

Construction Project Management

Some Career Options

There are many different career options open to Aston University construction project management graduates. This document will help you to identify the range of career areas and job roles available and provide a starting point for your further research. Some of these roles will require further study, whilst others will be accessible with your degree.

Career Areas

You can work in roles where logistics is essential to carrying out the duties, roles where construction project management would be useful or roles where the additional skills you have developed from your degree would be useful. The transferable skills you have gained through studying for a construction project management degree could be of interest to any company and be relevant to any job role – these include:

- teamwork and leadership
- negotiation and persuasion
- time management and organisation
- problem solving and decision making
- communication and numeracy
- report writing

Some popular destinations for construction project management graduates are:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Building Control Surveying | 2. Planning and Development Surveying | 3. Quantity Surveying | 4. Facilities Management |
| 5. Site Engineering | 6. Construction Contract Management | 7. Estimating | 8. Logistics and Distribution Management |
| 9. Project Management | 10. Management Consultancy | 11. Teaching/ Lecturing | 12. Postgraduate Study |

The following pages contain links to websites where you can research your areas of interest in more detail.

1. **Building Control Surveyor:** Building control surveyors ensure that building regulations (e.g. public health; fire safety; energy conservation and sustainability; accessibility) and other relevant legislation are complied with when houses, offices and other buildings are designed and built. They also check that property alterations, including extensions and conversions, meet regulations. If a building looks like it will not meet building regulations, building control surveyors can give advice on how to resolve the issue. They may be involved at the pre-application stage, commenting upon design and safety issues

and suggesting alternative processes to reduce the risk of delays and save costs. After the work has started, they make site visits at various stages to ensure that the construction is being properly carried out. Further information can be found on the Prospects website at:

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/building_control_surveyor_entry_requirements.htm and on the National Careers Service website at:
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/buildingcontrolofficer.aspx>

- 2. Planning and Development Surveyor:** Planning and development surveyors advise on all aspects of planning and development, taking account of economic, social and environmental factors to provide their clients with information to help them make informed investment choices. They take account of rapidly changing market conditions when giving advice on issues such as site planning, development, conservation and transport options. They also play a major role in the creation of sustainable developments and, in the public sector, may work on affordable housing and urban and rural generation projects. Further information can be found on the Prospects website at:
http://www.prospects.ac.uk/planning_and_development_surveyor_job_description.htm and on the National Careers Service website at:
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/planninganddevelopmentsurveyor.aspx>
- 3. Quantity Surveyor:** Quantity surveyors manage the costs involved in building and civil engineering projects, from initial calculations through to the final figures. When the project is underway, they keep track of any variations to the contract that may affect costs and also create reports to show profitability. They seek to minimise the project costs and achieve value for money, while still achieving the required quality and standards many of which are specified by statutory building regulations, which surveyors need to understand and adhere to. Quantity surveyors may work for the client or the contractor. Further information can be found on the Prospects website at:
http://www.prospects.ac.uk/quantity_surveyor_job_description.htm and on the National Careers Service website at:
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/quantitiesurveyor.aspx>
- 4. Facilities Manager:** Facilities managers are involved in both strategic planning and day-to-day operations, particularly in relation to buildings and premises. They manage services and processes - such as cleaning, security and parking - supporting the core business of an organisation, ensuring that its employees and activities take place in the most suitable environment. They also manage building maintenance, including heating and air conditioning systems. Further information can be found on the Prospects website at: http://www.prospects.ac.uk/facilities_manager_job_description.htm and on the National Careers Service website at:
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/facilitiesmanager.aspx>
- 5. Site Engineer:** Site engineers provide technical, organisational and supervisory support on construction projects, setting out and determining the location for above ground and underground infrastructure installations. They apply designs and plans to mark out the site, and may be involved in civil, road, rail and other infrastructure projects. A site engineer works as part of a site management team, liaising with and working alongside architects, engineers, construction managers, supervisors, planners, surveyors and subcontractors. They share responsibility for site security, health and safety, and the organisation and supervision of material and human resources. Further information can be found on the Prospects website at: http://www.prospects.ac.uk/site_engineer_job_description.htm
- 6. Construction Contracts Manager:** Construction contracts managers help their employers to win building contracts, and also assist in controlling costs and keeping construction projects on schedule. These construction projects can include commercial and residential developments through to road and rail engineering works. The construction contracts managers could be responsible for a large contract or a number of smaller ones, acting as the main point of contact for clients, site managers and building contractors throughout the project. Further information can be found on the National Careers Service

website at:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/constructioncontractsmanager.aspx>

- 7. Estimator:** Estimators usually work for manufacturing, engineering or construction companies and calculate how much it is going to cost to supply products and services to their company's clients. Part of their role involves researching and assessing information from a range of sources in order to prepare accurate estimates. Other duties can include: identifying a customer's requirements; researching materials, equipment and labour costs; obtaining quotes from materials suppliers and sub-contractors; and planning job timescales. Further information can be found on the National Careers Service at:
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/estimator.aspx>
- 8. Logistics and Distribution Manager:** Logistics and distribution managers organise the storage and distribution of goods. They ensure that the right products are delivered to the right locations, on time and at minimum cost and can be involved in transportation, stock control, warehousing and in monitoring the flow of goods. It is important that they understand the whole supply chain as they need to coordinate it effectively and to liaise with suppliers of raw materials, manufacturers, retailers and consumers. Further information can be found on the Prospects website:
http://www.prospects.ac.uk/logistics_and_distribution_manager.htm and on the TARGETJobs website:
<https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/logistics-transport-and-supply-chain/288157-graduate-careers-in-logistics-what-do-they-really-involve>
- 9. Project Manager:** Project managers plan and organise physical resources and human resources to ensure that projects meet the requirements of the business, stay within budget and finish on time. Whatever the project, their work would usually include: identifying the client's requirements; agreeing timescales, costs and resources; drawing up a detailed schedule; selecting and leading the project team; negotiating with suppliers and contractors; monitoring progress; submitting progress reports; and managing risks to minimise delays. Project managers tend to use specific project management methods such as PRINCE2 (PProjects IN Controlled Environments) to break down the project into stages and monitor its progress, and may also use specialised software to help with scheduling, costing, and risk analysis. Further information can be found on the National Careers Service website:
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/projectmanager.aspx>
- 10. Management Consultant:** Management consultants help organisations to solve problems, create value, maximise growth and improve their business performance. They are usually concerned with the strategy, structure, management and operations of an organisation, providing objective advice and expertise and helping with the development of any specialist skills that the company may lack. They identify options and suggest recommendations for change. Further information can be found on the Prospects website at: http://www.prospects.ac.uk/management_consultant_job_description.htm and on the National Careers Service website at:
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/managementconsultant.aspx>
- 11. Teacher/ Lecturer:** Teachers and lecturers specialise in teaching a particular age group i.e. early years (0-5 years); primary (5-11 years); secondary (11-18 years); further education (14+); higher education (18+). **Teacher:** Depending on the age group you would like to teach, there are various routes into teaching some of which might attract a bursary (depending upon your degree subject and your degree result). Further information about teacher training can be found on the Prospects website:
http://www.prospects.ac.uk/how_to_become_a_teacher.htm, on the TARGETJobs website:
<https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education/330871-how-do-you-train-to-become-a-teacher> and on the Department for Education's website:
<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options> **Lecturer:** the Prospects website contains information on lecturing (further education):

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/further_education_lecturer_job_description.htm and on lecturing (higher education): http://www.prospects.ac.uk/higher_education_lecturer_job_description.htm

12. Postgraduate Study: having a further academic qualification can enhance your employability and will enable you to further specialise in a career area that interests you. For information on postgraduate courses at all levels, including advice on funding, visit: http://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate_study.htm For Masters courses, visit: www.findamasters.com. For PhD opportunities, visit: www.findaphd.com. Courses at Aston University may be discounted for Aston graduates - further information is available at: <http://www1.aston.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/>

And think about broadening your horizons!

More than 40% of graduate jobs are open to graduates from **any** degree discipline. Many companies will be attracted by the skills you have developed through your degree programme and you may want to explore the graduate schemes offered by large companies – these include graduate schemes in business, in finance, and in management consulting. Large companies tend to start their graduate recruitment early in an academic year so, if you're thinking of applying for a graduate scheme, start checking the advertisements and vacancies from September onwards in your final year.

Many of these vacancies will be advertised on Aston Futures : <https://aston-csm.symplicity.com/> and you can also check for graduate scheme deadlines on: <http://www.graddiary.com/deadlines/> and <http://www.savethegraduate.org/graduate-scheme-deadlines>

Bear in mind that graduate schemes are highly competitive and only account for a small proportion of jobs available to graduates. More graduates enter the job market through other routes, such as applying for roles within small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Updated August 2015