



Foundation in Quantity Surveying



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Language: English

Market sector: Residential, Built environment and construction

Course type: Blended training programme

CPD: 150 hours

Welcome

We are very excited that you have chosen to study Foundation in Quantity Surveying.

This guide will set out some helpful information and tips for you to get the most out of this course. This guide contains the basic information about your course materials.

First steps

1. Familiarise yourself with the guidance materials provided on the main page of your course.
2. Bookmark the course page.
3. We recommend that you use Google Chrome.
4. Disable pop-up blockers in the settings of your Internet browser.

Method of study

The course is designed to be flexible around your existing commitments and is structured to be completed within 8 months. The schedule allows 6 months to complete the modules and 2 months to complete your exam and any outstanding work. As guidance, you should aim to complete one module per month to stay on track.

Each module takes 10–15 hours and includes eLearning, reading, a case study, and a quiz. You also have access to consolidation sessions, where a tutor will guide you through the module, case study, and any challenging elements of the learning.

What support do you receive?

During the course, you will have access to a course discussion forum. If you have any technical questions about the subject, don't hesitate to post for support from our tutors.

A dedicated support team will be on hand to help you with any questions that you may have. OLA team - onlineacademy@rics.org

Course description

Help to shape the world we live in. Prepare for a dynamic career in an ever-changing industry as Quantity Surveyor with our Foundation level programme.

Providing you with foundation level training in the principles and practices this distance and blended learning programme teaches you the essential of quantity surveying.

Through this interactive course you will broaden your skills in the practice of cost estimating and tendering, procurement methods and process used in the pricing of construction works.

The foundation level course is made up of the following 6 units and an exam covering the practices and principles of quantity surveying.

Course structure

1. Construction technology and environmental services
2. Design economics and cost planning
3. Quantification and costing of construction works
4. Procurement and tendering
5. Contract practice
6. Project financial control and reporting
7. Exam

Introduction

- Overview of the course and how it is structured
- The learning activities for the whole course
- Requirements for each technical unit

Construction Technology and Environmental Services

- The stages of design, from inception to completion
- How the various elements of the building work interrelate
- Impact of current legislation and regulations
- Building Information Modelling (BIM)
- Appreciating how design solutions vary for different types of building
- Understanding alternative construction details

Design Economics and Cost Planning

- The stages of cost planning and sources of cost data
- Use of historical cost data to predict cost using benchmarking techniques
- Adjustments required in construction costs
- Factors that affect design economics over the whole life of the building
- Evaluating building design efficiency
- Risk and value management techniques

Quantification and Costing of Construction Works

- The various standard methods of measurement
- The quantification of construction works

- The costing of construction works
- Producing pricing documents
- Negotiating and agreeing the valuation of construction works at various stages of the project
- The changing role of the quantity surveyor

Procurement and Tendering

- Procurement and tendering
- The main types of procurement used in both the public and private sectors
- Procurement routes - selection
- Tendering and negotiation processes involved in procurement
- Tender documentation and reporting
- The Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)

Contract Practice

- Introduction to contract law
- Standard forms of contract and contract documentation
- Other legal documents and securities
- Contractual mechanisms and procedures
- Insurance
- Dispute resolution

Project Financial Control and Reporting

- The reporting and forecasting of costs during the construction phase
- The principles of provisional sums, contingencies, and risk allowances
- Using cash flows in financial management
- Implementing change control procedures within the contract
- Corporate strategy and business planning
- RICS Rules of conduct and ethics

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Apply the practices and procedures of international Quantity Surveying
2. Demonstrate forms of construction for various property types
3. Evaluate the factors which affect the cost of a building
4. Apply cost planning methods to control the financial aspect of a project
5. Undertake the quantification and costing of construction works
6. Evaluate the sources of cost data relating to construction
7. Differentiate between the types of procurement strategies
8. Identify general contractual provisions for a construction project
9. Identify the contractual requirements and procedures relevant construction finances
10. Report and forecast costs during the construction phase
11. Manage various aspects of a project, including change procedures and accounts
12. Apply the implication of Building Information Modelling to QS projects

Learning resources

The resources in each technical module include various learning components to ensure you achieve the right level of knowledge for each competency.

eLearning module - Interactive and responsive eLearning modules deliver the technical content of the learning objectives. The content will be delivered in bite-size chunks, including examples, top tips, scenarios and interactive activities. Please select the 'Exit course' button at the top right-hand corner of the screen before closing the eLearning. This is to ensure your progress is saved.

Reading materials - The eLearning is supported by structured essential reading materials such as professional guidance and standards, videos or the latest insight articles and research. You must view the essential reading for this activity to be marked as completed.

Discussion forum - Forums are a great social learning tool for you to share information and experiences with your fellow students about the course topics, how they apply to you and/or your industry as well as to ask questions to your trainer, they will reply within 3 to 5 working days.

Learning resources

Case study - This is an activity based on simulated projects for you to put the theory into practice. The Case Study Exchange provided in your course page will serve as a platform for you to share your work with peers, a valuable practice that can broaden your perspectives and generate a diverse range of insights and ideas as they may offer unique viewpoints that you hadn't previously considered, ultimately enhancing the depth and quality of your case study.

Two case studies will be graded by your tutor, and the feedback will be posted back into the Case Study Exchange. Upon sharing your case study, you will gain access to its model answer, in which your tutor explains the solution.

We encourage all learners to share their Case Study work. Your case study might be chosen as an outstanding example.

This activity has no completion requirement, but we strongly recommend completing your case studies and sharing them in the Case Study Exchange forum.

Consolidation session - These are live 1.5-hour web classes that consolidate learning from the eLearning modules, reading materials, case studies and common questions that have been raised in the forum. You do not need to mark this activity as completed.

End of module quiz - A short quiz tracks how much of the learning has been absorbed and acts as a progress tracker for you. Quizzes do not require a passing grade, but you must attempt them to have the activity marked as completed.

End of course exam - Upon completion of all the modules and activities, you will unlock the program examination. The exam consists of 50 multiple-choice questions. The passing grade is 50% and you have one hour to complete. You are allowed 2 attempts; however, the second attempt is only released 24 hours after the first attempt.

Your certificate can be downloaded once you have passed the exam and answered the feedback survey.