

# Construction and the Built Environment

**Would you like to make a difference to the environment we live in today?**

**Does designing or constructing buildings appeal to you?**

**Are you interested in creating new ways to reduce our carbon footprint and encourage better recycling systems?**

**Could you influence how we develop our towns and cities?**

If the answer is yes to any of the above, have you ever thought about studying for a Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment?

## What is a Diploma?

A Diploma combines knowledge and skills through theory and practical work that employers and universities value, it is offered at two levels:

*Foundation - equivalent to 5 GCSE grades at D to G  
Higher - equivalent to 7 GCSE grades A\* to C.*

You will work on projects, practical activities in and out of the classroom setting and take part in work experience placements. This programme of study is versatile, exciting and flexible.

A Diploma is made up of four areas:

- Principal learning will teach you all you need to know about your chosen Diploma subject. This will take up a fairly large proportion of your timetable
- Functional skills in English, Maths and ICT
- Additional and specialist learning which can include other qualifications such as GCSEs or BTEC
- You will also develop skills in self management, team working and leadership

## Why study a Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment?

The construction and built environment industry is one of the largest and most important sectors in the UK. This Diploma will help those of you who have an interest in how we design, develop and shape the environment around us. It will develop your understanding by focusing on three main areas: design the built environment, create the built environment and value and use the built environment. You will learn how the built environment was designed and constructed, how it is used, and how it affects people and communities. If you would like to work in areas such as architecture, structural steelwork, heating and ventilation, waste management, building surveying or civil engineering, a Diploma offers a broad based learning experience for everyone.

## Careers it can lead to in the sector

**Craft and operative:** joiner/roofer/bricklayer/plant sales person/scaffolder/glazier/stone mason/plumber/wood machinist/plant mechanic/electrician/painter and decorator/builders merchant

**Technical:** architectural technician/buyer/computer aided design operative/estimator/plant technician/sales/site engineer/planner/domestic energy assessor/site inspector

**Professional:** architect/building surveyor/construction manager/structural engineer/quantity surveyor/health and safety officer/civil engineer/managing director/logistics manager/waste management engineer/home inspector/water engineer/landscape architect

## once I have completed a Diploma, what next?

The good thing about the Diploma is that although it focuses on a particular subject area, it teaches a mix of subjects, giving a well-rounded education, so you don't have to opt for a career in construction and the built environment at the end of studying it.

Universities and employers have been involved in designing the Diplomas so it will enable you to study further at college and/or university.

## What might your route look like?

### Yr 10 and 11

Construction and the Built Environment Diploma with Additional Specialist Learning in subjects such as:

Product Design GCSE,  
Geography GCSE  
or German GCSE  
plus the Core subjects

### Yr 12 and 13 – College or Sixth form

Course ideas:

BTEC National Diploma in Construction  
Construction and the Built Environment Advanced Diploma with A level Maths  
NVQ levels 2 and 3 in Wood Occupations  
An AS/A level course in Maths, Geography and Product Design

### Higher Education degree courses you might progress onto:

Construction Management	Building Services Engineering
Planning	Architecture
Computer Aided Design	Building Surveying and Property Management

Or

**Employment or Apprenticeships**

## What do the professionals say?

*"The Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment will provide young people with a new and exciting way of learning and, for the first time, place built environment at the heart of mainstream education. A whole generation will now see opportunities for careers that until now they were hardly aware of".*

Mel Lees, Deputy Director of the Centre for Education in Built Environment, Salford University

## ? ? Questions to ask ? ?

As with any qualifications, always check college/sixth form entry requirements. Some advanced courses will require specific GCSE subjects and grades. As part of any Diploma you can take additional qualifications like GCSEs or BTEC, but you must check what your timetable will allow you to study alongside your Diploma in Yr 10.

For example, most construction and built environment related careers will require additional science qualifications at GCSE.

If there is a specific career area you wish to pursue, again, always check entry requirements. If in doubt, ask your school Connexions Personal Adviser.

## Useful websites

### Careers related

[www.workabout.org.uk](http://www.workabout.org.uk)  
[www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u)  
[www.calderdaleprospectus.co.uk](http://www.calderdaleprospectus.co.uk)  
[www.kirkleesoptions.org.uk](http://www.kirkleesoptions.org.uk)

### Construction and the built environment related

[www.cbdiploma.co.uk](http://www.cbdiploma.co.uk)  
[www.bconstructive.co.uk](http://www.bconstructive.co.uk)  
[www.summitskills.or.uk](http://www.summitskills.or.uk)  
[www.constructionskills.net](http://www.constructionskills.net)  
[www.assetskills.org/site/](http://www.assetskills.org/site/)  
[www.euskills.co.uk](http://www.euskills.co.uk)  
[www.proskills.co.uk](http://www.proskills.co.uk)  
[www.ecitb.org.uk](http://www.ecitb.org.uk)

## Time for success!

The construction industry is expected to continue to expand over the next 5 years and is likely to employ nearly three million people by 2012. The sector will then have grown by 33% since 2000, but may settle down thereafter.

(Source: Outlook on.....Construction)

The Government wants to see three million houses built by 2020. This new housing stock should be much more environmentally friendly and sustainable; by 2016, all new homes are planned to be zero-carbon rated.

(Source: Outlook on.....Construction)

The West Midlands and North West regions account for the largest shares of the UK energy and utilities workforce, both responsible for approximately 11% of total employees.



(Source: National Guidance Research Forum)

40% of engineering firms reported a skills gap with particular shortages in management, professionals, associate professionals and skilled trades.

(Source: SMETA bulletin 2006 via National Guidance Research Forum)

The forecast on this page is medium to long term. In the short term the credit crunch means that some sectors are laying people off, the construction industry being on of them. Over time however, we expect this industry will pick up again for the future.

For further information and advice:

- contact the  (0800 5 979 979 free to UK landlines)  
Text: 07786 202 804  
(start message with learn)  
E: learningline@ckcareers.org.uk
- look at  [www.workabout.org.uk](http://www.workabout.org.uk)
- or visit one of our Centres - details from the Learningline and on Workabout

### Equal Opportunities

We are committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all. If you feel you have been discriminated against because of race, gender, disability, religion, age, ethnic origin or sexual orientation please speak to your Connexions Personal Adviser.

The Diploma – Bringing learning to life