

Higher National Certificate – Construction

This programme is only offered at Barking College

Final award	<i>Higher National Certificate - Construction</i>
Intermediate awards available	<i>Unit achievement</i>
UCAS code	Edexcel Reference : V7952
Details of Awarding Body	EDEXCEL
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	<i>Higher Nationals, Building and Surveying</i>
Mode of Delivery / Study	<i>2 years Part-time</i>
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Barking & Dagenham College is within easy reach of the rapidly expanding construction activities of the Thames Gateway development, which includes the Olympic Park and its legacy. The college is committed to widening participation by promoting educational opportunities for mature and alternatively qualified students as well as for college and school leavers who are more traditionally qualified. This course is designed to meet the needs of local as well as national employees who wish to study part-time whilst maintaining a job in the construction industry.

1. Programme aims

- Make you effective in your future employment by developing practical application of theoretical knowledge.
- Develop your reasoning abilities:- how, why, where and when to use particular procedures, systems and techniques;
- Develop your abilities in coping with the various constraints that might be imposed on you in providing viable solutions to economic, technical and technological problems;
- Build on your earlier studies, experiences and achievements and to provide for progression to further studies where appropriate;
- Stimulate confidence in your intellectual abilities that you can communicate and work effectively with the public, clients and those of associated-technician, higher-technical and chartered status;
- Develop your personal/social abilities necessary for tasks involving both teamwork and personal initiatives.

2. Criteria for admission

All entrants to this HNC programme must be a minimum of 18 years of age and have educational attainment equivalent to 60 UCAS points i.e. at least one A level (grade D) in an appropriate subject of study or a pass at a relevant National Diploma or National Certificate.

3. Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course you will have:

A. Knowledge and understanding

- An understanding of the construction process
- Developed an insight into professional practice
- Developed awareness of emerging technologies
- An understanding of the function and application of a wide range of professional software applications
- An awareness of the importance of form and function
- Developed your underpinning knowledge of the construction processes, practices and techniques
- An understanding of the technical language of design and construction
- Developed an understanding of the importance of sustainability issues

B. Intellectual skills

- Generated ideas, proposals and solutions independently and collaboratively in response to vocationally relevant scenarios
- Developed diverse strategies through the process of investigation and problem solving
- Developed construction design skills
- Collected, assimilated and evaluated source materials

C. Practical skills

- Developed competence in a range of surveying techniques
- Worked to professional client briefs including production scheduling
- Developed competence in using a range of industry standard software e.g. AutoCad
- Developed an understanding of properties of materials through testing

You will also have developed transferable skills and will be able to:

- Exercise self management skills in managing workloads and meeting deadlines
- Accommodate change and uncertainty
- Analyse information and experiences and formulate reasoned arguments
- Benefit from the critical judgements of others and recognise personal strengths and needs
- Apply interpersonal and social skills to interact with others
- Communicate ideas and information in visual, oral and written forms
- Present ideas and work to peers
- Apply information skills to investigate, retrieve and manage information from a variety of sources

4. Work experience

The course is primarily designed for people who are currently working in the construction industry or have relevant industry experience. The college has excellent links with the construction industry and is one of the largest providers of training in the South East of England. A programme of site visits and visiting guest lecturers, who are employed in the construction industry, augments students' learning experiences. The course is delivered on one day per week to encourage employers to release students for attendance at college.

5. Destination and progression

When you successfully complete this programme, you will have the skills, knowledge and experience to progress to a degree programme at a local or national university. The programme will enhance your career opportunities within the construction industry fields of surveying, architecture, construction management and engineering.

6. Programme structure

- The part time course comprises of 10 units for the Certificate qualification. To achieve a qualification all units must be achieved at Pass grade including the essential core units. Details of the BTEC programme is given below
- For first year students, attendance is approximately 7.5 timetabled hours per week for 36 weeks.
- The second year of the course is approximately 7.5 hours a week for 36 weeks.

- Tutorial support is provided with your personal tutor, where students are aided in monitoring their performance. Assessment is continuous with reports and timed assignments as set out in the subject schemes of work. Meeting assignment deadlines is crucial to enable you to successfully complete the course.
- The overall course structure and programme of assignments for the year is shown on the college VLE.

BTEC Higher National Certificate in Construction

Mandatory Core Units

Unit Title	Level	Unit Credit
Design Principals and Application	4	15
Science and Materials	4	15
Group Project	5	20
Health, Safety and Welfare	4	15

Specialist Units

Unit Title	Level	Unit Credit
Site Surveying Procedures	4	15
Construction and Maintenance of Buildings	4	15
Technology of Complex Buildings	5	15
Conversion and Adaptation of Buildings	5	15

7. Teaching and Learning Methods and Strategies

Your skills and understanding of applications and processes will be developed through a planned series of project and practical based activities. After being introduced to new construction techniques you will develop your skills through supported assignment work. Project activities will include working both simulated and real situations both individually and as part of a team. At least one unit will be an industry led team activity. You will participate in, and contribute to peer group critique that will enable you to identify areas for development and improvement.

Theoretical, underpinning knowledge and understanding will be developed through formal teaching sessions and supported independent study.

8. Assessment methods and strategies

Assessment will take place throughout the programme through assignments to test the skills, knowledge and understanding for each module of the programme. Assignments will draw upon real and simulated situations to reflect the work-related activities. Some assignments will require group activities as well as individual competencies to be demonstrated.

Each assignment will be assessed at one of five grades: Distinction; Merit; Pass; Refer; Fail

- Students will be given a written indication in the form of 'Assessment Criteria' for each assignment of what they are expected to do in terms of skills and knowledge in order to achieve a grade at Pass, Merit or Distinction.
- Work that does not reach the required standard for a pass grade will be referred.

- To successfully complete a unit all the assessed work must be passed
- Students will be informed of the required action if referral grade is obtained. Only one re-submission of referred work will be permitted.
- Work, which is submitted after the agreed hand in date, with permission, will only be able to achieve a pass grade
- Work will be deemed to have failed if it has not been submitted by the deadline
- Work will be deemed to have failed when it has been re-submitted, but in the opinion of the tutor no further efforts by the student will result in a satisfactory standard being met
- The assessment of practical work will always include a written record related to the process of production. This may be in the format of a field book or complete report or drawing.
- Where appropriate, students may be involved in group work. When this occurs, assessment will be based on both the overall product and each student's individual performance and contribution and will be individually graded as appropriate. It will be the responsibility of each student to clearly delineate and document their role and work within the group
- Please note that NO assignments will be accepted after the end test or timed assignment

Final Grading

The final result will be based on the student's assignment grades and end test results (where appropriate). In order to achieve Merits or Distinction grades for individual units **all** coursework assignments must be completed to the minimum standard of at least a Pass grade.

9. Learning support

During the course you will have termly personal tutorials, during which you will agree personal learning goals and the course team will review your progress.

10. Details of other supporting information

At the beginning of your course you will receive a detailed course handbook that describes what you need to do to be successful in your course.

The handbook also describes the standards required for written work including how you should reference your work and compile a bibliography.

11. Assessment regulations

To be successful at this HNC you will need to have completed the 4 core units and 4 option units.

All assignments have strict deadlines; failure to meet the deadline will mean that you will fail that piece of work and will have to submit further work in order to be successful.

12. How we evaluate and improve standards of learning

As a student of the college you are entitled to express your views on your course and the college in general. You will be asked to respond to at least two surveys each year that you are at college. You will have the chance to air your views through an elected student representative at monthly course meetings.

Your representative may also attend a cross college HE Forum where your views on the college and any concerns will be discussed.

The college has a comprehensive quality assurance programme that monitors all courses through course review, achievement of performance indicators and observation of teaching and learning.

In this provision all project briefs and assignments are internally verified to ensure that all learning outcomes and grading criteria are met.

This course is externally monitored by Edexcel external verifiers who advise on academic standards and ensure that all learning objectives have been met.

13. Professional body recognition

The BTEC Higher Nationals in Construction have been developed with career progression and recognition by professional bodies in mind. It is essential that learners gain the maximum benefit from their programme of study. Consequently we have added value to the qualification by securing recognition for these qualifications.

The following is an indication of relevant professional bodies who recognise or are likely to recognise these BTEC Higher Nationals in Construction and their recommended unit structure, as a qualification contributing towards their requirements:

- The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
- The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- The British Institute of Architectural Technologists (BIAT)

In addition to individual recognition by the main professional bodies, the NQF BTEC Higher Nationals in Construction have also been validated and approved by the Construction Industry Council Standards Panel (CICSP) which represents all the main professional bodies, NTOs (SSCs), employer bodies and key employers for higher level qualifications in the Construction and Built Environment Sector.

Further details of professional body recognition and exemptions of BTEC Higher Nationals are contained in the publication *BTEC Professional Recognition* which is available on Edexcel website (www.edexcel.org.uk). See *Annex B* for details of professional bodies and recognition arrangements.

13. Occupational Standards

BTEC Higher Nationals in Construction are designed to relate to the Occupational Standards in the Construction Sector, which in turn form the basis of the Construction National Vocational qualifications (NVQs) at Level 4. BTEC Higher Nationals do not purport to deliver occupational competence in the sector, which should be demonstrated in a work context. However, the qualifications provide underpinning knowledge for the Occupational Standards, as well as developing practical skills in preparation for work and possible achievement of NVQs in due course.

As part of the development process the content in these qualifications has been mapped to the 1998 Construction Industry Standing Conference (CISC) Occupational Standards (OS) and also the relevant NVQ at level 4.

Through the study of the core units and specialist units, learners will cover much of the underpinning knowledge, skills and understanding that will contribute to the evidence required for the NVQ units in:

- Construction Site Management L4
- Construction Management L5