

"Walsall College is uniquely and proudly vocational. Our greatest passion is unleashing the potential of individuals, communities and businesses; our greatest legacy is the talent of our learners: *skilled, professional and enterprising.*"

Amarjit Basi, Principal and Chief Executive



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Higher National Certificate Construction

UCAS Code 022K



Course Level

Level 4

This HNC is accredited at Level 4 of the Qualifications Credit Framework (QCF), and will consist of units totalling 120 credits.

Course Length

2 years

Attendance

Part-time, 9am -7:30pm, 1 day per week.

Entry Requirements

By interview and initial assessment, plus Record of Achievement. Alternatively progression from appropriate Level 3 Diploma or Certificate or equivalent, or A Levels.

Other qualifications, maturity and industry experience will also be considered on an individual basis.

Awarding Body

Edexcel

Location

Green Lane and Wisemore Campuses

Course Overview

The continued development and regeneration of towns and cities in the UK is expected to lead to a continuous demand for suitably qualified professionals across all construction disciplines. The HNC Construction is at an introductory undergraduate level course and offers a broad base of traditional construction subjects with specialist options allowing you to adapt the course to your particular career ambitions. The course is tailored to students with ambitions of working within construction in a professional, managerial, or technical capacity.

This course is designed to provide you with a high level of understanding of the design, function, construction and statutory requirements for buildings of all classes, and to prepare you for more advanced employment in the construction industry.

The course aims to encourage you to appreciate the relationships that exist between design and production. In addition to providing knowledge, study will also focus on skill acquisition, communication, self management, decision making and personal development to help equip you for a career in this diverse and changing industry.

Course Content

This course allows students to take their knowledge and understanding of building management like surveying, administration, contract practice to an advanced level. It would benefit technicians or experienced supervisors wanting to gain formal professional qualifications.

The HNC consists of 8 modules, 4 mandatory and 4 specialist which cover most aspects of Construction Technology at Level 4.

Homework or private study is required.

Bringing talent to life...

Please note: The units below are currently under review by Edexcel and therefore maybe subject to change.

The course will cover a range of criteria and subjects, these will include:

Mandatory Units

Group Project in the Construction Industry

This unit develops your skills in terms of the evaluation and resolution of realistic practical problems and the ability to work as part of a team.

This unit also enables the application of the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in other units - and where possible experiences from work - to a major piece of work.

This unit is designed to bring together small groups of students into teams in order that they can co-ordinate their individual skills and abilities. The scheme of work should allow you an opportunity to take responsibility for your own contribution to the outcome, and demonstrate the ability to work as part of a team.

The brief will include an agreed timescale, within defined constraints, with the team working towards an acceptable and viable solution to the agreed brief. You will also develop skills to carry out evaluations of the group project and be able to present solutions.

Health, Safety and Welfare for Construction and the Built Environment

On completion of this unit you will understand current health, safety and welfare legislation applicable to the construction and built environment sector. You will understand the main requirements of an effective health and safety policy and its successful implementation in the workplace. You will understand how to identify and record hazards, assess risks and select appropriate control measures to prevent or mitigate ill health and injuries on site.

This unit will contribute to health and safety plans within project work and allows students to contribute to the safety policy and arrangements. You will also gain an understanding of the need to review, revise and monitor risk assessments.

Design Principles and Application for Construction and the Built Environment

This unit enables you to demonstrate an understanding of design considerations and the design process. You will develop the ability to evaluate the design and planning phases and consider the environmental impact of construction projects. You will explore the roles and legal responsibilities of all parties involved in construction projects and will also gain an understanding of how emerging technologies affect the design and construction aspects of projects.

Science and Materials for Construction and the Built Environment

This unit introduces scientific principles relevant to the study of construction and the built environment and provides you with a fundamental understanding of the properties and use of construction materials. This unit has been designed to enable students studying construction, civil engineering and/or building services engineering programmes to explore scientific principles and the behaviour of materials used in the construction and built environment sector.

Specialist Units

Construction and Maintenance of Buildings

This unit will provide you with an introduction to the fundamental aspects of construction technology. This unit has been designed to enable students studying construction related courses to understand and compare the standard design forms, site investigation and evaluation methods used in the construction industry. You will also gain an understanding of how decay, pollution and dilapidations can affect buildings.

Building Services Design, Installation and Maintenance in Construction

This unit provides an understanding of the principal applications of building services to domestic, commercial and industrial buildings. You will also gain an understanding of issues related to maintenance of building services. It is intended that this unit should reinforce the need for co-ordination of building services installations within the overall construction process.

Measuring, Tendering and Estimating for Construction and the Built Environment

Principles and techniques of estimating form an integral part of the tender process. The identification and selection of contractors and the methodology available is contrasted for their appropriateness for construction procurement.

You will gain an understanding of the contract documentation required for the tender process along with the constraints that often accompany a tender both in the pre and post stages of procurement.

The factors that affect the level of tenders will be determined by examining the build up of estimates for construction work, including profit, overheads and on-costs.

This unit also enables you to develop skills to formulate estimates for construction operations.

Project Management for Construction and the Built Environment

This unit enables you to demonstrate an understanding of the practice of project management and the role of project managers. You will have the opportunity to understand how the client's objectives affect the project and how the client's objectives can be achieved through successful project management. You will also understand the types of project management and how they impact and add value to construction projects.

Assessment Methods

Assessment is continuous and is based on assignments, projects, group projects, lectures, workshops, presentations and formative tasks.

Intellectual skills such as analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and problem solving may be demonstrated and applied through active learning via formative tasks and summative assignments / projects.

Group projects are used where appropriate to the industry experience or process however each student is always assessed as an individual against the learning outcomes. Assignments can also set independent project work to assess intellectual skills linked to specialist knowledge, understanding and practical skills.

Practical skills are developed through opportunities to practise the activity in an appropriate learning context and assessment involves practical demonstration through processes and final outcomes.

Transferable skills are readily convertible to employment and other contexts, such as in a problem solving, working effectively as part of team. These often address wider skills such as written communication (developed and assessed through essays or reports and evaluations; oral skills through presentations in seminars).

Throughout the course students are encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught / learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject. Both written and verbal feedback is given.

Field Trips

To University of Wolverhampton, Birmingham City University and organised site visits will be arranged as applicable.

Progression

BSc Degree or Foundation Degree via our partnership agreement with the University of Wolverhampton and Birmingham City University or employment in the construction industry.

Career Opportunities

The HNC Construction is recognised as a stepping stone for those who wish to work towards higher qualifications or become employed as: surveyors; site engineers; civil engineers; site managers; quantity surveyors; project managers; technical support to professionals; building inspectors and surveyors; purchasers; property management and investment personnel; clerk of works and architects.

Fees

On application

