



***Higher Apprenticeship – Policy Context,
the Higher Apprenticeship in
Construction Operations Management
and Development of a Civil Engineering
Specialist Pathway***

Overview

- Policy Context: Higher Apprenticeship Fund, Consultation on Higher Apprenticeships at Degree Levels
- Rationale, industry demand and initial development of the Higher Apprenticeship in Construction Operations Management
- The Higher Apprenticeship in Construction Operations Management and integrated Foundation degree
- The Higher Apprenticeship Project
- Development of a Specialist Pathway in Civil Engineering
- Endorsements from employers and representative groups
- Comments and questions

Higher Apprenticeship – Policy Context

- 2010/11 – 457,200 Apprenticeship Starts (of whom 2,200 Higher Apprentices)
- July 2011 Prime Minister announces Higher Apprenticeship Fund
- Approximately 30 Partnerships supported to develop new Higher Apprenticeships and stimulate take-up
- Rationale, business need, development of Apprenticeship family ‘craft’, ‘technician’ and ‘professional’, social mobility
- Breadth of organisations involved FE, HE, private providers, awarding organisations, professional bodies and employers
- September 2012 – Consultation on Criteria for Higher Apprenticeships at Degree Levels – levels 4 – 7 and naming conventions

Rationale, industry demand and initial development of the Higher Apprenticeship in Construction Operations Management

- Sector demand and UK Contractors Group request
- Initial framework and integrated Foundation degree programme development activity
- Higher Apprenticeship framework approval and Grant Scheme funding for employers

Sector demand and UK Contractors Group request



- The Higher Education Group of the UK Contractors Group request to CITB-ConstructionSkills for a Higher Apprenticeship and integrated Foundation degree
- CITB-ConstructionSkills brief to UVAC, LLN Forum and MEG to engage the HE and FE sectors in Higher Apprenticeship development
 - *c25k craft Advanced level Apprentices in the sector with no Higher Apprenticeship progression*
 - *c3k new Construction Operations Managers required each year for the next 5 years*
 - *Level 4 NVQ designated at level 6 on the QCF, SASE Higher Apprenticeships up to level 5 only*
 - *64 existing Foundation degrees - variable confidence that they provide the 'on-the-job' competency requirements needed by industry*
 - *Need for national consistency to meet the needs of a mobile workforce*
 - *Preference for a Foundation degree as an integrated qualification to consistently deliver the knowledge and competency requirements of the sector*



Initial framework and integrated Fd development activity



- Working Groups and Advisory Group
 - *Invited representatives from HEIs, FECs , CITB-Construction Skills, professional associations and employers*
- Working group residential
- Further development work and refinement of the framework and programme
- Development of **Fd Professional Practice in Construction Operations Management** proposal for Middlesex University's Work Based Learning Framework Programme Approval Panel
- Programme approval by Middlesex University



Higher Apprenticeship framework approval and Grant Scheme funding



- Higher Apprenticeship framework and integrated Fd proposal submission to CITB-Construction Skills Standards and Qualification Validation Group
 - *Submission of a work-based assessment strategy for knowledge and competence*
- Higher Apprenticeship framework and integrated Fd approved as SASE compliant
- Submission to NAS for further approval check
- Published on NAS website and Apprenticeships Online as an approved framework
- Submission to CITB-ConstructionSkills Grant Scheme Working Party
- Approval of Grant Scheme funding for employers sponsoring Higher Apprentices
 - *Grant Scheme funding up to a maximum of £5,650 for 2012/13*
 - *To be reviewed in consideration of full Apprenticeship level funding*



The Higher Apprenticeship in Construction Operations Management and integrated Foundation degree

- Curriculum design and structure of the programme
- Flexibility of delivery approaches and work-based learning
- APEL and entry with HNC qualifications

Curriculum design and structure of the programme 1



- The Foundation degree is comprised of 240 credits at levels 4 and 5 delivered typically over three years – *for example - year one 90, year two 90 and year three 60 credits*
- All 15 credit modules except final work-based project module 30 credits – *a requirement for Middlesex WBL Foundation degrees*
- Core modules
 - *Required for Construction Operations Management job role – eg Construction Technologies*
 - *Required for SASE Higher Apprenticeship framework – Personal Learning and Thinking Skills*
 - *Required for completion of the Foundation degree – Skills for WB HE, 30 credit project*
- Option modules – *enable personal choice and career specialisation*
- All programme modules can be delivered through a combination of blended learning and work-based project activity



Curriculum design and structure of the programme 2

Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1 – 90 credits	
Skills for Work-based HE - Level 4 Core module (15 credits)	PLTS 1 - Level 4 Core module (15 credits)
Construction Technologies 1 - Level 4 Core module (15 credits)	Site Surveying - Level 4 Core module (15 credits)
Science and Materials - Level 4 Core module (15 credits)	Construction Management - Level 4 Core module (15 credits)
Year 2 – 90 credits	
Level 4 Option module 1 (15 credits)	Law and Contracts - Level 5 Core module (15 credits)
Level 4 Option module 2 (15 credits)	Construction Technologies 2 - Level 5 Core module (15 credits)
PLTS 2 - Level 5 Core module (15 credits)	Environmental Technologies - Level 5 Core module (15 credits)
Year 3 – 60 credits	
Level 5 Option module 1 (15 credits)	Project Management - Level 5 Core module (30 credits)
Level 5 Option module 2 (15 credits)	

Level 4 option modules: *Building Services, Sustainable Construction, Computer Aided Design (CAD), Learning from Professional Courses 1*

Level 5 option modules: *Facilities Management for Construction Managers, History of Architecture, Advanced Materials, Learning from Professional Courses 2*

Flexibility of delivery approaches and work-based learning

- The project Consortium will provide specific and tailored support
- Approaches to work-based learning, teaching and assessment
 - *A blended learning approach that can include college-based teaching, on-line support and workplace-based learning– a tailored continuum not either/or*
 - *An evolving pattern of delivery that moves from college-based teaching in the early stages towards workplace-based learning in the later stages*
 - *College-based day-release on an HNC progressing to level 5 of the Fd focusing on workplace-based learning*
- Assessment through work-based projects
 - *What might constitute a ‘project’*
 - *Module learning outcomes mapped against NOS*

APEL and entry with HNC qualifications



- Higher Apprenticeship primarily to provide progression opportunities for those with Advanced Apprenticeships but...
- Also to provide opportunities for construction practitioners with experience
- Benefits of APEL for the employer and employee
 - *Lower fees and reduced time to complete the programme*
 - *Recognition that experience counts and is valuable as an incentive for learning*
- Built in Review of Learning modules at level 4 and 5 – *how do these work?*
- The project will also develop an open access on-line APEL initial assessment tool that will provide a 'snap-shot' of the credit that could be gained
- Entry to level 5 of the Fd for those who have completed a relevant HNC
 - *Articulation Agreements*
 - *Recognition as Higher Apprentices at the point of entering the Fd*



A Civil Engineering Pathway



- Liaison with ICE
- Proposal to the Joint Moderation Board Higher Level and Technician Qualifications Sub-Committee
- Employer Interest
- Next Steps – an opportunity to drive development



Endorsements from employers and representative groups



- “UKCG welcomes the development of higher apprenticeships within construction – this will **strengthen the ladder of opportunity within the industry, by combining work-based training and managerial skills**”. UK Contractors Group
- “This initiative will help to **ensure a supply of skilled and knowledgeable managers that are capable of working in a fast changing industry that is adapting to using more modern methods of construction**” Lovell Partnerships Ltd
- “This development has the potential to be **transformational** in helping to provide the **highly-skilled and fully trained workforce**, operating under **efficient management**, utilising **the most modern techniques and technologies** that the sector requires.” Seddon Group
- “The...Higher Apprenticeship...will help to **ensure a competent and qualified flow of managers into the sector**. We hope this will be useful for **small and medium sized businesses** looking for a pathway to higher-level qualifications that will help support their business. The opportunity to...gain a **Foundation Degree is welcomed and will help raise the profile of vocational education at the higher levels.**” Federation of Master Builders



Comments and questions...

