



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

ACCREDITATION REPORT

**SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATION, CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
AND
UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON**

LEARNING PROGRAMME RE-ACCREDITATION

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN
QUANTITY SURVEYING**

March 2024

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
1. TERMS OF REFERENCE.....	1
2. HKCAAVQ'S DETERMINATION.....	2
3. INTRODUCTION.....	6
4. PANEL'S DELIBERATIONS	7
4.1 Programme Objectives and Learning Outcomes.....	7
4.2 Learner Admission and Selection	13
4.3 Programme Structure and Content.....	16
4.4 Learning, Teaching and Assessment.....	21
4.5 Programme Leadership and Staffing	23
4.6 Learning, Teaching and Enabling Resources/Services.....	24
4.7 Programme Approval, Review and Quality Assurance	25
5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ACCREDITATION REPORT.....	27

Appendix

HKCAAVQ Panel Membership

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.1 Based on the Service Agreement (No.: AA938), the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), in the capacity of the Accreditation Authority as provided for under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (AAVQO) (Cap. 592), was commissioned by School of Continuing and Professional Education, City University of Hong Kong and University of Wolverhampton (jointly as the Operator) to conduct a learning programme re-accreditation for (i) Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management; and (ii) Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in the AAVQO to determine whether the following programmes of School of Continuing and Professional Education, City University of Hong Kong and University of Wolverhampton (the Operator) (with specifications under (c)) meet the stated objectives and HKQF standards and can continue to be offered as accredited programmes;
- (b) To issue to the Operator an accreditation report setting out the results of the determination in relation to (a) by HKCAAVQ; and
- (c) Specifications of the programmes seeking accreditation status:

Programme title (English and Chinese, if any)	Exit award title (English and Chinese, if any)	NCR Registration / Reference Number¹	Mode of study	Programme length	Major(s) leading to distinctive awards	Claimed HKQF level
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management 建築管理榮譽理學士	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management 建築管理榮譽理學士	450700	Part-time	2 years	N/A	5

¹ NCR Registration / Reference number: the number assigned by the Non-local Courses Registry (NCR) under the Non-local Higher and Professional Education (Regulation) Ordinance, to registered / exempted courses respectively.

Programme title (English and Chinese, if any)	Exit award title (English and Chinese, if any)	NCR Registration / Reference Number¹	Mode of study	Programme length	Major(s) leading to distinctive awards	Claimed HKQF level
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying 工料測量榮譽理學士	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying 工料測量榮譽理學士	452119	Part-time	2 years	N/A	5

2. HKCAAVQ'S DETERMINATION

2.1 HKCAAVQ has determined that the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management (BScCM) and Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying (BScQS) programmes meet the stated objectives and HKQF standards at Level 5 and can continue to be offered as accredited programmes with a validity period of four years.

2.2 Validity Period

2.2.1 The validity period will commence on the date specified below. Operators may apply to HKCAAVQ to vary the commencement date of the validity period. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2.3 The determinations on the programmes are specified as follows:

Name of Local Operator	School of Continuing and Professional Education, City University of Hong Kong 香港城市大學專業進修學院
Name of Non-local Operator	University of Wolverhampton
Name of Award Granting Body	University of Wolverhampton

Title of Learning Programme	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management 建築管理榮譽理學士	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying 工料測量榮譽理學士
Title of Qualification(s) [Exit Award(s)]	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management 建築管理榮譽理學士	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying 工料測量榮譽理學士
Primary Area of Study and Training	Architecture and Town Planning	Architecture and Town Planning
Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)	Construction Management	Architecture, Construction and Town Planning
Other Area of Study and Training	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)	Not applicable	Not applicable
HKQF Level	Level 5	
HKQF Credits	180	
Mode(s) of Delivery and Programme Length	Part-time, 2 years	
Start Date of Validity Period	1 September 2024	

End Date of Validity Period	31 August 2028	
Number of Enrolment(s)	One enrolment per year	
Maximum Number of New Students	140 per year	60 per year
Address of Teaching / Training Venue(s)	(1) City University of Hong Kong main campus, Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong (2) CityU SCOPE Tsim Sha Tsui East Learning Centre, UG2 & UG3, Chinachem Golden Plaza, 77 Mody Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon	

2.4 Recommendation(s)

HKCAAVQ offers the following recommendations for continuous improvement of the BScCM and BScQS programmes.

(For BScCM and BScQS programmes)

- 2.4.1 The Operator should consider renaming some of the module titles for the purpose of more accurately reflecting the core competencies of the programmes and the scope of the modules. (Para. 4.3.5)
- 2.4.2 The Operator should give more emphasis on the coverage of BIM in the curricula of the programmes. (Para. 4.3.6)
- 2.4.3 The Operator should include a broader spectrum of research methodologies in the curriculum and encourage students to adopt more varied methodologies in dissertations as needed. (Para. 4.4.7)
- 2.4.4 The Operator should closely monitor the award classifications distribution through its QA mechanism, including but not limited to the review by the Programme Assessment Board, and through the Annual Programme Report, to ensure that its honours classifications are awarded in line with the norms of comparable programmes in Hong Kong and the region. (Para. 4.4.8)

- 2.4.5 The Operator should review the membership of the Industrial Advisory Board for the purposes of soliciting a wider range of feedback from stakeholders and enhancing its independence. (Para. 4.7.6)

(For BScQS programme only)

- 2.4.6 The Operator should consider offering a standalone module on Measurement to incorporate building works, specialist works and civil works. (Para. 4.3.7)

2.5 **Advice**

HKCAAVQ offers the following advice for continuous improvement of the BScCM and BScQS programmes.

(For BScCM and BScQS programmes)

- 2.5.1 The Operator is advised to regularly review the admission requirements of Holders of a Professional Diploma at HKQF Level 4 with a minimum of 120 HKQF credits in a cognate discipline plus a minimum of three years of relevant building / construction / surveying industry experience and equivalent English qualifications, referencing the qualification level, attainment level and learning volume for ensuring that entrants with these qualifications are ready to undertake both programmes and to keep a designated record for tracking the academic performance of these students and provide them with additional support where necessary. (Para. 4.2.7)

- 2.6 HKCAAVQ will subsequently satisfy itself on whether the Operator remains competent to achieve the relevant objectives and the programmes continue to meet the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator by reference to, amongst other things, the Operator's fulfilment of any conditions and compliance with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report. For the avoidance of doubt, maintenance of accreditation status is subject to the fulfilment of any condition and compliance with any restriction stipulated in this Accreditation Report.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 School of Continuing and Professional Education (SCOPE) was established in 1991 as a self-financed extension arm of the City University of Hong Kong (CityU). Since 1992, SCOPE has been offering top-up degree programmes in collaboration with overseas universities.
- 3.2 University of Wolverhampton traces its roots back to 1851 when teaching first began at the School of Art. In 1992, Wolverhampton Polytechnic was granted university status. University of Wolverhampton currently has four faculties offering programmes in over 70 different subjects and over 4,000 students graduate from University of Wolverhampton each year with a student population of more than 23,000.
- 3.3 The Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management (BScCM) and Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying (BScQS) programmes were offered by the Operator in 2000 and 2010 respectively. In 2020, the SCOPE and University of Wolverhampton collaborative partnership obtained from HKCAAVQ an Initial Evaluation (IE) status and Learning Programme Accreditation status for the BScCM and BScQS programmes at HKQF Level 5. Both programmes were accredited with a validity period until 31 August 2024.
- 3.4 The BScCM and BScQS programmes are exempted from registration under the Non-local Higher and Professional Education (Regulation) Ordinance (Cap 493). SCOPE and University of Wolverhampton, jointly as the Operator, commissioned HKCAAVQ to conduct the Learning Programme Re-Accreditation of the BScCM and BScQS programmes in 2024. For this Learning Programme Re-accreditation exercise, HKCAAVQ formed an expert Panel (Panel Membership at **Appendix**). A site visit was conducted at the City University of Hong Kong main campus on 18-19 January 2024. HKCAAVQ's *Manual for the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (Version 1.2, November 2020)* was the guiding document for the Operator and the Panel in conducting this re-accreditation exercise.
- 3.5 In consideration of the Operator's track records established from previous accreditation exercises in accordance with HKCAAVQ's Differentiation Approach, information on the following aspects of the BScCM and BScQS programmes was not required:

Domain of Competence	Information Not Required
Learning, Teaching and Enabling Resources/ Services	Information on physical resources and student support services is not required. But information on programme specific financial and physical resources is required.
Programme Approval, Review and Quality Assurance	Information on institute-wide QA processes and mechanisms is not required. But information on the specific quality assurance information for the programmes is required.

4. PANEL'S DELIBERATIONS

The following presents the Panel's deliberations on a range of issues pertinent to its major findings. For aspects of the accreditation standards where no observations are made they are considered to be appropriately addressed by the Operator.

4.1 Programme Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The learning programme must have objectives that address community, education and/or industry needs, with learning outcomes that meet the relevant HKQF standards, for all exit qualifications from the programme.

4.1.1 The BScCM and BScQS programmes are hosted by the School of Architecture and the Built Environment, Faculty of Science and Engineering of University of Wolverhampton.

4.1.2 The BScCM programme aims to prepare graduates for their initial and continued employment in the discipline of Construction Management within the built environment. The programme objectives (POs) of the BScCM programme are as follows:

- (1) Address the construction industry's demands for graduates who can apply the principles of construction management to construction projects;

- (2) Enable students to pursue professional careers in construction at a level which requires the exercise of judgement, initiative and the ability to make informed construction management decisions that reflect a responsible, ethical and sustainable outlook;
- (3) Equip students with a detailed understanding of the key principles of construction management, underpinned with knowledge of construction technology, law, business and finance, enabling the application of these areas to construction projects;
- (4) Require students to participate in group projects where other team members are drawn from a range of cognate construction disciplines;
- (5) Develop the ability to investigate, research and report on familiar and unfamiliar subject areas, thereby enhancing the student's ability to evaluate and critique construction management principles; and
- (6) Provide the opportunity to apply the construction knowledge and skills already gained in an appropriate industrial environment, thereby broadening the student's skills and knowledge of construction management and construction multi-disciplinary procedures and practices.

4.1.3 The BScQS programme aims to ensure that students have a comprehensive quantity surveying education combined with related construction knowledge, and are equipped with the appropriate quantity surveying and construction knowledge and enterprising spirit to practice professionally and ethically. The POs of the BScQS programme are as follows:

- (1) Address industry's demand for graduates who can apply the principles of quantity surveying to the execution of projects in the construction sector;
- (2) Enable students to pursue careers in quantity surveying at a level which requires the exercise of sound professional judgement, and initiative, and the ability to make practical yet informed decisions on complex projects with unpredictable circumstances that reflect a responsible, ethical, and socially aware outlook;

- (3) Furnish students with a detailed understanding of the principles of commercial management and quantity surveying, combined with an understanding of wider construction issues such as construction technology, economics and finance, construction contracts and law;
- (4) Provide a multi-disciplinary education in quantity surveying, combined with an appreciation of a range of construction related areas, thereby providing access to a wide range of future career paths;
- (5) Require students to participate in group projects where the project team members are drawn from a range of associated disciplines;
- (6) Develop the ability to research familiar and unfamiliar subject areas related to quantity surveying and construction, thereby enhancing the application of key quantity surveying issues into real life; and
- (7) Provide the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills already gained, in an appropriate quantity surveying and construction environment, thereby broadening the student's knowledge of construction industry procedures and practices.

4.1.4 With regard to the programme intended learning outcomes (PILOs) of the BScCM programme, upon completion of the programme, students should be able to:

- (1) Understand the key concepts, theories, practice and principles of the discipline of construction management and to evaluate their application in the industrial environment including: financing and management of construction resources and projects; legislative framework in which the construction industry and property management professions operate; health and safety legal concepts, management of projects from conception to realisation operational use; specialist knowledge of sustainability technology and management; factors that contribute to the deterioration of buildings; resource management and allocation, specialist knowledge of construction contracts including specific responsibilities for health and safety; technical principles and applications of levelling and surveying and setting out to construction situations; key concepts and principles of estimating; as well as conceptual and applied aspects of construction technology;

- (2) Understand and identify the factors that can contribute to the various stages of development, use and deterioration of the built estate;
- (3) Assess the relevant principles operating in the inter-action and placement of structural and non-structural components of buildings;
- (4) Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the current role, responsibilities and professional ethics of the construction manager in their own right and within the context of the maintenance of professional practice in the wider built environment;
- (5) Evaluate and synthesise the relevant topical issues and drivers for change and their development and application by construction managers in the built environment; and
- (6) Acquire and apply the skills necessary to pursue careers in construction management within the built environment, including the areas of: economic and social, legal and cultural, technological and physical, environment and sustainability, business management and financial.

4.1.5 As regards the PILOs of the BScQS programme, upon completion of the programme, students should be able to:

- (1) Understand and develop the current role, responsibilities and professional ethics of the quantity surveyor in their own right and within the context of the maintenance of professional practice in the wider built environment;
- (2) Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key concepts, theories, practice and principles of the discipline of quantity surveying / commercial management / cost management and to evaluate their application into the professional environment including:
 - (a) management of the life cycle of a construction project from inception right through to operational and end of life looking at sustainable factor, construction technology;
 - (b) resource management and allocation;

- (c) specialist knowledge of construction contracts including specific responsibilities for health and safety adjudication and contract claims assessments;
 - (d) technical application and principles of site surveying and recording site data;
 - (e) financial viability of construction projects;
 - (f) measurement and cost management including the use of digital data; and
 - (g) understanding of the inter-action and placement of structural and non-structural components of buildings;
- (3) Demonstrate appreciation of relevant topical issues and drivers for change and their development and application to the Quantity Surveyor / Commercial Manager or Cost Consultant in the built environment;
- (4) Understand and apply the technological, social, cultural, economic, legal, physical factors and skill-sets to pursue a range of careers as Chartered Quantity Surveyor, Chartered Builder, Commercial Manager or Cost Manager within the built environment; and
- (5) Evaluate and synthesise critically construction best practices and specialist knowledge and skill required by Quantity Surveyors, Commercial Managers and Cost Managers.
- 4.1.6 To illustrate the market needs for graduates of both programmes, the Operator quoted the “Manpower Forecast for Hong Kong Construction Industry” in February 2023 of the Hong Kong Construction Industry Council which shows a forecast of shortage for construction professionals in the coming years. The employers whom the Panel met during the site visit also expressed the view that there is a strong manpower demand in the construction industry in Hong Kong for first-degree holders in relevant fields.
- 4.1.7 Regarding professional accreditation, the Panel noted that both programmes have been accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Hong Kong Institute of Construction Managers (HKICM), the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), Quantity Surveyors International (QSI) and Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE).

4.1.8 The Operator provided the following information to the Panel to illustrate how both programmes continue to meet the relevant HKQF standards:

- (a) Mapping of PILOs to the POs;
- (b) Mapping of the modules to the PILOs;
- (c) Mapping of the PILOs to the Generic Level Descriptors (GLDs) at HKQF Level 5;
- (d) Mapping of the modules to the GLDs at HKQF Level 5; and
- (e) Detailed mapping of capstone modules against GLDs at HKQF Level 5.

4.1.9 The Operator provided the following documents and information to demonstrate the achievement of the learning outcomes and the assessment standard of each of the two programmes:

- (a) Sample teaching and learning materials;
- (b) Sample marked assessments (including *Built Environment Dissertation*) and their associated assessment rubrics;
- (c) External Examiner Reports for 2021/22 and 2022/23;
- (d) Reports of Graduate Survey for both programmes conducted from 2020 to 2023; and
- (e) Annual Programme Reports for 2019/20 to 2021/22.

4.1.10 Having reviewed the above information, the Panel made the following observations:

- (a) The POs are aligned with the PILOs.
- (b) The sample assessment tasks and graded students' work demonstrated the attainment of learning outcomes at HKQF Level 5.
- (c) The comments given in the External Examiner Reports are positive in general.

- (d) As indicated in the Reports of Graduate Survey, a majority of the graduates of both programmes work in relevant fields such as Architecture / Building / Construction / Surveying / Engineering.

4.1.11 In view of the above information, the Panel considered that the POs of both programmes can address the community, education and/or industry needs, and the PILOs of both programmes meet the HKQF standards at Level 5.

4.2 **Learner Admission and Selection**

The minimum admission requirements of the learning programme must be clearly outlined for staff and prospective learners. These requirements and the learner selection processes must be effective for recruitment of learners with the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake the programme.

4.2.1 For **standard entry** to the BScCM and BScQS programmes, the minimum admission requirements are as follows.

Cognate Entry

- Holders of an Associate Degree (AD) or a Higher Diploma (HD) in a cognate discipline.
- Holders of a Professional Diploma at HKQF Level 4 with a minimum of 120 HKQF credits in a cognate discipline plus a minimum of three years of relevant building / construction / surveying industry experience.

Cognate disciplines: Building Studies, Building Services, Construction Engineering & Management, Quantity Surveying, Building Surveying, Architectural Design & Technology, Civil Engineering, Building Information Modelling (BIM), Facilities Management or equivalent qualifications.

All applicants admitted through the route for Professional Diploma holders have to successfully undergo an admission interview.

Semi-Cognate Entry

- Holders of an Associate Degree (AD) or a Higher Diploma (HD) in a semi-cognate discipline plus a minimum of two years of relevant building / construction / surveying industry experience.

Semi-Cognate disciplines: Business, Finance, Management, Engineering related, Environmental Protection, Energy Management Service, Real Estate, Housing Management, Interior Design, Computer Science, Information Technology, Sciences or equivalent qualifications.

Apart from having to successfully undergo an admission interview, applicants admitted through a semi-cognate entry route are required to take and pass a 45-hour conversion course “Construction Technology and Management” prior to the programme commencement.

- 4.2.2 For **non-standard entry** to both programmes, the minimum admission requirements are as follows.

Mature Entry

Mature candidates with a minimum of five years of experience at a supervisory level within the relevant building / construction / surveying Industry.

All applicants admitted through this mature entry route have to successfully undergo an admission interview.

- 4.2.3 All applicants are also required to satisfy the English proficiency requirement for admission by meeting one of the following conditions:

- IELTS 6.0;
- Grade C or above in HKCEE English Language (Syllabus B) before 2007;
- Level 3 or above in HKCEE English Language in 2007 and henceforth;
- Level 3 or above in HKDSE English Language;
- AD or HD or sub-degree with English as medium of instruction;
or

- Other equivalent.

4.2.4 In line with the Government's policy on the yearly quota of non-standard admission for programmes accredited under the Qualifications Framework, for degree programmes operating in the 2023/24 academic year and onwards, the maximum number of non-standard admission (including mature students) should be capped at a maximum of 10% on programme basis of the actual number of new students of the year. The cap is applied in line with the general expectation of self-financed degree-awarding institutions in safeguarding teaching and learning quality and thereby upholding the credibility and recognition of the qualifications. The percentage is based on the sum of new student numbers across all years of study of the programme.

4.2.5 Regarding the admission process, the Operator informed the Panel that all applications are examined and considered by the Course Lead (Programme Leader of SCOPE) and interviews are conducted if necessary. The Course Lead makes the initial admission recommendations for endorsement by the Link Tutor (Programme Leader of University of Wolverhampton).

4.2.6 The Panel noted that mirroring the advanced entry mechanism under The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) of the UK, advanced entry above UK Level 5 may be considered dependent upon qualifications and experience of the candidate and is subject to the required level of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) of the Faculty of Science and Engineering of University of Wolverhampton. Since the last accreditation, some of the students (an average of 9.38% for the BScCM programme; and 21.34% for the BScQS programme from 2020 to 2023) were granted exemptions of up to further 40 HKQF credits (2 modules).

4.2.7 Regarding the acceptance as the standard entry of:

Holders of a Professional Diploma at HKQF Level 4 with a minimum of 120 HKQF credits in a cognate discipline plus a minimum of three years of relevant building / construction / surveying industry experience

and

equivalent English qualifications,

the Panel considered that the learning volume and the equivalence would warrant greater attention in the selection of the applicants to both programmes. The Panel therefore ***advised*** the Operator to regularly review such admission requirements, referencing the qualification level, attainment level and learning volume for ensuring that entrants with these qualifications are ready to undertake both programmes and to keep a designated record for tracking the academic performance of these students and provide them with additional support where necessary.

4.2.8 The Panel reviewed the profiles of students admitted to both programmes since the last accreditation and considered that the admission criteria have been followed, and the admission process is generally effective in admitting students with the appropriate background. The Panel noted that a majority of students have been admitted to both programmes via the cognate entry route since the last accreditation.

4.2.9 In the coming four academic years from AY2024/25, the Operator is to maintain the maximum number of new students per year at 140 for the BScCM programme and 60 for the BScQS programme, and with one enrolment per year for both programmes. Having reviewed the number of students enrolled in both programmes since the last accreditation, and the staffing and physical resources, the Panel considered that the proposed maximum numbers are appropriate.

4.2.10 In light of the above and the information in the accreditation documents including the graduation rate and retention rate of both programmes, the Panel formed the view that the minimum admission requirements for both programmes are appropriate and the selection process is effective for recruiting students with the necessary knowledge and skills to undertake both programmes.

4.3 **Programme Structure and Content**

The structure and content of the learning programme must be up-to-date, coherent, balanced and integrated to facilitate progression in order to enable learners to achieve the stated learning outcomes and to meet the programme objectives.

4.3.1 The BScCM and BScQS programmes offered at SCOPE are top-up degree programmes operated in part-time mode only carrying a total of 180 HKQF credits.

4.3.2 To provide flexibility for students while ensuring parity of academic provision is retained, it is proposed that option modules be introduced in Hong Kong starting from September 2024 at the earliest in that students would have the option to choose the 20-credit *Built Environment Dissertation* and 20-credit *Development Economics and Finance* modules (Option 1) or the 40-credit *Built Environment Dissertation* module (Option 2). The option for the 40-credit *Built Environment Dissertation* module is also planned to be introduced in the UK in September 2024. The revised structure of BScCM and BScQS programmes offered at SCOPE starting from September 2024 at the earliest is depicted below.

BScCM programme

Option 1

Year 1			
No.	Module	UK Level	HKQF Credits
1	Brownfield Regeneration and Construction Technology (Commercial Buildings)	5	20
2	Academic, Leadership and Employment Skills	5	20
3	Sustainability	6	20
4	Contract Administration and Dispute Resolution	6	20
5	Resource Management	5	20
Year 2			
6	Built Environment Dissertation (20-credit, option 1)	6	20
7	Global Construction Management	6	20
8	Development Economics and Finance (Option 1)	6	20
9	Construction Planning and Programming	6	20

Option 2

Year 1			
No.	Module	UK Level	HKQF Credits
1	Brownfield Regeneration and Construction Technology (Commercial Buildings)	5	20

2	Academic, Leadership and Employment Skills	5	20
3	Sustainability	6	20
4	Contract Administration and Dispute Resolution	6	20
5	Resource Management	5	20
Year 2			
6	Built Environment Dissertation (40-credit, option 2)	6	40
7	Global Construction Management	6	20
8	Construction Planning and Programming	6	20

BScQS programme

Option 1

Year 1			
No.	Module	UK Level	HKQF Credits
1	Brownfield Regeneration and Construction Technology (Commercial Buildings)	5	20
2	Academic, Leadership and Employment Skills	5	20
3	Sustainability	6	20
4	Contract Administration and Dispute Resolution	6	20
5	Construction Costings and Procurement	5	20
Year 2			
6	Built Environment Dissertation (20-credit, option 1)	6	20
7	Development Economics and Finance (Option 1)	6	20
8	Construction Measurement and Cost Management	6	20
9	Commercial Project Management	6	20

Option 2

Year 1			
No.	Module	UK Level	HKQF Credits
1	Brownfield Regeneration and Construction Technology (Commercial	5	20

	Buildings)		
2	Academic, Leadership and Employment Skills	5	20
3	Sustainability	6	20
4	Contract Administration and Dispute Resolution	6	20
5	Construction Costings and Procurement	5	20
Year 2			
6	Built Environment Dissertation (40-credit, option 2)	6	40
7	Construction Measurement and Cost Management	6	20
8	Commercial Project Management	6	20

4.3.3 In relation to the proposed option of a 40-credit *Built Environment Dissertation*, as compared with the current 20-credit *Built Environment Dissertation*, apart from additional contact hours and a more extensive word submission, the Panel noted that the extent and scope of learning shall be more extensive with enhanced assessment rigour and diversity. During the site visit, the students whom the Panel met with expressed the view that while they welcome the flexibility of the choice of a 40-credit *Built Environment Dissertation*, most of them prefer to opt for the current 20-credit *Built Environment Dissertation* in light of the more stringent requirements of the 40-credit dissertation module. The Panel considered that the option of the 40-credit *Built Environment Dissertation* provided to students is appropriate.

4.3.4 The Panel reviewed the following information about the structure and content of both programmes.

- (a) Programme Specifications
- (b) Module Specifications
- (c) The set of information mentioned in Paragraph 4.1.8

4.3.5 After reviewing the Module Specifications of both programmes, the Panel observed that some of the module titles are too broad and do not fully reflect the core competencies of both programmes. For instance, the Panel considered that the title of the module *Academic, Leadership and Employment Skills* is too general. The core competencies of the programmes covered in the module are specifically related to professional development / professional

practice / soft skills. Another example is the title of the module *Sustainability*, whose scope can be better delineated by putting “Building” in front of “Sustainability” in its module title. As such, the Panel **recommended** that the Operator should consider renaming some of the module titles for the purpose of more accurately reflecting the core competencies of the programmes and the scope of the modules.

- 4.3.6 Upon a review of the Module Specifications and the discussion with teaching staff of the Operator during the site visit, the Panel observed that the very basics of Building Information Modeling (BIM) are currently covered across different modules of both programmes. In light of the increasing importance of digital technologies in the construction industry, the Panel considered that the programmes should cover more practical hands-on knowledge of BIM, for example, by offering an elective module on BIM, such that students would be better equipped with the knowledge and skills in BIM upon graduation. During the site visit, the employers whom the Panel met with also expressed the view that they prefer to hire applicants with hands-on knowledge of BIM. As such, the Panel **recommended** that the Operator should give more emphasis on the coverage of BIM in the curricula of the programmes.
- 4.3.7 For the BScQS programme, in response to the Panel’s observation that Measurement is not sufficiently covered in the programme, the Operator explained that Measurement is embedded in the modules of *Construction Measurement and Cost Management* and *Commercial Project Management*. After reviewing the Module Specifications, the Panel considered that more aspects of Measurement such as building works, specialist works and civil works should be incorporated in the programme, given that Measurement is a major skill / knowledge area in a quantity surveying programme. As such, the Panel **recommended** that the Operator should consider offering a standalone module on Measurement to incorporate building works, specialist works and civil works.
- 4.3.8 In consideration of the above information, notwithstanding the recommendations given, the Panel held the view that the structure and content of both programmes are appropriately designed to facilitate progression in order to enable learners to achieve the stated learning outcomes and to meet the programme objectives.

4.4 Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The learning, teaching and assessment activities designed for the learning programme must be effective in delivering the programme content and assessing the attainment of the intended learning outcomes.

- 4.4.1 The BScCM and BScQS programmes are delivered with the principal contact modes of delivery being lectures and tutorials. Except the 20-credit and 40-credit *Built Environment Dissertation* modules which consist of 48 and 100 contact hours respectively, each module of the programmes consists of 28 lecture hours and 24 tutorial hours.
- 4.4.2 Both programmes are taught and assessed in English.
- 4.4.3 Students of both programmes in Hong Kong have access to the Operator's Virtual Learning Environment (a teaching and learning platform), namely CANVAS site, which is the primary source of e-learning support and resources for students. For each module of both programmes, the CANVAS site provides students with teaching materials and formative exercises in various formats. The CANVAS site also includes an electronic forum and students are encouraged to benefit from the pooling and discussion of ideas with their peers on the CANVAS site.
- 4.4.4 Both programmes are jointly delivered by University of Wolverhampton and SCOPE teaching staff. The Panel noted from the brochures of both programmes that a module is typically delivered with 19 hours of intensive lectures within three weeks by University of Wolverhampton teaching staff, followed by 24 hours of tutorials spread through week 4 to 11 by SCOPE module tutors, plus 9 hours of revision lectures, normally arranged within one week by University of Wolverhampton teaching staff.
- 4.4.5 With regard to the assessments of both programmes, the Operator provided to the Panel the following:
- (a) Assessment schemes;
 - (b) Grade distribution of all modules of both programmes for students enrolled in 2020/21 to 2022/23;
 - (c) Award classifications distribution of both programmes for students enrolled in 2020/21 and 2021/22;

- (d) External Examiner Reports for 2021/22 and 2022/23; and
 - (e) Sample marked assessments (including *Built Environment Dissertation*) and their associated assessment rubrics.
- 4.4.6 The graduation requirements for both programmes offered at SCOPE are an achievement of 180 credits of which 60 credits must be at UK Level 5.
- 4.4.7 The Panel noted that the typical research methodologies covered in *Built Environment Dissertation* include questionnaire surveys, interviews with industry experts and professionals and case studies, and that collectively research skills and methodologies constitute approximately 12 to 15 hours of direct teaching. Upon a review of the sample marked assessments of the *Built Environment Dissertation*, the Panel observed that the research methodologies employed by the majority of students in the sample marked dissertations are questionnaire surveys only. The Panel considered that the use of various research methodologies in dissertations can provide different perspectives and insights into a research question and that students' knowledge of various research methodologies can be consolidated through their applications. As such, the Panel **recommended** that the Operator should include a broader spectrum of research methodologies in the curriculum and encourage students to adopt more varied methodologies in dissertations as needed.
- 4.4.8 Upon a review of the award classifications distribution of both programmes for students enrolled in 2020/21 and 2021/22, the Panel observed that both programmes had a high proportion of students graduated with first-class honours. The Operator attributed this to the adoption of the approach of University of Wolverhampton to progression and awards for those students impacted by Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 with the aims of supporting students in making assessment submissions through extended deadlines and deferral opportunities, as well as supporting students in being able to progress to their next level or achieve their award through alternative means of non-summative assessment. The Operator explained that given that the studies of students are no longer disrupted by the pandemic, the circumstances warranting the adoption of the aforementioned approach to progression and awards is no longer applicable to students of both programmes. The Panel considered that the norm of average rate of first-class honours is not more than 20%. While noting that the spike in the proportion of first-class honours of both programmes can be attributed to the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic, the Operator should closely monitor

the award classification distribution of both programmes to ensure that it does not deviate substantially from the norms of comparable programmes through its QA mechanism. As such, the Panel ***recommended*** that the Operator should closely monitor the award classifications distribution through its QA mechanism, including but not limited to the review by the Programme Assessment Board, and through the Annual Programme Report, to ensure that its honours classifications are awarded in line with the norms of comparable programmes in Hong Kong and the region.

4.4.9 In consideration of the above information, and notwithstanding the recommendations given, the Panel formed the view that the learning, teaching and assessment activities designed for both programmes are appropriate in delivering the programme content and assessing students' attainment of the intended learning outcomes.

4.5 Programme Leadership and Staffing

The Operator must have adequate programme leader(s), teaching/training and support staff with the qualities, competence, qualifications and experience necessary for effective programme management, i.e. planning, development, delivery and monitoring of the programme. There must be an adequate staff development scheme and activities to ensure that staff are kept updated for the quality delivery of the programme.

4.5.1 The BScCM and BScQS programmes are jointly administered by the Course Lead and Link Tutor. An appointment criterion for teaching staff is at least a Master's degree with relevant work experience in relevant disciplines.

4.5.2 Having reviewed the profiles of the teaching staff of both programmes, the Panel considered that they have the relevant qualifications and experience to teach the respective programmes.

4.5.3 The Operator provided the staffing plan for 2024/25 to 2027/28 academic years as follows.

Number of Teaching Staff			
SCOPE		University of Wolverhampton	
FT	PT	FT	PT
0	8	11	1

- 4.5.4 Having reviewed the staffing plan for 2024/25 to 2027/28 academic years and in light of the proposed maximum number of new students per year (See Para. 4.2.9), the Panel was of the view that the Operator has adequate staff with appropriate qualifications, experience and expertise necessary for effective management and delivery of both programmes.
- 4.5.5 On staff development, the Panel noted that SCOPE teaching staff are invited to attend the online courses provided by the Talent and Education Development Office of CityU to enhance their pedagogical skills. SCOPE also organises in-house staff development seminars on topics such as outcome-based assessment, enhancing group discussion in class and Fintech development. As most of the teaching staff of SCOPE are members of various professional bodies, they are required to fulfil the yearly career development studies for their professional recognition. The Panel reviewed the list of staff development activities offered by the Operator for teaching staff of both programmes over the past two years and considered that a wide range of staff development activities were available for teaching staff of SCOPE. During the site visit, the teaching staff of both programmes also shared with the Panel that SCOPE encourages them to take part in relevant staff training activities and that they found the training sessions provided by the Operator useful in enhancing the quality of their teaching.
- 4.5.6 In view of the above information, the Panel formed the view that the Operator has adequate staff with appropriate qualifications, experience and expertise necessary for effective management and delivery of both programmes, and that there are adequate staff development schemes and activities to ensure that staff are kept updated for the quality delivery of both programmes.

4.6 **Learning, Teaching and Enabling Resources/Services**

The Operator must be able to provide learning, teaching and enabling resources/services that are appropriate and sufficient for the learning, teaching and assessment activities of the learning programme, regardless of location and mode of delivery.

- 4.6.1 In consideration of the Operator's track records established from previous accreditation exercises and in accordance with HKCAAVQ's Differentiation Approach, the BScCM and BScQS programmes are considered to have met the Physical Resources and Student Support Services aspects of the accreditation standard.

- 4.6.2 The Operator provided to the Panel the information on teaching and learning resources for both programmes, including the library holdings, e-resources and information on the teaching and learning platform of the Operator, the CANVAS site. The Panel noted that the current classroom utilisation for the two teaching venues of SCOPE was below 50% on average. The students and graduates whom the Panel met with also expressed positive comments on the overall resources provided in both programmes.
- 4.6.3 Regarding the financial resources of both programmes, the Panel was provided with the income and expenditure from 2020/21 to 2023/24. It was noted that both programmes had generated a surplus every year. The Operator also provided the Panel with the income and expenditure projection from 2024/25 to 2027/28. Based on the financial information provided, the Panel considered that there are adequate financial resources to support the delivery of both programmes.
- 4.6.4 In consideration of the above information, the Panel formed the view that the Operator provided appropriate and necessary resources to support the delivery of both programmes.

4.7 **Programme Approval, Review and Quality Assurance**

The Operator must monitor and review the development and performance of the learning programme on an on-going basis to ensure that the programme remains current and valid and that the learning outcomes, learning and teaching activities and learner assessments are effective to meet the programme objectives.

- 4.7.1 In consideration of the Operator's track records established from previous accreditation exercises and in accordance with HKCAAVQ's Differentiation Approach, the BScCM and BScQS programmes are considered to have met the institution-wide Programme Approval, Review and Quality Assurance aspects of the accreditation standard.
- 4.7.2 The contractual agreement between University of Wolverhampton and SCOPE to offer the BScCM and BScQS programmes sets out the relationship between the two institutions as well as the obligations and responsibilities of both parties. Both institutions assume the responsibility for the quality assurance of both programmes.

4.7.3 The Operator provided the Panel with the following information to demonstrate that both programmes are monitored and reviewed on an on-going basis:

- (a) quality assurance mechanism on programme management, monitoring and review, including collection and follow-up of stakeholders' feedback;
- (b) External Examiner Reports;
- (c) Teaching and Learning Questionnaire (TLQ) Summary Reports;
- (d) Annual Programme Reports; and
- (e) meeting minutes of relevant boards and committees.

4.7.4 Having reviewed the relevant reports and minutes, the Panel formed the view that the Operator has followed up on the issues identified in the monitoring and review of both programmes. The external advisors whom the Panel met with during the site visit also expressed the view that their comments on both programmes have been addressed by the Operator.

4.7.5 Arising from a recommendation from the last accreditation on "The Operator should improve the response ratio of the TLQ to ensure that it is effective in collecting feedback from students", the Panel noted that to enhance the response rate of TLQ, the TLQ exercise is introduced to students during the Students Orientation session annually and that students are well-informed about the objectives and timeline of TLQ exercise. Further, SCOPE has examined the method of carrying out the TLQ in that students are required to fill in the questionnaire during lessons such that they need not spend extra time outside class to fill in the questionnaire.

4.7.6 To follow up on a recommendation from the last accreditation on "The Operator should formalise the mechanism for external stakeholders' feedback to ensure systemic collection of inputs to the programmes from local industry and academics", the Panel noted that the Operator established the Industrial Advisory Board in October 2023 to collect feedback from the industry on the training needs and trends, as well as the possible development of both programmes, and to promote employment opportunities for graduates of both programmes. The first face-to-face meeting of the Industrial Advisory Board was held in October 2023. Upon a review

of the current membership of the Industrial Advisory Board, the Panel observed that of its seven members, four of them are representatives from the Operator including the Head of the School of Architecture and Built Environment of University of Wolverhampton (as chairman of the board), the Course Lead and the part-time teaching staff of SCOPE. The Panel considered that having an external representative as the chairperson of the Industrial Advisory Board can enhance its objectivity, independence and accountability. Further, the membership of the Industrial Advisory Board should be more diverse to include representatives from various sectors such as those from relevant professional institutes, the public sector, contractors and BIM providers. As such, the Panel **recommended** that the Operator should review the membership of the Industrial Advisory Board for the purposes of soliciting a wider range of feedback from stakeholders and enhancing its independence.

4.7.7 In view of the above information, notwithstanding the recommendation given, the Panel considered that the Operator has monitored and reviewed the development and performance of both programmes on an on-going basis.

5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ACCREDITATION REPORT

5.1 Variation and withdrawal of this Accreditation Report

5.1.1 This Accreditation Report is issued pursuant to section 5 of the AAVQO, and contains HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding the accreditation, including the validity period as well as any conditions and restrictions subject to which the determination is to have effect.

5.1.2 HKCAAVQ may subsequently decide to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report if it is satisfied that any of the grounds set out in section 5 (2) of the AAVQO apply. This includes where HKCAAVQ is satisfied that the Operator is no longer competent to achieve the relevant objectives and/or the Programme no longer meets the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator (whether by reference to the Operator's failure to fulfil any conditions and/or comply with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report or otherwise) or where at any time during the validity period there has / have been substantial change(s) introduced by the Operator after HKCAAVQ has issued the accreditation report(s) to the Operator and which has / have not been

approved by HKCAAVQ. Please refer to the '*Guidance Notes on Substantial Change to Accreditation Status*' in seeking approval for proposed changes. These Guidance Notes can be downloaded from the HKCAAVQ website.

5.1.3 If HKCAAVQ decides to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, it will give the Operator notice of such variation or withdrawal pursuant to section 5(4) of the AAVQO.

5.1.4 The accreditation status of Operator and/or Programme will lapse immediately upon the expiry of the validity period or upon the issuance of a notice of withdrawal of this Accreditation Report.

5.2 Appeals

5.2.1 If the Operator is aggrieved by the determination made in this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of this Accreditation Report.

5.2.2 If the Operator is aggrieved by a decision to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of the Notice of Withdrawal.

5.2.3 The Operator should be aware that a notice of variation or withdrawal of this Accreditation Report is not itself an accreditation report and the right to appeal against HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding accreditation arises only from this Accreditation Report.

5.2.4 Please refer to Cap. 592A (<http://www.legislation.gov.hk>) for the appeal rules. Details of the appeal procedure are contained in section 13 of the AAVQO and can be accessed from the HKQF website at <http://www.hkqf.gov.hk>.

5.3 Qualifications Register

5.3.1 Qualifications accredited by HKCAAVQ are eligible for entry into the Qualifications Register ("QR") at <https://www.hkqr.gov.hk> for recognition under the HKQF. The Operator should apply separately to have their quality-assured qualifications entered into the QR.

5.3.2 Only learners who commence the study of the named accredited learning programme during the validity period and who have

graduated with the named qualification listed in the QR will be considered to have acquired a qualification recognised under the HKQF.

Ref: 100/53/03
22 March 2024
JoH/AnC/TiF/rol

Appendix

**School of Continuing and Professional Education, City University of Hong Kong and
University of Wolverhampton**

**Learning Programme Re-accreditation for
(i) Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management; and
(ii) Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying**

18 – 19 January 2024

Panel Membership

Panel Chair

Professor TAN Chee Keong Willie
Professor
Department of the Built Environment
National University of Singapore
SINGAPORE

* Panel Secretary

Mr Tim FUNG
Consultant
Academic Accreditation and Assessment
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic and Vocational Qualifications
HONG KONG

Panel Members

Professor AU Tat Kwong Francis
Honorary Professor
Department of Civil Engineering
The University of Hong Kong
HONG KONG

Professor GHIDAoui Mohamed Salah
Chinese Estates Professor of Engineering
/ Chair Professor
Department of Civil and Environmental
Engineering
The Hong Kong University of Science and
Technology
HONG KONG

Mr YIM Siu Chung
Executive Director
Beria Consultants Ltd
HONG KONG

* The Panel Secretary is also a member of the Accreditation Panel.

