Construction Management

The majority of graduates enter the industry as Building Surveyors or Quantity Surveyors, both in the UK and overseas. Employers range from private, small to medium sized enterprises, large corporations as well as government departments such as health authorities. For more careers information on the sector see the Prospects Job Sector article on Property and Construction.

Some of you may wish to maintain your subject knowledge in different ways. Increasingly firms are looking for graduates with knowledge of sustainability issues, particularly with conservation and heritage organisations such English Heritage and Waterways. For more commercial organisations, Project management ability is crucial, together with your organisational ability. Large UK-based supermarket chains possess their own in-house property departments. One example of a role allied to the building industry is that of a Tax Advisor, within large real estate corporations. Other sectors where Construction Management graduates can apply communication and numeracy skills include Accountancy, Banking and Finance, Teaching; would give you the opportunity to share knowledge of the industry with future technicians. Others may choose to branch away and discover opportunities in the Public Sector, such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, where you could potentially be positioned overseas. Another area that is linked to construction is that of Transport and there are extensive opportunities. Transport Planning looks at the infrastructure in relation to building, whereas Logistics is concerned with the distribution of goods and services. Moreover, some of the survey report writing skills can transfer into the world of Business and Management Consultancy. Energy (including renewable energy) and Utilities would enable you to develop technical know-how, as well as the opportunity to work outdoors/offshore.

Roles

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters and links to further, pre-assessed useful information.

- Building Control Surveyor
- Quantity Surveyor
- Site Engineer
- Logistics and Distribution Manager
- Financial Manager
- Contracting Civil Engineer
- There are hundreds of unrelated roles that Construction Management students may choose to pursue, a small selection of alternative careers that may be worth investigating include: Chartered Loss Adjusters look at insurance claim incidents and decide whether compensation should be paid based on the evidence available. Health Service Managers use data to ensure health provision is efficient and effective. Further Education Lecturers give insight into the Construction sector and teach skills that the sector demands. Facilities Managers are responsible for the management of services and processes that support the main function/business of an organisation.

Finding Opportunities

Some of the roles above require no further study; however there are clear exceptions in the field of Planning, where specific postgraduate study would be essential; however these need to be accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute. Transport Planning and Renewable Energies would also require some further study. Other roles, such as Health Service Management would provide professional training on the job. Many surveying roles will require working toward the APC within the first two years.

Access this page and more options at reading.ac.uk/careers/resources
Some of these areas are highly competitive; both in terms of jobs and post graduate programmes. For many opportunities, speculative applications are required as many jobs are not advertised. Work experience and placements can make a significant difference to your employability in most areas. For additional information and advice on finding work experience, post graduate study, speculative applications and anything else careers related see our website or talk to your Careers Consultant.

The links below can help you with finding work experience and jobs:

- **Jobs Go Public** provides a wide range of public sector jobs including Planning.
- **Careers in Logistics** contains a current list of vacancies in the Transport and Logistics sector.
- **Prospects Graduate Job Search** filter the results to access the Construction related opportunities.
- **NHS Leadership Academy** gives all information for the graduate management training scheme.
- **My Jobs Online** is the gateway to the university’s Careers Centre events, which may enhance your knowledge of the world of work and develop a job-seeking strategy; filtering relevant placements/vacancies, once you have created a profile.

### Further Reading

- **Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors** useful source for looking at professional training and can be used when making speculative applications, as well as sourcing vacancies.
- **Royal Institute of Town Planning** contains both private and public sector planning opportunities.
- **The Institute of Structural Engineers** provides information on professional training and is a vacancy source for Structural Engineers.
- **The British Institute for Facilities Management** provides a useful network for vacancies and work experience opportunities.
- **The Project Management Institute UK** - current news, events and vacancy details.
- **The Institution of Civil Engineers** provides a useful network for vacancies and work experience opportunities.
- **The Get into Teaching** website gives all the relevant information for pursuing a career in education.
- You can explore government careers via the Civil Service and Local Government.
- **Inside Careers** gives an insight into various other alternative business areas.