



What if you don't have the basic qualifications?

The Construction Industry is always looking for potential. If you don't have A Levels or a BTEC National Diploma, or equivalent, there are other options open to you.

Access courses are accepted by most universities in place of A Levels. Delivered in Further Education and sixth form colleges, they can be followed full-time over one year or part-time over two years. These courses are generally aimed at learners who have been out of the classroom for some time. Contact your local college for further details.

Some degrees have a foundation year attached to them to help students who do not have the right qualifications to start the degree in Year 1. Foundation years are also known as Level Zero. See individual university websites or prospectuses for further details or visit the UCAS website: www.ucas.ac.uk

Foundation Degrees are accessible all over the country. These can take two years or more to complete and are normally part-time while you carry on working, ideally in the industry you are studying. Generally the entry requirements are lower for Foundation Degrees than they are for standard honours degrees. You can search for courses on the Foundation Degree Forward website: www.fdf.ac.uk/courses

Some universities may agree to put an applicant without the right qualifications through a process called **APEL** (Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning). This allows the applicant to prove what they can do and show they will cope on the course. Universities have their own policies on APEL, so you will need to approach them individually.

It's never too late to go back to college to study, returning a little older can give you a whole new perspective on your studies.



Money Matters

Never let financial concerns stop you from considering Higher Education. There is plenty of support available for all types of courses, such as loans, grants and bursaries, which can be obtained from a variety of sources (too many to list here).

For a list of useful websites with information about everything from finance to course guides go to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network website at: www.hi-lln.co.uk

Contacts

The Construction Curriculum Group Coordinator is Gail Marshall who is based at Eastleigh College. For more information email **Gail Marshall** on gmarshall@eastleigh.ac.uk or **Mike Burns** on mburnsp2s@eastleigh.ac.uk

Useful Websites

bConstructive: www.bconstructive.co.uk/careers
 Construction Skills: www.constructionskills.net
 Information accurate at time of printing (July 2008)

Career Guide
Construction Industries



What is in this booklet?

This booklet has been designed to give an overview of the Construction Industry, some of the career paths available in this field and contains advice about the type of training and qualifications that are important for anyone wishing to embark on a career in this sector. There is advice for anyone without the basic qualifications and useful contacts and websites with information aimed at people considering further study.

Eastleigh College leads the development of Construction Industry courses on behalf of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network. Contact details for more information is available at the back of this booklet.

What is the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network and how can it help me?



The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network is a partnership of universities, colleges, training providers and guidance agencies who together want to transform the opportunities for vocational and work-based learners in the region.

By focusing on the expectations of employers the Network works with education and training providers to offer flexible and work-related educational opportunities that will help individuals get the qualifications needed for specific jobs and careers.

And Aimhigher...?

The overall vision of Aimhigher (Hampshire and Isle of Wight) is to make an effective contribution to widening participation in higher education in the South East region of England and thereby support the national campaign to increase participation for those aged 18-30 by 2010.

The activities of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network support the work of Aimhigher and together both organisations aim to improve the prospects of the region's learners, independent of their age or background.

The Construction Sector

Construction skills are in great demand and the diversity of job roles within the Construction Industry means there is likely to be a role that fits your skills.

This industry provides the homes and buildings we live and work in, the infrastructure to move between them and the services to make them comfortable.

Here are just a few examples of the areas where construction skills are required:

- Architecture
- Building Services
- Civil Engineering
- Construction Management
- Quantity Surveying
- Town Planning

To gain qualifications for a career in construction there are courses at craft, technical and professional levels. Many courses exist that allow you to move from one level to another. For example, someone with craft experience may choose a Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Foundation Degree to move to a technical level. A technician may choose an undergraduate Bachelors Degree course to pursue chartered status.

There is greater flexibility in the modes of study now, with full-time, part-time, 'day release' and 'block release' often offered by colleges and universities. Onsite Assessment and Training (OSAT) is also available at various levels, allowing you to gain qualifications without attending formal lessons.

The opportunities to gain construction qualifications has never been so great and the job opportunities, which these qualifications open up, can lead to a more rewarding career.



Do you have what it takes?

Here are some of the typical attributes expected of someone in this sector:

- Work well in a team
- Enjoy variety of work
- Enjoy problem solving
- Want to build or design
- Be organised
- Be adaptable

Whether you have some or all of these attributes, many of the courses available to you will build on these to help improve your confidence when applying them in a work situation.

Why are qualifications important?

Entry requirements to construction courses at universities and colleges are very flexible.

A traditional academic route of GCSEs, followed by A Levels and then a degree can be taken. However, many people follow a vocational route after GCSEs, such as a National Diploma followed by HNC (Higher National Certificate) and then a degree, while working within the industry.

Advanced craft qualifications along with industrial experience gives access to higher level qualifications. Onsite Assessment and Training (OSAT) is available at Site Supervisor and Site Manager levels.

