



# BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUILDING SURVEYING (TOP UP) AWARDED BY BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY



## Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1.	Course Title	BSc Building Surveying (Top Up)
2.	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
3.	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)

### Course Description

Looking to become a Building Surveyor? This course is founded on the core competencies of the Building Surveying profession, preparing you to pursue your journey to full professional chartership.

#### What's covered in the course?

Our Building Surveying course matches the needs of industry, based on real-life building practice, building pathology, construction technology, and the legal framework for industry, risk management and building surveying practice.

The course not only encompasses the conservation, repurposing and adaptation of the existing built environment, but also embraces innovation, preparing you to contribute to the success of the profession and supporting the development of a sustainable society for the twenty-first century and beyond.

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During this course, you will develop a range of academic and technical skills relevant to the building surveying profession. As in industry itself, this course demands a broad range of technical and creative skills.

Our course is fundamentally based upon the core competencies which are outlined by our accrediting partners, RICS and CIOB, which gives you a good foundation for your future career. We focus on the core technical knowledge, such as building pathology, construction technology and sustainability, as well as the legal framework knowledge required for a career in building surveying.

We also believe that as the industry changes and adopts new approaches, we also, working with our industry partners, should give our students the opportunity to learn about the innovative changes which are impacting the industry today.

The BSc Building Surveying degree aims to produce building surveyors with a well-rounded ability to mix technical, creative and business skills, ready to join an equally fast-moving built environment. You will therefore be industry-ready and can look forward to a fulfilling and enjoyable career as a building surveyor.

### Course Awards

Name of Final Awards	Level	Credit Awarded
Bachelor of Science with Honours Building Surveying	6	120
Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
Bachelor of Science Building Surveying	6	80

### Delivery Pattern

Mode of Study	Duration of the course
Full Time	12 months
Part Time	15 months

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Construction materials and technology relating to a wide range of building and civil engineering projects with appropriate regard for accessibility, health and safety and environmental responsibility.



2. Information and communication technology including the use the use of standard software, and a range of industry specific software.
3. The English legal system. The broad range of legislative, common and contract law, health and safety, accessibility and environmental responsibility.
4. Operating in a professional and business environment. Including the various local, national and international agenda that impact and have impacted on that; management and professional theories; relationship management and business skills; and requirements and benefits of effective information production.
5. Analyse, critically evaluate and produce a sophisticated synthesis of economic technical and legal principles and concepts, exposing the weaknesses of solutions and presenting a reasoned best choice.
6. Apply economic, technical, legal and other knowledge theories and concepts to a diverse range of practical issues and problems, making critical judgements about differing approaches to solving for those issues and problems.
7. Transfer learning study skills to new fields of the course discipline.
8. Use proficiently information and materials from a variety of sources.
9. Undertake a variety of surveys in a professional and competent manner with due regard for own and others' health and safety.
10. Act independently in constructing own learning models, plan and undertake tasks including working to deadlines and accept responsibility for own learning decisions and reflect on and appraise learning needs and adopt appropriate learning strategies.
11. Apply, with guidance, speculation and exploration, effective and appropriate methodologies to a major active learning project using primary and secondary paper and electronic sources.
12. Identify accurately and proficiently the issues which require research, and draw independent conclusions based on rigorous, analytical and critical assessment of argument, opinion and data.
13. Collect relevant information, assimilate knowledge, marshal a coherent and rational argument and relate theory to practice.
14. Understand and use with expertise and precision, both orally and in writing, the English language in relation to issues within construction and property. Being able to effectively communicate ideas and concepts to a range of people in oral, graphical and written formats as appropriate.
15. Engage with and manage own learning experience. Show self-awareness and confidence in managing one's self, workload and time; be self-reliant, reflective, and constructively selfcritical; and work with and relate well to others.



16. Engage with own learning pathway to enhance career opportunities and begin to plan own career path.
17. Access, manage and make appropriate use of relevant information using appropriate Information and Communication Technology to locate, manage and manipulate, and present that information.

### Course Requirements

In order to complete this course, a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totaling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
BNV6130	Commercial Building Pathology and Surveying	20
BNV6128	Urban Design Practice In Context	20
BNV6200	Individual Honours Project	40
BNv6129	Building Surveying Professional Skills	20
BNV6125	Professionalism & Citizenship	20

### Programme Synopsis

#### BNV6130 Commercial Building Pathology and Surveying

The module is designed to enhance your existing skills in the core technical competencies of building surveying: building pathology, inspection, & legal and regulatory compliance as applied to commercial and industrial buildings.

The identification, analysis and formulation of solutions are key to the pathological aspects of the module whilst identification and employment of the most appropriate survey methods as well as analysis of the legal implication in the condition and use of the building for the property owner allow for a coherent approach to providing clients with professional advice.

#### BNV6128 Urban Design Practice in Context

This is a design-led module, allowing you to implement and practice advanced design skills in response to a small-scale design project. This module is underpinned by a series of lectures relating to the history and theory of urban and architectural form and design; and time is also devoted to



studio-based and lab work that helps develop and enhance your design enquiry and creative drawing / model-making skills. The module also encourages you to explore the wider role of, and connections between, design theory & practice, governance, planning and how innovative design strategies might be used to resolve complex issues associated with contemporary urban challenges.

### **BNV6129 Building Surveying Professional Skills**

This module is designed to prepare students for employment and to commence the RICS Assessment of professional competence (APC) professional training programme. This module will draw together aspects of professional practice, legal and regulatory compliance, design, specification and costing

### **BNV6125 Professionalism & Citizenship**

This module will focus on extending and providing appropriate evidence of your professional skills and development. Within an applied socially responsive framework, you will examine a range of issues related to the client, the site, planning, financial/development appraisal, design technology, legal and regulatory, health and safety etc. These will be covered in conjunction with other professional courses or your own discipline as appropriate, given that all built environment professions and recent reports such as the Farrell Review place increasing stress on interdisciplinary understanding and working.

This module provides you with a critical appreciation and understanding of the principles, tools, methods and processes of consultancy and professionalism and their linking in a wider citizenship agenda, together with experiential/practice-based learning through a 'hands-on' group-based consultancy assignment with a real client organisation (public/private, services/manufacturing). You will be required to deconstruct and negotiate a consultancy project in situations where initially there may be a lack of clarity, high ambiguity, intense uncertainty and unusual data, apply a range of frameworks to structure analytical thinking, apply techniques to complete the required research, and demonstrate effective communication skills in delivering the final results to the client. Through the project, you will develop skills for effective engagement and intervention, further understand your strengths and weaknesses in relation to team-work and leadership skills, and further enhance your managerial capabilities.

These will be reflected in a group presentation on the consultancy project and an individual written assessment element relating to the professional practice development for your discipline.

The aims of the module is to introduce you to key contemporary social thinking within the Built Environment, centred on community, built environment diversity and inclusivity issues. This will provide you with the tools to develop critical awareness and the initiative to bring about innovative change to positively impact on our society.

### **BNV6200 Individual Honours Research Project**

The purpose of the module is to enable you to undertake a sustained, in-depth and research-informed project exploring an area that is of personal interest to you. In agreement with your supervisor, you will decide upon your topic which will take the form of a practical outcome (artefact) with accompanying contextual material. The main consideration when choosing your topic is that it must be aligned to the programme you are studying, and you should consider the relevance of this topic to your future academic or professional development.

At this level, you will be expected to work independently but you will receive additional one-to-one support from your supervisor, who will be familiar with your chosen topic area. As you progress on the module, extra support will be available and this may take the form of group seminars, workshops and online materials that will help to develop your project

This module is an opportunity for you to develop not only academically, but it will also help you to acquire life-long skills and attributes that identify you as a graduate of BCU. These include being a creative problem solver, entrepreneurial, professional and work ready, and having a global outlook. In the context of technology-related industries, this means:

- developing an ability to create work which demonstrates an awareness of professional standards relevant to your discipline;
- gaining an understanding of successful project planning, which may include budget, time management and other relevant constraints;
- being innovative, experimental and pushing the boundaries of your knowledge;
- being able to self-evaluate and reflect critically on your work, placing it within the context of relevant debates within your chosen medium.

For the purposes of the project, the exact nature of the artefact you create will be agreed in discussion with your supervisor to ensure its relevance to your subject discipline



### Relationship with Programme philosophy and learning outcomes

The project supports many of the programme aims in providing a range of skills needed to develop innovative solutions, strategies and ideas now and in the future. Often the project will relate directly to your career and will provide a vehicle for enhancing your professional skills and understanding of the wider issues facing practitioners in your field.

### Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students

### Workload

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	324
Directed Learning	292
Private Study	584
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>1200</b>

### Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	76%
Exam	0
In-Person	24%