

MSc International Real Estate Management

Programme Handbook

School of the

Built Environment



What is the Built Environment?



People

Buildings are for people and they have an enormous impact on our daily lives. They are for home, work, leisure and function. They can be inspiring or depressing but whichever way we look at it, buildings are the fabric of the society which inhabits them. Working in the Built Environment you will play a part in delivering a unique and innovative product for this society.

History

Buildings last a long time, especially if they are well built and designed. They give an identity to a location and there are countless examples of this across the globe. You will learn how architecture and building technology has evolved since the past and how time has given us the rich built environment we have today.



Teamwork

Working as a team is essential to the development, design and construction of successful buildings. This is one of the most important skills you will learn, and you will have lots of practice of this in the School of the Built Environment. You will also have the opportunity to work in one of the most creative and dynamic of businesses with likeminded individuals who want to create great buildings.

Sustainability

The built environment produces lots of pollution. It will be your job to make sure new buildings produce much less for the future as well as working on the old buildings to clean them up. There is a world out there that needs your help to survive.



The Future

– is in your hands. You will be developing, designing and constructing the buildings of the future. Take this responsibility seriously; study the interplay of architecture, society, culture and the economy to build buildings which will stand the test of time.

Introduction to your programme

This booklet is the first source of information and guidance for the masters degree programme and hopefully will contain answers to most of your queries. However, if there are gaps which the booklet does not fill, then please ask your programme leader Gill Robson or your guidance tutor.

This programme provides an intensive post-graduate educational opportunity for able and motivated graduates who are wishing to make a career in property, and who hold a good undergraduate honours degree in any discipline normally in a subject other than real estate management. The programme provides a Masters level education in real estate with an international focus, which combined with transferable skills and knowledge from their first degree, will enable graduates to gain a professional surveying career. Students will have studied non cognate subjects in their first degree (business, economics, construction based subjects are frequent examples) and will have developed an interest in property either through these studies or through their employment experience, and recognise that they need to obtain a property focused masters education to make an effective career in the real estate profession, probably with a view to working outside of the UK.

The discipline is presented with an international perspective, not focusing solely on UK practice, to reflect the increasingly strong role of property in today's global business economy and to be of relevance to a career working in multinational organisations particularly in Europe, North America and the Far East. The international appeal of the programme contributes wholly to the University's mission and School of the Built Environment Academic Development Plan of expansion of global recruitment, and providing opportunities and access to students with a variety of ambitions from different circumstances, to be furthered by opportunities of developing articulation agreements onto the full time delivery, and by the supplementary distance learning mode. A mix of nationalities in the student cohort is particularly welcomed for enriching the overall international learning experience and to encourage understanding of the similarities and differences between national real estate markets.

The Programme Team

The programme is managed by a team consisting of the Programme Leader, Module Tutors and the Programme Administrator.

Programme Leader

The Programme Leader is concerned with the management and progress of all students studying on that programme. For MSc International Real Estate Management the Programme Leader is Gill Robson. Rachel Williams will also play a key role in supporting students on the programme and will act as a year tutor

Module Tutors

The Programme Leader and Module Tutors are responsible for giving counselling and advice on academic issues. In relation to academic issues, students are advised to discuss any matter with the relevant Module Tutor in the first instance. If the module tutor cannot resolve the matter, then you should arrange a meeting with the Programme Leader.

Guidance Tutor

You will be allocated a Guidance Tutor, a member of academic staff who had the duty of providing you with advice on academic, procedural and (where desired and appropriate) personal matters. Where possible, you will retain the same Guidance Tutor throughout your time at Northumbria.

You will be expected to consult with your guidance Tutor during induction week, and regularly thereafter, including whenever modular or progression results are available, and whenever option choices have to be made.

You may in addition ask for a meeting with your Guidance Tutor at any time.

School's Overseas Students Liaison Lecturer

Kevin Thomas, room A202, or phone 227 4743 should be seen for any particular overseas issues regarding visas, bursaries etc

Programme Administrator

The Programme Administrator is Julie Rowe who can be contacted at the School Office Room B201, telephone 0191 2437504 email julie.rowe@northumbria.ac.uk Students who change their address or contact numbers must inform the Programme Administrator.

The Teaching Team

Name	Room	Telephone	Email
Graham Capper	B307	227 4696	graham.capper@northumbria.ac.uk
Mary Lou Downie	B301	227 4938	marylou.downie@northumbria.ac.uk
Andy Dunhill	B225	227 4741	andy.dunhill@northumbria.ac.uk
Peter Fisher	B224	227 4542	peter.fisher@northumbria.ac.uk
Dom Fearon	A217b	243 7287	dom.fearon@northumbria.ac.uk
Paul Greenhalgh	B225	227 4593	paul.greenhalgh@northumbria.ac.uk
John Holmes	B307	227 3651	john.holmes@northumbria.ac.uk
Elaine Paterson	B223	227 4695	elaine.paterson@northumbria.ac.uk
Rob Pickard	WJ204	227 4107	rob.pickard@northumbria.ac.uk
Martin Robinson	A207	243 7610	martin.robinson@northumbria.ac.uk
Gill Robson	B226	243 7883	gill.robson@northumbria.ac.uk
Simon Robson	B309	227 4730	simon.robson@northumbria.ac.uk
Lu Lu Wang	A221	227 3294	lulu.wang@northumbria.ac.uk
Andrea Willett	A219	243 7281	a.willett@northumbria.ac.uk
Lynne Winter	A221	227 3294	l.winter@northumbria.ac.uk

Property Staff Research Interests

Peter Fisher

Property Research, Development Economics

Mary Lou Downie

International Property Valuation, Automated Valuation Models

Paul Greenhalgh

Urban Regeneration, Local Property Markets

Elaine Paterson

Conservation and Urban Design

Simon Robson

Transport Development Finance

Gill Robson

International Property Valuation

Cheryl Williamson

Shopping Centre Tenant Mix

John Holmes

Sustainable Development

How to contact your tutors

Appointments

Academic Staff teach on many modules/programmes and it is advisable to make an appointment if you wish to see them. Occasionally you may be able to have an immediate appointment, but do not be disappointed if you are asked to return at a mutually convenient time. Please contact staff to cancel if you are unable to make the arranged appointment.

The Programme Leader normally allocates time during the week when she will be available, but please feel free to see them at any time if the situation is urgent.

Notice Board and Blackboard

The main point of contact for staff with students is the Programme notice board No. 5 on A block second floor corridor or via ELearning Portal announcements. This could be timetable changes, assessment information or personal messages.

YOU MUST REGULARLY CHECK THE NOTICEBOARDS AND ELEARNING PORTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

It is particularly important to check notices at the start of the semester when timetable changes are more likely and towards the assessment period when important information will be displayed.

Email

While the telephone usually gives immediate access, e-mail is used extensively throughout the University and is a very effective method of two-way communication between students and staff. You should automatically be allocated an e-mail address by the University once you have enrolled.

Do remember that the Northumbria e-mail address will be the one that is used to make contact with you so do make sure that you check it regularly, particularly if you use a personal e-mail account. You must regularly delete old e-mails from your University e-mail account, otherwise your inbox will become full and you will stop receiving e-mails.

Educational Aims

The educational aims of this programme are fourfold:

- the advanced study of the ownership, investment, use, development, valuation and management of real estate and the changing context (economic, social, legal, cultural, environmental, business and political frameworks) in which it is operated with an international focus.
- development of a career in property at a professional level or as preparation for further research in the area, by developing a range of intellectual, research and professional skills coupled with an awareness of business and ethical responsibilities of individuals and organisations.
- the ability to integrate knowledge, to analyse multi faceted problems and implement solutions, both systematically and creatively, to achieve stakeholders' objectives.
- enhancement of lifelong learning skills and personal development so as to be able to work with self direction.

At Northumbria University we can and do provide diversity of subjects for study whilst emphasising the multi disciplinary nature of real estate; we focus on property as a sustainable business asset and we integrate our academic research and professional experience into the teaching and learning to ensure our graduates meet the demands of professional employment.

Programme Learning Outcomes

The level 7 learning outcomes of the programme are expressed as:

Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the programme the student will have :

- A conceptual understanding of the core theories affecting real estate, and the legal, economic, and political contexts in which it exists.
- A systematic understanding of the use of research techniques in order to investigate real estate issues and develop knowledge.
- An awareness of current advances in academic, management and professional issues, informed by leading edge research and practice in real estate.
- Multidisciplinary knowledge which can be applied to analyse complex situations and implement solutions to meet the objectives of stakeholders in international markets.

Intellectual Skills

On completion of the programme the students will be able to

- Identify and evaluate data and synthesize and interpret information relevant to real estate problems
- Critically analyse evidence, arguments and research pertaining to the core theories
- Apply knowledge and judgement to identify best professional and business practice
- Apply technique, creativity and innovation to solve real estate problems
- Appraise, select and apply techniques appropriate to applied real estate research
- Compare and contrast theory and practice between countries, economies and cultures.

Practical skills

On completion of the programme the student will be able to :

- Summarise and interpret relevant documents
- Measure, record and appraise property and evaluate its utility
- Recognise property market sectors and analyse relative performance
- Use standard and relevant professional software and information technology
- Recognise ethical situations, social responsibility , and professional conduct.

Transferable/key skills

On completion of the programme the students will be able to: -

- Manage time effectively to maximise productivity and meet deadlines
- Apply numeric skills, statistical analysis, general and specialist software
- Cooperate with colleagues, manage conflict and contribute to setting and achievement of goals
- Effective use of communication skills using a range of media
- Plan and develop their careers, be life-long learners with the skills to investigate and research.
- These masters level (level 7) learning outcomes are compared with those set by QAA for undergraduates (level 6) in the chart below to give you an appreciation of the greater expectations in your work this year.

Master student will –

Display mastery of a complex and specialist area of knowledge

Employ advanced research skills to conduct research

Accept accountability for decision making and supervision

Much of study informed by the forefront of defined aspects of the discipline

Shown originality in application of knowledge, and originality, autonomy and self direction in tackling and solving problems

Deal with complex issues systematically and creatively

Undergraduate student will –

Critically review, extend a systematic body of knowledge /key aspects

Accept personal / group outcomes accountability for

At least some of study informed by the forefront of defined aspects of the discipline

Evaluate evidence and arguments and reach sound judgements

The teaching and learning strategy

The teaching and learning strategy aims to enable students to understand, critically analyse and apply the principles of Real Estate, whilst engaging and enthusing students about the breadth, dynamism and excitement of the property profession. It encourages students to become effective professionals in the workplace, to be lifelong learners able to continue to evaluate and update their skills to reflect changing practice needs and to have a desire to develop themselves further to achieve their career aspirations.

Students receive a mixture of learning experiences including lectures, discussion and simulated practice based seminars, field study visits, expert external speakers, and work with dedicated IT software. Teaching is supported by the use of a range of academic and professionally orientated learning materials and by the use of the elearning portal (Blackboard). There is a strong emphasis on independent learning; developing the capacity to critically evaluate established theories and current research findings; integrate knowledge to creatively problem solve and apply appropriate research skills to investigate property issues. Transferable key skills from undergraduate education will be developed. Group work and presentations will develop communication and team working skills, whilst some seminars activities and assessments will encourage a reflective approach.

- Lectures and seminars will draw on national and international examples to provide students with a vehicle to explore the variety of issues facing the real estate professional
- Case studies will demonstrate the integration of the disciplines studied and allow students to apply theory to practice.
- Site visits will be used to bring class based activities to life and visiting speaker will inform the students of the latest developments in professional practice
- The teaching will be underpinned by the research activities of staff
- Formative assessment will be achieved primarily through the students' preparation for and participation in seminars, the use of elearning portal Blackboard for provision of learning materials and feedback on formative tasks, as well as individual student discussions with the module tutor. Portfolio courseworks in selected subjects are designed to offer formative as well as summative assessment and encourage reflection.

Programme Structures

Modules

The 180 point Masters programme is made up of 120 taught credit points and 60 credit dissertation.
There are 8 taught modules.

Each module on the course carries credit points

Single module = 10 credit points Double module = 20 credit points Triple module = 30 credit points

Each 10 credits represents 100 hours of student work load which on average equates to about 6–7 hours per week of lectures, seminars, preparation, revision, assessment etc. Staff contact time will be approximately 10–15 hours per week. Your own self managed study time should amount to approximately 30–35 hours per week.

Full Time Year One						
Semester 1	Applied Research Methods (Real Estate) BE1099 (10 Credits)	Sustainable Real Estate BE0981 (10 Credits)	International Property Markets, Investment and Finance BE 1165	International Commercial Property Valuation BE1162 (20 Credits)	International Property Asset Management BE1163 (20 Credits)	International Urban Regeneration and Development BE1164 (20 Credits)
	UK and International Urban Planning BE1145 (10 Credits)	Real Estate Law BE 1001 (10 Credits)				

June to September					
BE 1100 MSc Dissertation – Real Estate M	BE 1100 MSc Dissertation – Real Estate M	BE 1100 MSc Dissertation – Real Estate M	BE 1100 MSc Dissertation – Real Estate M	BE 1100 MSc Dissertation – Real Estate M	BE 1100 MSc Dissertation – Real Estate M

Full time programme

The normal pathway will take 12 months running from September to September. Students who have met the programme requirements at the progression board in June will be able to progress to the dissertation commencing in July and submitting in September. The Graduation ceremony will be in December for students receiving awards.

Students who are referred in June but are successful in resits in September will progress to dissertation commencing in September and submitting in April the following year. The Graduation ceremony will be in July for students receiving awards.

Extended programme

All students are allowed to extend their programme of study, by delaying once the hand in date for their dissertation to the next opportunity. Students wishing to take this extension must have the agreement of the programme leader before the commencement of the dissertation module. For example a full time student with no referrals may chose to commence the dissertation in September to submit in April with the graduation ceremony in July.

A comparison of the **full time** programme is timetabled below.

12 month pathway

Referral / extended pathway

	Key dates		Key dates
Semester 1	September	Semester 1	September
Graduate Job Applications	Some firms have closing dates November – January	Graduate Job Applications	Some firms have closing dates November - January
Semester 2	February	Semester 2	February
Progression Board	June	Progression Board	June
		Resits	August
Dissertation	June – September	Dissertation	September – April
Employment	Recommended start September	Employment	May be June for non resits, post September for resit students
Award Board	November	Award Board	June
Graduation ceremony	December	Graduation ceremony	July

Students who are referred in June but are successful in September will progress to dissertation commencing in September and submitting in April of the third year. The Graduation ceremony will be in December for students receiving awards.

Extended programme

All students are allowed to extend their programme of study, by delaying once the hand in date for their dissertation to the next opportunity. Students wishing to take this extension must have the agreement of the programme leader before the commencement of the dissertation module. For example part time students may chose to commence the dissertation in September but submit in September of the third year with the graduation ceremony in December for students receiving awards.

Generic Assessment Criteria for Your Masters programme

Each coursework brief will give you the individual marking scheme for that particular assessment task and your tutor will give you feedback in their preferred manner. Some staff may use their own particular assessment criteria to give you feedback but to help you initially understand the performance level required, the grid below is designed to explain the difference in achievement at different percentage bands. You may use to self assess your own work before you submit it!

Please note the pass mark is 50% for this programme.

Northumbria University Generic Assessment Criteria for Taught Postgraduate Programmes 2008/9

Work at level 7 is required to '*Display mastery of a complex and specialised area of knowledge and skills, employing advanced skills to conduct research, or advanced technical or professional activity, accepting accountability for related decision making including use of supervision*' (NICATS summary descriptor)

These are intended for guidance and do not replace the need for judgement by examiners.

Mark Range	Grade	Generic Assessment Criteria
70-100	Distinction	Excellent work providing evidence to a very high level of the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to level 7. All learning outcomes met, many at high level. Marks at the high end of this range indicate outstanding work where all learning outcomes are met at a high level. Excellent in all or most of: use of primary sources of literature from a range of perspectives; development of analysis and structure of argument; critical evaluation and creative use of theory, research methods and findings; presentation of information to the intended audience
60-69	Commendation	Commendable work providing evidence to a high level of the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to level 7. All learning outcomes met, many are more than satisfied. Good in all or most of: use of up-to-date material from a variety of sources; development of analysis and structure of argument; critical evaluation of relevant theory, research methods and findings to the problem in question; presentation of information to the intended audience
55-59	Pass	Satisfactory work providing evidence of the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to level 7. All learning outcomes are met. Satisfactory in all or most of: use of relevant material from a variety of sources; development of analysis and structure of argument; evaluation of theory; application of relevant theory, research methods and findings to the problem in question; presentation of information to the intended audience.
50-54	Pass	Adequate work providing evidence of the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to level 7 but only at a bare pass level. All learning outcomes are met (or nearly met and balanced by strengths elsewhere). Adequate in all of (or most of, with balancing strength elsewhere): use of relevant material; development of analysis and structure of argument; evaluation of theory; application of relevant theory, research methods and findings to the problem in question; presentation of information to the intended audience.
40-49	Fail	Work is not acceptable in providing evidence of the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to level 7. However a majority of the learning outcomes are met and others are nearly satisfied. Adequate in most but not all of the following aspects : use of relevant material; development of analysis and structure of argument; evaluation of theory; application of relevant theory, research methods and findings to the problem in question; presentation of information to the intended audience
1-39	Fail	Work is not acceptable and provides little evidence of the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to level 7. Few of the learning outcomes are met. Inadequate in some of the following aspects or seriously inadequate in at least one: use of relevant material; development of analysis and structure of argument; evaluation of theory; application of relevant theory, research methods and findings to the problem in question; presentation of information to the intended audience.
0	Fail	Work not submitted OR Work giving evidence of serious academic misconduct (subject to regulations in ARNA Appendix 1) OR Work showing no evidence of the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to level 7. None of the learning outcomes are met

Additional English Support

ASK – ACADEMIC ENGLISH AND STUDY SKILLS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The School of the Built Environment together with the English Language Centre offer a weekly 2-hour class in academic skills (ASk) for all international students. There are no exams or assessment for ASk - the classes are there to help you improve your language and study skills and are based around the assignments and other tasks you have to complete during your course. The academic skills that will be taught include the following:

- Academic style and vocabulary
- Referencing using the Harvard system
- Avoiding plagiarism (by paraphrasing, summarising and direct quotation)
- Critical analysis
- Reading academic texts
- Academic speaking

It is also possible for students to ask the teacher for help or advice after the class, as well as by phone or e-mail. It is hoped that you will find the classes useful and we look forward to meeting you in the new semester. Contact details of the tutor are as follows:

Stephen Parkin
English Language Centre
Room 114, Squires Workshop
Email: stephen.parkin@unn.ac.uk
Tel: 0191-227-3192

All overseas students must attend the sessions which are closely monitored for attendance and designed to ensure that the content is relevant to the learning skills required by the programmes. The post graduate study skills will be on Wednesday 9-11 and 11-1. We will split/allocate to each session in due course but you must attend one of the times.

Assessment Regulations for Northumbria Awards

The Assessment Regulations for Northumbria Awards (ARNA) are the standard regulations which apply to all of the University's academic programmes. Any variations to ARNA have to be approved for a particular programme.

Below is a summary of the University's Assessment Regulations which are applicable to this programme. For full details please go to the University Website Current Student >Assessment Regulations.

The MSc Award

To attain an MSc award a student is required to successfully complete 180 credits at Level 7. These credits comprise 120 credits of taught modules and a 60 credits dissertation. Following completion of the taught elements, there is a progression point when students will be required to achieve an overall average of 50% to be eligible for referral and must successfully complete any referrals before they progress to the dissertation element of the award. A failed Masters dissertation cannot be compensated, but one opportunity to resit will be given even if a 50% level average has not been attained. For full details see ARNA section 7.4.

COMPENSATION

When making decisions on referrals the Exam Board has discretion to disregard up to 20 credit points at the end of the taught element (120 credit points).

How the Award is Determined

For full details see ARNA Section 12.22

12.22	Masters Degree
FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	180 credits at level 7.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 180 credits and obtain an overall average of 50% from level 7 modules. Any referred modules must be passed. Compensation rules apply (section 7.4)
Lower level awards	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
Distinction/ Commendation	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (see section 8 ARNA)

Module Descriptors

Module Descriptors give information about each module (subject) delivered on your programme.

How to Obtain a Module Descriptor from the University's Website

First, open up Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator and log into the Northumbria University website at <http://northumbria.ac.uk/>. Click on:

1. Students
2. My Northumbria
3. Module Search
4. Type in module code
5. Click on 'Go'

Or alternatively, type the following address into your browser:

<http://sits.unn.ac.uk/live/webserv/mod.php>



PROFESSIONAL/ACCREDITING BODY REQUIREMENTS

Students are recommended to apply for student membership (free of charge) to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors at the beginning of the programme which will give you access to their services, library and the local organisation and events. Details are available at <http://www.rics.org/> . A workshop will take place in semester 1 to give you information on the RICS and APC, and the RICS have an office in the School.

TIMETABLE

There will be a timetable given to you at the commencement of each semester showing modules, times, rooms and staff. You will be allocated to a seminar group and should not change your group without consent of the programme leader. Changes and extra sessions are notified to you via the programme notice board located on floor 2 A block corridor or via ELearning Portal.