education) and Head of School.

The course is monitored each year by senior members of the College to ensure that it is running effectively and that issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Teaching Committee audits this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council of the University, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

## Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/blackboard](http://westminster.ac.uk/blackboard).

## Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development).

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students<sup>1</sup> can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

## Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/student-advice](http://westminster.ac.uk/student-advice). The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/students-union](http://westminster.ac.uk/students-union).

## How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in **2019**. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course.



A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

### **How do we act on student feedback?**

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- There are also School Staff Student Exchange meetings that enable wider discussions across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

**Please note:** This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.  
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