Programme Specification

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER⌗

Course record information

Name and level of final award	• Master of Science - Real Estate Development The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards	• Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - Real Estate Development • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Real Estate Development
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	N/A
Professional statutory or regulatory body	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	• MSc Real Estate Development FT, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2024/5

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here: https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply.

Aims of the programme

The MSc Real Estate Development has been designed to develop students' abilities to initiate and undertake qualitative and quantitative analysis and research in the areas of Real Estate policy, planning and operational management.

The course aims to enable students to develop critical thinking and understanding of the current Real Estate context from a cultural and historic perspective in the UK and worldwide. Students will be informed and provided with a thorough and critical awareness of current Real Estate policies and practices, aiming to equip them with the knowledge, techniques and methodologies which are required to take policy decisions or to provide the necessary information/knowledge for others to take such decisions. In addition, for part-time mature professional students, the course will provide the opportunity to examine Real Estate, policy and planning issues from a wider perspective rather than in the confines of their present employment.

The course aims to provide students with a stimulating academic environment within which to study Real Estate issues, to ensure students are aware of current policy and planning issues, and to prepare them for a wide range of potential employment within the Real Estate sector by developing relevant transferable skills.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses

- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students

- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision

- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

The course has been designed with input from a range of industry professionals and, to retain currency and relevance, we receive ongoing feedback from the School's Employability Advisory Board. Current members include practitioner representatives from the multinational construction, property and infrastructure company Lendlease, commercial property experts Chase and Partners, and CABE.

We are proud of our excellent industry links with a host of property companies, large and small, together with key professional bodies, including RICS, CIOB and CABE. They enable us to host a highly successful Annual Property and Construction Careers Fair. Immensely popular with our students, the fair provides a unique opportunity for them to meet with leading employers in the property and construction sector, learn first-hand about their organisations, secure work experience or receive guidance from a panel of speakers on the graduate scheme application process for some of the larger employers.

The course will prepare students for roles in major property companies and advisory practices including Property Development, Valuation, Commercial/Residential Agency, Property Consultancy, Property Investment, Investment/Asset Management, Corporate Real Estate/Facilities Management.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning.

These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)

Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)

Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)

Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 7 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 7 you will be able to:

- KNU1 have a systematic understanding and critical awareness of the organisational, political, technological, financial, legal and commercial context and factors which influence the roles, decision-making and relationships between Real Estate organisations and other stakeholders in both the public and private sectors. (KU)

- KNU2 have a systematic understanding and critical awareness of the techniques associated with Property Development, Management and Risk based on theory and practice relating to Real Estate policy, planning, development, and management strategies in the context of an international market environment. (KU)

- KNU3 have a systematic understanding and critical awareness of the impact of key concepts of corporate governance, ethics and sustainability on Real Estate policies and strategies as appropriate to a property manager operating in the real estate industry. (KU)

- KTS1 communicate complex academic and professional ideas and concepts in written, graphical and oral formats as appropriate. Convey information clearly and succinctly to specialist and non-specialist audiences. (KTS)

- KTS2 work effectively in a group, either as a leader or a group member. Use interpersonal skills to negotiate and prioritise group tasks, making optimum use of the capacities of group members. Deal confidently with tensions and conflict. (KTS)

- KTS3 make use of a wide range of information sources and learning resources, including traditional library resources, web-based resources, software, electronic media, and audio-visual resources. Manage the retrieval and organisation of information efficiently and effectively. (KTS)

- KTS4 articulate research problems and design and implement appropriate research methodologies. Undertake the research process independently and competently. (KTS)

- KTS5 develop lifelong learning skills and strategies for maintaining an up-to-date awareness of emergent technologies, market developments and best practice. Take full responsibility for their own learning as independent and self-critical learners. Reflect on their academic and professional practice, demonstrating commitment to personal and professional development, and the concept of lifelong learning. (KTS)

- SS1 break down and evaluate complex Valuation problems, identify the relationship between the constituent parts, and effectively communicate the outcome (Analysis). (SS)

- SS2 in Real Estate and Property Development combine information and ideas from a variety of traditional, contemporary and cutting-edge sources to develop innovative solutions to property management problems (Synthesis). (SS)

- SS3 critically evaluate evidence from both academic research and professional practice, and demonstrate reasoning in the construction of arguments (Evaluation). (SS)

- SS4 utilise valuation and property management skills, techniques, and systems to successfully undertake the procurement and financial management of property development within the constraints of the external environment (Technical expertise). (SS)

- SS5 demonstrate initiative in the decision-making and problem-solving processes associated with complex and unpredictable situations typically encountered on Real Estate development projects (Application). (SS)

- SS6 demonstrate independence, critical thought and personal responsibility in the exercise of commercial Real Estate management skills (Autonomy). (SS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

The teaching and learning strategy aims to develop students' intellectual powers; their understanding and judgment; their problem-solving skills; their powers of critical analysis; their ability to communicate ideas effectively and their ability to work effectively in groups.

Teaching methods

A varied pattern of teaching and learning methods are employed in the delivery of the course. These include lectures, seminars, case-study exercises, group workshops, simulated business management games, data collection analyses and study visits. Visiting practitioners from Real Estate organisations make an important contribution to the teaching programme. There is a strong focus on problem-solving in group workshop case-studies etc. The mix of delivery methods will vary between the modules.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The course design aligns fully with the principles of the inclusive curriculum. This includes both learning environment and assessment, embracing the principles of decolonisation through critical thinking and understanding of the historical and cultural context, delivering inclusive practice that provides the best possible support for all students, by identifying and accommodating their learning needs.

Equality, diversity and inclusion of students is central to the learning and teaching on this course, encouraging all students to engage and fulfil their potential. In line with QAA guidance and the University's commitment to equality and diversity, the course has adopted an inclusive strategy with the objective of removing arbitrary and unnecessary barriers to learning, facilitating a learning experience accessible for all. This is irrespective of the group or groups to which they belong, raising aspirations and supporting achievement for people with diverse requirements, entitlements and backgrounds. Through this, all students will feel like they belong and can engage. Learning opportunities and assessments are inclusively designed, with reasonable individual adjustments being provided wherever necessary.

Assessment methods

Assessment methods used are thought to be the most appropriate to each module. There is a range of assessment methods from individual coursework essays, case-study reports, group workshop exercises (although most of the group workshops are assessed by individual reports) and a single in class test. There are no formal examinations.

Although the mix of assessment methods varies from module to module, the MSc Real Estate Development Course Team has been conscious of the need to achieve consistency, both between the modules, and in the balance of workload and weighting between in-module assessed coursework and the end of module tests. Accordingly, all modules are assessed through written coursework although two modules include an in-class test.

The team has considered strategies for making the assessment and learning more inclusive to all students. A varied range of assessment is proposed, which includes essays, reports, presentations, in class test, projects and group work, to support different learning styles. The assessment is aligned to learning outcomes and the learning and teaching methods to ensure students have a positive learning experience. Opportunities will be provided for revision and discussion of the coursework to make sure students understand what is required.

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules

Level 7

Apprenticeship students are also required to complete an End Point Assessment, which will typically take 3-6 months to complete. Further details can be found in the Apprentice Handbook.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7PROP004W	Asset Management	Core	20	10
7PROP006W	Law for Property Professionals	Core	20	10
7MNST013W	Project	Core	40	20
7PROP014W	Property Development	Core	20	10
7PROP015W	Property Finance	Core	20	10
7PROP017W	Property Valuation	Core	20	10
7PROP018W	Sustainability and Real Estate	Core	20	10
7PROP012W	Applied Valuation	Option	20	10
7PROP005W	Landlord and Tenant	Option	20	10
7PROP013W	Planning in Practice	Option	20	10
7PROP016W	Property Investment Portfolio Analysis	Option	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

The course is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

Course management

The course is operated by the School of Applied Management, within the University's Westminster Business School (WBS). Day-to-day management is under the Course Leader, who liaises with individual module leaders as required. Input is also provided by a staff student course committee which meets twice-yearly.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students1 can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university. a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a

variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.

- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;

- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.

- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2022©