Construction Management

About this area of study

Construction management prepares graduates for a challenging career in the delivery of complex physical infrastructure within time, cost and quality objectives, including integral and accredited specialisations in quantity surveying and building surveying.

Construction managers manage site operatives and ensure that client objectives, profit targets and occupational health and safety requirements are fulfilled. This requires knowledge of human resource management, commerce, law, contract administration, industrial relations, estimating and financial risk, technology, computing and environmental sustainability--and how these areas interact. Construction management is a global profession with clear opportunities to travel and work overseas. Graduates typically find employment as project managers for large contracting organisations or as quantity or building surveying consultants.

Quantity surveyors, also known as construction economists or cost managers, estimate and monitor construction costs, from the feasibility stage of a project through to the completion of the construction period. After construction they may be involved with tax depreciation schedules, replacement cost estimation for insurance purposes and, if necessary, mediation and arbitration.

Skills of quantity surveyors can also be used in refurbishment of old buildings, alterations to existing buildings and insurance replacement estimates. Quantity surveyors work in the private sector with consulting firms, in the public sector and increasingly with building contractors, financiers, property developers, project managers and universities.

Building surveyors are responsible for making sure that buildings are safe, accessible and energy efficient and have an impact on the design, planning and functionality of buildings. They detect and diagnose problems with design issues, construction techniques and materials and they manage the inspection process from foundations through to completion. Building surveyors are experts in a range of building legislation, technical codes and construction standards. Local councils, private firms, government departments, health authorities and fire services all employ building surveyors. Employment opportunities at federal or state government writing building codes and legislation, or local councils enforcing local laws and building standards or for large and small firms certifying buildings for construction exist for building surveyors.

The Bachelor of Construction Management satisfies the educational requirements of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), the Australian Institute of Building (AIB) and the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (AIQS). Depending on elective choice, recognition for practice as a building surveyor is also possible.

Key skills that Construction Management graduates demonstrate include

- time management skills and the ability to work to time schedules
- strong organisational, logical and analytical skills

- ability to be detail-orientated and accurate, especially with figures
- ability to work independently or as part of a team
- strong communication skills

Other courses offered by Deakin University include

- Bachelor of Design (Architecture)/Bachelor of Construction Management
- Bachelor of Design (Architecture)/Bachelor of Construction Management (Accelerated Program)
- Bachelor of Construction Management/Bachelor of Facilities Management
- Bachelor of Construction Management (Accelerated Program)

Labour market information

Grads online has information regarding graduate salaries and where graduates go after completing their course www.gradsonline.com.au

Job Outlook has information about the labour market outlook http://joboutlook.gov.au

Related occupations

Building inspector

Building inspectors enforce, advise on and interpret laws and regulations relating to all areas of building construction. Building inspectors also visit sites to ensure that construction complies with building regulations.

Building surveyor

Building surveyors provide advice to builders and owners regarding the laws and regulations controlling building, construction and safety. They also inspect buildings, issue permits and attend court on matters relating to breaches of building regulations.

Architect

Architects design small, large or complex buildings to function aesthetically and efficiently in a given space, as well as providing plans, specifications and detailed drawings for a given project. They liaise with planning authorities, builders, clients and other professionals.

An industry career profile, salary and other employment information can be obtained from the My Future website www.myfuture.edu.au

Descriptions of occupations can be found at The Job Guide www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au

Employers

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government www.infrastructure.gov.au

BHP Billiton www.bhpbilliton.com

Thiess www.thiess.com.au

John Holland Group www.johnholland.com.au

Brookfield Multiplex www.brookfieldmultiplex.com

Leighton Holdings www.leighton.com.au

Boral www.boral.com.au

GHD www.ghd.com/australia

Qanstruct www.qanstruct.com.au

Sinclair Knight Merz www.skmconsulting.com

ISIS www.isis.com.au

Baulderstone www.baulderstone.com.au

Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd www.leighton.com.au

Lend Lease Corporation www.lendlease.com.au

For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites

Engineering Jobs www.engineeringjobs.com.au

Technical Resources www.techresourses.com.au

Deakin University Jobshop www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop

Graduate Opportunities www.graduateopportunities.com

Uni Grad www.unigrad.com.au

Seek www.seek.com.au

My Career www.mycareer.com.au

Career One www.careerone.com.au

Professional associations

Australian Institute of Building www.aib.org.au

Australian Institute of Building Surveyors www.aibs.com.au

Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors www.aiqs.com.au